



# Dokument nr. 17

(2003-2004)

## Årsrapport til Stortinget fra Stortingets delegasjon til Den Interparlamentariske Union

### Årsrapport fra Stortingets delegasjon til Den Interparlamentariske Union for 2003

Til Stortinget

#### INNLEDNING

Stortingets delegasjon til Den Interparlamentariske Union (IPU) for valgperioden 2001-2005 består av følgende representanter:

<i>Medlemmer:</i>	<i>Personlige varamedlemmer:</i>
Karin Andersen (SV), leder	Magnhild Meltveit Kleppa (Sp)
Oddbjørg Ausdal Starrfelt (Ap), nestleder	Knut Storberget (Ap)
Thore A. Nistad (FrP)	Ola T. Lånke (KrF)
Finn Martin Vallersnes (H)	Sonja Irene Sjøli (H)

Den Interparlamentariske Union ble etablert i 1889 og var det første permanente forum for politiske multilaterale forhandlinger. Organisasjonen er et samlingspunkt for parlamentarisk dialog og arbeider for å fremme fred og samarbeid og støtte utviklingen av representative demokrati i alle verdensdeler.

For å oppnå dette, arbeider IPU med

- å utvikle kontakt, koordinering og utveksling av erfaring mellom parlamenter og parlamentarikere fra alle land
- å ta opp spørsmål av internasjonal betydning og å gi uttrykk for synspunkter på slike tema, med sikte på å bidra til at parlamenter og parlamentarikere aktivt engasjerer seg i disse spørsmålene
- å bidra til å beskytte og fremme menneskerettighetene - en hovedfaktor i de parlamentariske demokratier og for samfunnsutvikling generelt.

- å bidra til å spre kunnskap om hvordan folkevalgte institusjoner arbeider og å medvirke til at disse institusjonene styrkes og videreutvikles.

Pr. januar 2004 var 138 nasjonalforsamlinger medlemmer av IPU. Fem regionale parlamentarikerforsamlinger - deriblant Europaparlamentet - er assosierte medlemmer.

#### IPUS 108. INTERPARLAMENTARISKE KONFERANSE I SANTIAGO DE CHILE 6. - 11. APRIL

Den Interparlamentariske Unions 108. konferanse i Santiago de Chile 6.-11. april 2003 samlet delegasjoner fra 115 parlamenter i tillegg til assosierte medlemmer og observatører. Totalt deltok ca. 1 200 deltakere, hvorav 579 var parlamentarikere. Til sammen 26 parlamentspresidenter og 33 visepresidenter deltok. Andel kvinnelige parlamentarikere utgjorde 25 pst.

Fra Stortinget deltok Karin Andersen, delegasjonsleder (SV), Oddbjørg Ausdal Starrfelt, nestleder (Ap), Thore A. Nistad (FrP), Finn Martin Vallersnes (H), Svein Roald Hansen (Ap) og Ola T. Lånke (KrF). Stortingets direktør Hans Brattestå deltok i forbindelse med møter i Generalsekretærenes forening, ASGP.

I forkant av konferansen deltok leder og nestleder på det ordinære nordiske formøtet, som fant sted i Stockholm.

#### Konferansens innhold

##### *Plenum*

Konferansen ble formelt åpnet av den chilenske presidenten, Ricardo Lagos Escobar i en formell åpningsseremoni.

Arbeidet i plenum ble innledet med et innlegg om FNs Milleniumsmål av Mark Malloch Brown, leder for FNs Utviklingsprogram (UNDP). Malloch Brown understreket særlig parlamentenes ansvar i å bidra til at Milleniumsmålene blir oppfylt, og ba om at parlamentarikere aktivt tok på seg en pådriverrolle overfor de respektive regjeringer for å sikre dette. Han uttrykte håp om at parlamentarisk støtte kunne sikre at nye og viktige milepæler ble nådd i kampen for utvikling. Utvikling kan kun nås hvis demokrati og økonomisk vekst blir sett på som to sider av samme stykke, sa Malloch Brown.

Også den chilenske utenriksministeren, Soledad Alvear, holdt et innlegg hvor hun bl.a. gikk inn på den vanskelige internasjonale situasjonen i forbindelse med Irak, og hvor hun understreket viktigheten av å bidra til å støtte og utforme felles, internasjonale kjøreregler og multilateral legitime løsninger. Parlamentenes aktive innsats, både innad i det enkelte land og internasjonalt, vil være et viktig bidrag for å skape den nødvendige politiske støtte og vilje, sa hun.

Generaldebatten om den politiske, økonomiske og sosiale situasjonen i verden ble i stor grad dominert av Irak-spørsmålet og situasjonen i Midtøsten i vid forstand. Til sammen 119 delegater tok ordet i debatten. Fra norsk side holdt delegasjonsleder Karin Andersen et innlegg hvor hun vektla viktigheten av å følge FN-sporet i forbindelse med Irak-krisen. Samtidig advarte hun mot at Irak-krisen fikk overskygge utviklingskrisen i de afrikanske land, og minnet om at fattigdomsbekjempelse er et viktig middel i kampen mot terror. Hun tok også opp kjønnslemlestelse, og påpekte både IPU og parlamentenes ansvar i denne sammenheng. Thore A. Nistad holdt innlegg på vegne av Nordisk Råd, hvor han bl.a. understreket viktigheten av godt styresett og åpenhet for å skape utvikling og bekjempe fattigdom. Også regionalt parlamentarisk samarbeid ble berørt i innlegget.

Konferansen vedtok, slik statuttene åpner for, å vedta et såkalt hastetema (emergency item) vedrørende Irak-situasjonen: The need to put an urgent end to the war in Iraq and to re-establish peace: the role of the United Nations and the Interparliamentary Union. Et alternativt forslag til temaformulering, fremsatt av bl.a. Storbritannia, Australia, Danmark, Filippinene m.fl. oppnådde ikke det kvalifiserte flertall av stemmer (4/5).

Under dette temaet vedtok forsamlingen enstemmig en resolusjonstekst (vedlegg). Resolusjonen vektlegger bl.a. FNs rolle i gjenoppbyggingsarbeidet og IPU's muligheter til å støtte demokratiarbeidet i Irak.

### Komiteene

Konferansen hadde, i følge en tidligere beslutning, to hovedtemaer. Det første temaet var "Parlia-

ments' role in strengthening democratic institutions and human development in a fragmented world". Dette temaet ble behandlet i komiteen for parlamentariske, juridiske og menneskerettslige spørsmål. Delegatene Ola T. Lånke og Thore A. Nistad fulgte arbeidet i denne komiteen, og deltok aktivt under behandlingen av komiteens forslag til resolusjon. Ola T. Lånke holdt innlegg i forbindelse med temadebatten i komiteen, der betydningen av grunnutdanning ble fremhevet, både i forhold til demokrati og utvikling. Resolusjonsteksten ble enstemmig vedtatt i plenum (vedlegg).

Det andre hovedtemaet var "International cooperation for the prevention and management of transborder natural disasters and their impact on the regions concerned". Dette temaet ble behandlet i komiteen for økonomiske og sosiale spørsmål. Fra norsk side deltok Svein Roald Hansen i arbeidet i denne komiteen. Komiteens resolusjonsforslag ble enstemmig vedtatt i plenum (vedlegg).

Konferansen vedtok dessuten med kvalifisert majoritet (2/3) å behandle et tilleggstema. Iran hadde fremsatt et forslag til tema: "A call by parliamentarians to support a collaboration for peace", mens Ungarn og Japan (med støtte fra Tolv pluss-gruppen der Norge er medlem) hadde fremsatt følgende forslag: "Importance of the non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction and of missiles, including the prevention of their use by terrorists". Avstemningsresultatet viste at det ungarsk/japanske forslaget ble vedtatt med meget knapp margin (13 stemmer). Temaet ble behandlet i komiteen for politiske saker, internasjonal sikkerhet og nedrustning. Fra norsk side holdt Karin Andersen et innlegg hvor hun bl.a. redegjorde for norsk støtte til atomsikkerhetstiltak i Nordvest-Russland. Hun understreket også viktigheten av økt internasjonal innsats mot spredning av masseødeleggende våpen, samt oppfordret parlamentarikere til å engasjere seg med sikte på å få flere land til å undertegne landminnekonvensjonen.

Under utarbeidelsen av resolusjonsforslaget i komiteen, ble det forsøkt lagt vekt på å holde teksten på et prinsipielt nivå og avstå fra å referere til konkrete situasjoner eller land, og på den måten oppnå konsensus. Resolusjonsteksten ble til slutt vedtatt enstemmig (vedlegg). Teksten inneholder en klar oppfordring til IPU's medlemsland om å ratifisere de internasjonale instrumenter som nevnes i resolusjonen.

### Paneldebatt om internasjonal handel med barn

Under konferansen ble det, i nært samarbeid med UNICEF, ILO og International Organization for Migration, arrangert en paneldebatt om handel med barn. Så vel eksperter som parlamentarikere innledet,

og dannet grunnlaget for en engasjert og bred debatt. Deltakerne på møtet oppfordret IPU til å følge opp dette temaet videre, og kom med konkrete ideer til hvordan de nasjonale parlamenter kan følge opp i de enkelte land.

### Møte i IPU's råd

Følgende hovedsaker ble behandlet på til sammen tre møter i tilknytning til konferansen:

- *Medlemskapsaker.* Det forelå søknad om medlemskap i IPU fra Saudi-Arabia. Eksekutivkomiteen ga positiv innstilling til Rådet. Etter en lengre debatt, der bl.a. Norge uttrykte bekymring over at IPU's statutter er uklare m.h.t. hvilke krav som stilles til at nasjonalforsamlinger er demokratisk valgt, besluttet Rådet å innvilge søknaden. Videre ble Pakistan gjeninntatt som medlem, mens den Sentralafrikanske republikken ble suspendert som følge av at parlamentet hadde opphørt å fungere etter statskuppet. USA har ikke engasjert seg i IPU på flere år, og har heller ikke innbetalt medlemsavgift i disse årene. Også flere andre land har unnlatt å innbetale medlemsavgift. Ifølge statuttene skal dette føre til at landene suspenderes, men endelig beslutning ble utsatt til neste sesjon i Genève.
- *Reformprogrammet.* Arbeidet med å effektivisere arbeidet i IPU har pågått over flere år, og prinsippene i en reformpakke ble vedtatt på rådmøtet i Genève, høsten 2002. Rådmøtet gikk igjennom forslag til statuttendringer som følge av disse prinsippvedtakene. Vedtakene innebærer bl.a. at høstkonferansen reduseres i antall dager og omfang, at antallet faste komiteer reduseres fra fire til tre og at arbeidsstrukturen i disse komiteene endres vesentlig. Norge har vært blant de land som aktivt har arbeidet for å få vedtatt disse reformene, og har i løpet av prosessen en rekke konkrete endringsforslag. Alle de fremlagte forslag til statuttendringer ble vedtatt.
- *Komiteene.* Rådet valgte også ledelse til de tre nyopprettede faste komiteene, som etter reformen er:
  1. Fred og internasjonal sikkerhet
  2. Bærekraftig utvikling, finansielle spørsmål og handel
  3. Demokrati og menneskerettigheter
- *Samarbeidet med FN.* Rådet konstaterte med tilfredshet at FNs Generalforsamling i november 2002 hadde gitt IPU status som observatør, inkludert retten til å sirkulere IPU's offisielle dokumenter i FN. Rådet vil følge opp denne beslutningen, bl.a. ved å utarbeide et aksjonsprogram hvor man identifiserer tema og prosesser hvor parla-

mentarikere på særlig måte kan bidra til FNs arbeid, og som kan styrke samarbeidet mellom FN og IPU.

- Rådet besluttet at det skal arrangere Den 2. globale parlamentspresidentskonferanse i 2005.

### Kvinnemøtet

Som vanlig var det satt av en dag i forkant av hovedsesjonen til kvinnemøtet. Rundt 100 deltakere fra 71 land deltok på møtet. Hovedtema på møtet var: "The situation of women and children in conflict situations, with particular reference to Iraq". Flere konkrete elementer fra denne debatten ble oversendt og innarbeidet i den Irak-resolusjonen som senere ble vedtatt på hovedkonferansen. Under møtet ble det også lansert en egen håndbok for parlamentarikere om Konvensjonen for eliminering av alle former for diskriminering av kvinner (CEDAW) og tilleggsprotokollene. Håndboken er utarbeidet i samarbeid mellom FN og IPU. Fra norsk side deltok alle de kvinnelige delegatene aktivt i arbeidet på kvinnemøtet.

### Studietur

I etterkant av konferansen gjennomførte den norske IPU-delegasjonen en studietur til Puerto Montt i Sør-Chile, hvor den norske ambassaden hadde forbedret et faglig program som omfattet spørsmål knyttet til fiskeri- og oppdrettsnæring, norske investeringer i denne sektoren samt chilensk kyst- og fiskeriforvaltning i denne regionen.

### IPUS 109. INTERPARLAMENTARISKE SESJON I GENÈVE 1.-3. OKTOBER

På høstsesjonen deltok delegasjoner fra 122 nasjonalforsamlinger, samt en rekke assosierte medlemmer og observatører. Totalt deltok 1 022 personer, hvorav 465 var parlamentarikere. Til sammen 30 parlamentspresidenter og 22 visepresidenter deltok. Andelen av kvinnelige parlamentarikere utgjorde 28 pst.

Fra Stortinget deltok de fire faste medlemmene av IPU-delegasjonen.

I forkant av konferansen deltok leder og nestleder på det ordinære nordiske formøtet, som fant sted i Nösund, Sverige.

Under denne sesjonen tok man for første gang i bruk de nye arbeidsstrukturene for konferansen og komiteene. Dette innebar bl.a. at sesjonen var redusert til tre dager med færre deltakere, samt at alle de tre nye faste komiteene trådte i arbeid og behandlet hvert sitt hovedtema. Det ble ikke gjennomført noen generaldebatt, ei heller et kvinnemøte i forkant av konferansen.

## Komiteene

Ifølge den nye ordningen for IPU's komitearbeid var det oppnevnt to rapportører for hvert av de tre temaene. Rapportørene hadde utarbeidet en rapport og resolusjonsutkast til hvert tema, og disse dokumentene ble sendt ut i forkant, slik at samtlige delegasjoner fikk muligheten til å sende inn synspunkter og kommentarer til rapportene, samt konkrete endringsforslag til resolusjonsutkastene.

Prosesen bar imidlertid noe preg av at de nye rutinene ennå ikke var helt på plass, og Norge var blant de relativt få land som innsendte endringsforslag i forkant. Tidsopplegget ble for knapt, tidsfrister for endringsforslag ble utvidet, noe som igjen førte til at samtlige komiteer valgte å nedsette redaksjonskomiteer for å revidere resolusjonstekstene, i stedet for å behandle forslagene i samlet komité.

- *Komiteen for fred og internasjonal sikkerhet.* Denne komiteen behandlet følgende tema: "The role of parliaments in assisting multilateral organizations in ensuring peace and security and in building an international coalition for peace". Fra norsk side deltok Finn Martin Vallersnes og Oddbjørg Ausdal Starrfelt i komiteens arbeid. Starrfelt holdt et innlegg hvor hun særlig advarte mot å undergrave det internasjonale rettssystemet og FN/Sikkerhetsrådets rolle, og hvor hun sterkt oppfordret til at flere land ratifiserte Roma-vedtektene til Den internasjonale strafferettsdomstolen.
- *Komiteen for bærekraftig utvikling, finansielle spørsmål og handel.* Denne komiteen behandlet temaet "Global Public Goods: A new challenge for parliaments". Fra norsk side deltok Karin Andersen i komiteens arbeid. I sitt innlegg påpekte hun bl.a. at menneskerettigheter og rettferdighet burde anses som globale fellesgoder og trekkes sterkere inn i debatten i komiteen. Hun fikk også tilslutning til et viktig endringsforslag under resolusjonsbehandlingen, hvor prinsippet om at "forurenser betaler" ble slått fast.
- *Komiteen for demokrati og menneskerettigheter.* Temaet som ble behandlet i denne komiteen var "The contribution of new information and communication technologies to good governance, the improvement of parliamentary democracy and the management of globalisation". Thore A. Nistad deltok i arbeidet i denne komiteen.

Samtlige resolusjoner ble til slutt enstemmig vedtatt (vedlegg), men med en rekke stemmeforklaringer og reservasjoner, særlig knyttet til resolusjonsteksten om fred og internasjonal sikkerhet.

## Hastetema

På forslag fra Indonesia, besluttet konferansen å behandle følgende tilleggstema på konferansen:

"Parliamentary support for the implementation of the road map for peace in putting an end to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict an achieving a comprehensive peace process and justice in the Middle East". IPU's Midtøsten-komité, under ledelse av Finn Martin Vallersnes, ble gitt i oppdrag å forberede et resolusjonsutkast, i nært samarbeid med komiteens medlemmer i regionen. Finn Martin Vallersnes introduserte resolusjonen i plenum, og den ble vedtatt med konsensus. Noen få delegasjoner reserverte seg på enkelte punkt.

## Paneldebatt om Den internasjonale strafferettsdomstolen

Under konferansen ble det avholdt en paneldebatt om utfordringene som møter Den internasjonale strafferettsdomstolen (ICC). Sjefsanklager L. Moreno-Ocampo innledet, sammen med en representant fra Amnesty International, en representant fra støttegruppen for ICC, samt en parlamentariker fra Slovakia. Svært mange av parlamentarikerne valgte å delta i den påfølgende debatt, som kan karakteriseres som åpen, bred og engasjert.

Under konferansen ble det for øvrig også arrangert et informasjonsmøte om hva parlamentarikere kan bidra med i kampen mot tortur og mishandling, arrangert i samarbeid med The Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT).

## Innvielse av IPU's nye hovedkvarter

IPU's nye hovedkvarter i Genève er nå ferdig renovert, og den offisielle åpningen av lokalene fant sted i etterkant av Genève-konferansen den 3. oktober. Hovedkvarteret, som rommer både kontorer og møteromsfasiliteter, er gitt betegnelsen "The House of Parliaments".

## Møte i IPU's styrende råd (Governing Council)

Rådet avholdt to møter under konferansen. For første gang anvendte man det nye prinsippet at hvert medlemsland kunne møte med tre representanter i rådet, gitt at begge kjønn var representert. Fra Stortingets side deltok Karin Andersen, Oddbjørg Ausdal Starrfelt og Finn Martin Vallersnes, noe som innebar at Norge fikk tre stemmer i rådet (to tidligere).

Følgende hovedsaker ble behandlet i rådet:

- *Medlemskapsspørsmål.* Etter anbefaling fra eksekutivkomiteen besluttet rådet å ta opp Bahrain som medlem. Rådet besluttet også å suspendere Irak, da parlamentet i Irak hadde opphørt å fungere. Guinea Bissau ble også suspendert etter at parlamentet var oppløst som følge av et statskupp. Videre besluttet Rådet, i tråd med IPU's statutter, å suspendere Georgia, Liberia, Malawi, Marshalløyene, Paraguay og USA, da disse lan-

dene ikke har innbetalt medlemsavgift de siste tre årene.

- *Budsjettsaker.* Rådet godkjente IPU's budsjett for 2004 på ca. 10 mill. sveitsiske franc (ca. 55 mill. NOK), hvorav Norge betaler 0,67 pst. Budsjettet innebar at de nasjonale bidragene økes med ca. 3 pst. Rådet godkjente også eksekutivkomiteens forslag om å opprette en stiftelse som skal støtte nye demokratifremmende aktiviteter.
- *Møtested for kommende konferanse.* Dette punktet la grunnlaget for den mest følelsesladete debatten på konferansen. I prinsippet var det allerede besluttet at London skulle være møtested for IPU's vårsesjon våren 2004. Den britisk IPU-delegasjonen var i full gang med forberedelsene til konferansen. Imidlertid ga den britiske delegasjonen beskjed om at den britiske regjering ikke ville kunne utstede visum til delegater som sto på listen over personer som var ilagt internasjonalt reiseforbud, i dette tilfeller EUs liste over innreiseforbud. Denne listen omfatter bl.a. noen parlamentarikere og regjeringsmedlemmer fra Zimbabwe. IPU's generalsekretær hadde i forkant av Genève-konferansen hatt flere runder med de berørte parter, uten at dette ført frem.

Under rådsmøtet viste IPU's generalsekretær, sterkt støttet av bl.a. den afrikanske gruppen, til IPU's statutter og prinsippet om at medlemsparlamentene selv må stå fritt til å utpeke hvilke representanter de ønsker å la seg representere av, at IPU er en viktig kanal for parlamentarisk dialog og at det derfor ikke kan aksepteres at et arrangørland "overprøver" hvilke parlamentarikere som skal kunne delta på IPU's konferanser. Det ble også vist til at dette kan skape en farlig presidens ved senere anledninger, for eksempel dersom IPU-konferansen skal avholdes i Midtøsten. Fra de fleste vestlige land (med unntak av Frankrike og Belgia) ble det argumentert med at respekten for menneskerettighetene er et overordnet prinsipp for IPU, at forbudslisten omfattet personer som står ansvarlig for alvorlige brudd på menneskerettighetene, og at prinsippet om visumutstedelse måtte anses som underordnet i forhold til dette. Det ble videre vist til at EU-listen var bindende for EUs medlemsland og en rekke andre land som frivillig har sluttet seg til de samme sanksjonene (bl.a. Norge), og at det i så fall ville bety at de fleste vestlige land ikke kunne ta på seg å arrangere IPU's sesjoner i fremtiden, så lenge slike lister med innreiseforbud er vedtatt i lovs form. Etter en meget følelsesladet debatt, der den afrikanske gruppen holdt en meget klar og felles linje og hvor det ble skapt et inntrykk av at den afrikanske gruppen ville vurdere å boikotte neste konferanse dersom den ble avholdt i Lon-

don, ble saken endelig avgjort ved avstemning (roll-call vote). Avstemningsresultatet viste 137 stemmer for å flytte møtet fra London, mot 87 stemmer (deriblant de 3 norske) for å beholde London som møteplass. Sekretariatet fikk i oppdrag å undersøke hvor konferansen kunne flyttes til, og Thailand tilbød seg å undersøke mulighetene for å ta på seg arrangementet. (Dette viste seg senere å ikke føre frem, og det ble senere på høsten besluttet at konferansen skulle arrangeres i Mexico City).

- *Parlamentarikere utsatt for menneskerettighetsbrudd.* IPU's komité for menneskerettighetsbrudd rettet mot parlamentarikere hadde gjort grundige forundersøkelser i en lang rekke innrapporterte overgrepssaker. Som en oppfølging av komiteens tilrådning, vedtok Rådet 30 resolusjoner med dokumentasjon på og fordømmelse av menneskerettsovergrip mot til sammen 148 parlamentarikere i 19 ulike land. Burma, Zimbabwe, Tyrkia og Eritrea toppe listen med antall overgrep (vedlegg).

#### ARBEIDET I TOLV PLUSS-GRUPPEN I 2003

Gruppen av de vestlige land, hvor Norge har deltatt siden starten i 1974, kalles Tolv Pluss-gruppen. Pr. i dag er 43 land medlemmer av gruppen. Mens de geopolitiske gruppene i begynnelsen spilte en meget tilbaketrukket rolle i IPU, er dette endret de siste årene. I dag samordnes og drøftes et bredt spekter av saker innen rammen av de geopolitiske gruppene. Gruppene har fått økt innflytelse, både reelt og formelt, på arbeidet under IPU's sesjoner så vel som i de løpende prosesser i organisasjonen. I økende grad konsulteres ledelsen i de geopolitiske gruppene i forkant før større saker tas opp til vurdering.

Stortingsrepresentant Oddbjørg Ausdal Starrfelt (Ap) har innehatt ledervervet i Tolv Pluss-gruppen de siste to årene, men stilte ikke opp til gjenvalg på høstkonferansen i Genève. Som hennes etterfølger ble Gert Versnick (Lib) valgt.

Gjennom disse to årene Ausdal Starrfelt har vært leder, har Stortinget hatt sekretariatsansvar for gruppens løpende arbeid, i tillegg til det faglige og praktisk ansvaret for gruppens møter i tilknytning til konferansene.

Tolv Pluss-gruppen møtes ordinært til et heldagsmøte i forkant av vår- og høstsesjonen. Dessuten avholdes morgenmøter under sesjonen, hvor gruppen samordner seg i forhold til den løpende utvikling på konferansen. Under både Santiago- og Genève-konferansen var gruppen aktiv med å fremme felles kandidater til eksekutivkomiteen og ulike politiske verv, utveksle synspunkter på arbeidet i komiteene og de ulike resolusjonene, delta i redaksjonskomiteer og legge frem forslag til tema for kommende konferan-

ser. Under konferansen i Genève var dessuten Tolv Pluss-gruppen aktiv i forkant av rådsmøtet for å forsøke å bidra til en løsning som ville gjøre det mulig å fastholde London som møtested for neste konferanse. Oddbjørg Ausdal Starrfelt tok bl.a. initiativ til et møte med den afrikanske gruppen, med sikte på å undersøke om disse to gruppene sammen kunne bidra til å finne en løsning. Møtet ble gjennomført i en god atmosfære, men førte ikke frem til noen endelig løsning som de ulike partene kunne akseptere. Den afrikanske gruppen satte imidlertid pris på Tolv Pluss-gruppens initiativ, selv om man i sak var meget uenige.

Tolv Pluss-gruppen har vært en drivkraft i arbeidet for å reformere og fornye IPUs arbeid, og har i denne perioden også lagt ned betydelig arbeid for å få reformene på plass og i god gjenge. Særlig har man arbeidet med å følge opp den nye komitéstrukturen.

Tolv Pluss-gruppens ledelse har ellers lagt vekt på å få til en god dialog med de øvrige geopolitiske gruppene.

Under det norske formannskapet er det for øvrig utgitt et kompendium vedrørende Tolv Pluss-gruppens historie og arbeid, som et bidrag i forbindelse med gruppens 30-års jubileum i 2004.

## ARBEIDET I IPUS MIDTØSTEN-KOMITÉ

Finn Martin Vallersnes etterfulgte i 2002 Oddbjørg Ausdal Starrfelt som medlem av IPU's "Committee on Middle East Questions", og ble på konferansen i Santiago, Chile, valgt som komiteens leder. Midtøsten-komiteen hadde som vanlig møter både under vårkonferansen (Santiago) og under høstkonferansen (Genève), med oppsummering og analyse av siste halvårs utvikling i Midtøsten, og med dialogmøte mellom delegasjonene fra palestinsk og israelsk side til IPU. Øvrige arabiske land inviteres også til disse dialogmøtene, men til nå er det kun Egypt og Jordan som har valgt å delta.

Komiteens leder har dessuten deltatt på følgende møter:

- 15.-16. juli på "United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People" i Genève, med et innlegg i paneldebatt under tittelen: "Priorities for humanitarian and economic assistance".
- 4.-5. september på "United Nations Conference of Civil Society in Support of the Palestinian People" i New York, hvor han også holdt et av åpningsforedragene.

På initiativ fra den Genève-baserte ideelle organisasjonen "Manifesto-Movement for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East" og med støtte fra byen

og kantonen Genève, arrangerte IPU ved Midtøsten-komiteen et møte i Genève 17. juli mellom en oppnevnt delegasjon fra henholdsvis Knesset (tverrpolitisk) og PLC (Palestinian Legislative Council). Møtet resulterte i etableringen av en arbeidsgruppe mellom folkevalgte fra de to partene, med mandat å fremme samarbeid og en infrastruktur for et videreutviklet samarbeid mellom de to parlamentene, i den hensikt å styrke utviklingen av en fredsavtale mellom Israel og Palestina. Vallersnes leder arbeidsgruppens møter, og gjennomførte derfor en ukes kontaktreise i Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Vestbredden og Gaza 3-7. november. Arbeidsgruppens neste møte er planlagt til våren 2004 og møtene vurderes å legges til Jerusalem. De ytre forutsetningene for en slik arbeidsgruppe kan synes håpløse. Den norske IPU-delegasjonen har likevel valgt å prioritere dette arbeidet ut fra bl.a. to forhold:

- et flertall i begge de to befolkningene ønsker en fredelig løsning som innbefatter en levedyktig stat for den andre parten, og parlamentene har et særlig ansvar for å formidle befolkningens krav.
- når situasjonen blir mer håpløs og konfrontasjon og vold dominerer, er det desto viktigere å opprettholde de få kanalene som ennå finnes for kontakt og dialog.

## ARBEIDSGRUPPE MOT KJØNNSELESTELSE AV KVINNER

Under IPU's sesjon i Burkina Faso høsten 2001 ble det avholdt en paneldebatt om kjønnslemlestelse av kvinner. En rekke afrikanske parlamentarikere tok initiativ til at IPU skulle følge opp dette temaet mer systematisk. Det ble derfor foreslått opprettet en "think-tank" bestående av parlamentarikere fra land hvor kjønnslemlestelse fremdeles er vanlig og fra land som har innvandring fra disse kulturene. Målet er å utveksle informasjon om lovgivning, programmer og andre tiltak for å kunne bekjempe dette problemkomplekset mer effektivt. På vårkonferansen i Marrakesh ble dette fulgt videre opp. Den afrikanske gruppen fremmet forslag om en egen spesialkonferanse om parlamentarikerens ansvar og rolle i kampen mot kjønnslemlestelse. En arbeidsgruppe på seks personer, deriblant Karin Andersen, ble nedsatt for å arbeide videre med forberedelsene av en slik konferanse. Arbeidsgruppen møttes både under sesjonen i Chile og Genève. I tillegg ble Karin Andersen, sammen med en representant fra Storbritannia og Uganda, bedt om å representere IPU under en afrikansk konferanse om kjønnslemlestelse i Addis Abeba 3.-6. februar 2003.

### ØVRIG IPU-AKTIVITETER I 2003

Stortinget var i 2003 representert på følgende arrangementer i regi av Den Interparlamentariske Union:

- Spesialkonferanse om WTO i Genève 12. -18. februar (arrangert i samarbeid med Europaparlamentet), der Finn Martin Vallersnes og Audun Bjørlo Lysbakken deltok.
- Parlamentarikermøte i tilknytning til Den femte internasjonale konferanse for nye og gjenopprettede demokratier i Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia 11. september, der Finn Martin Vallersnes deltok.
- Parlamentarikermøter i tilknytning til WTOs 5. ministerkonferanse i Cancun, 9. og 11. september, der Gunhild Øyangen, Morten Høglund, Lars Rise og Bjørn Jacobsen deltok (Disse representantene inngikk i den offisielle norske delegasjonen til WTOs ministerkonferanse).
- Parlamentarisk høring i tilknytning til FNs 58. generalforsamling i New York, der Karin Andersen deltok.

Oslo, den 20. april 2004

Karin Andersen  
delegasjonsleder

## Vedlegg

### **Vedlegg til årsrapport fra Stortingets delegasjon til Den Interparlamentariske Union for 2003**

#### **Resolusjonstekster vedtatt under vårkonferansen i Santiago de Chile**

##### **PARLIAMENTS' ROLE IN STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD**

*Resolution adopted unanimously by the 108th Conference (Santiago de Chile, 11 April 2003)*

The 108th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

*Reaffirming* the principles enshrined in the IPU's "Universal Declaration on Democracy" adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Council at its 161st session (September 1997, Cairo),

*Recalling* the Declaration of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments entitled "The Parliamentary Vision for International Cooperation at the Dawn of the Third Millennium", adopted on 1 September 2000,

*Recalling also* the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000 which sets out the Millennium Development Goals as internationally agreed targets for poverty eradication, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report 2002,

*Reaffirming* that democracy is both an ideal to be pursued and a mode of government to be applied according to modalities which reflect the diversity of experiences and cultural particularities without derogating from internationally recognised principles and norms and that it is thus a constantly perfected and always perfectible state or condition whose progress will depend upon a variety of political, social, economic and cultural factors,

*Acknowledging* that national parliaments represent the basis for good governance grounded on democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people, the rule of law, anti-corruption measures, gender equality and a favourable atmosphere and environment for investment,

*Recognising* that parliamentary institutions make an indispensable contribution to the achievement of meaningful democratic control and accountability through their scrutiny of the activities of governments, by:

- Relying on their constitutional authority to authorise, among other government legislative initiatives, the revenue-raising and spending measures of governments as a means of ensuring their cooperation,
- Conducting substantive scrutiny using a variety

of practices that are specific to individual jurisdictions, including oral question periods and the entitlement to address written questions to ministers, committee hearings and other practices that support financial scrutiny,

- Providing citizens, both directly and through the mass media, with the information needed to hold governments accountable and to contribute constructively to the processes used to produce policy and legislation relating to democratisation and human development, both at home and abroad,

Emphasising the central role of democratic institutions in ensuring successful long-term human development, by:

- Using effective electoral, parliamentary and other mechanisms to create the conditions for ensuring that governments are responsive to the needs and interests of the governed,
- Ensuring that governments maintain the levels of popular legitimacy required both for effective governmental action with respect to human development and other issues, and for the civil order that is a precondition for effective governance,

*Stressing* the important role of parliaments as legitimate representatives of the people in strengthening democratisation in multilateral institutions and furthering human development,

*Convinced* that respect for human rights is not only a fundamental value in itself but also essential to developing stable, democratic and prosperous societies that are capable of living together in peace,

*Recognising* that education is a key to human development, and *acknowledging* that parliaments have a vital responsibility to guarantee free universal education without any discrimination whatsoever, as this hastens the pace of economic, social and political development and fosters cultural and spiritual advancement,

*Noting* that countries that have developed effective macroeconomic policies, established robust public institutions, maintained domestic political stability and strengthened the rule of law, supported by investments in people through better health and education, have generally achieved strong economic growth and made progress towards poverty reduction,

*Convinced* that the side-effects of globalisation and certain policies are, in some cases, inconsistent



with the very concept of human development, and *stressing* the need for developing countries to realise that any progress, whether economic or social, is contingent upon their ability to create the necessary national will to face the challenges imposed on them by the new global system,

*Stressing* that persistent extreme poverty deprives citizens of full and effective enjoyment of human rights and of participation in democratic processes in each society,

*Concerned* that efforts to build strong democratic institutions while working towards sustainable human development encounter numerous challenges, such as poverty, corruption, globalisation, lack of resources, discrimination, transnational crime, civil strife, environmental degradation and overpopulation,

*Expressing concern* at the growth of terrorism, which poses a serious threat to democratic institutions, and its repercussions on human development,

*Also expressing concern* at the growing divide between rich and poor countries,

*Emphasising* the need to grant debt relief to the poor countries, address the causes of debt and take measures to ensure that indebtedness does not recur,

*Stressing* the need to redouble efforts to combat HIV/AIDS,

*Recognising* that volunteerism builds strong cohesive communities, encourages participation in the democratic process and reduces social tensions by forging a common view,

1. *Urges* governments and parliaments to acknowledge their collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level;
2. *Calls on* all the parliaments in the world to work for democracy based on the freely expressed will of the people through free and fair elections to choose their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and participate fully in every sphere of their lives and, in this context, to affirm the universal need to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels;
3. *Calls on* governments to promote the participation of all sections of society, in particular women, the disadvantaged and minorities, in the decision-making process;
4. *Urges* the governments and parliaments of all countries to foster participation by their citizens in political decision-making, shielded from undue interference from institutionalised pressure groups, by creating, through democratic means, decentralised representative institutions vested with real power and endowed with adequate fi-

nancial resources, and instituting channels for this purpose that are consistent with the spirit of their Constitution and traditions;

5. *Stresses* the need to reinforce cooperation between the United Nations and its organs and agencies and national parliaments with a view to furthering peace, security and development, abiding strictly by the principles of human dignity and equity;
6. *Urges* all States and multilateral institutions, including the IPU, to continue providing practical support to strengthen political structures such as parliaments and their committees, local governments, electoral commissions and political parties and to uphold democratic processes, and particularly free elections, so that these essential political systems operate with sufficient power, responsibility and authority to reflect the interests of the people as a whole; in this regard, *encourages* the IPU and the UNDP to pursue their cooperation in strengthening parliamentary institutions, and in implementing a strategic partnership within their respective development agendas;
7. *Stresses* the need for parliaments to submit regular reports on the state of democracy and human development in the world, to serve as working and consultative papers for the drafting of national policy;
8. *Encourages* all States to ratify and implement the international human rights instruments in their widest possible sense, which constitute the basis of democracy;
9. *Urges* the United Nations to extend the 1965 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to cover any form of political activity that derives from hate and violence;
10. *Recommends* the development of the natural function of parliament as the mediator between the public and international organisations and institutions, and parliament's systematic rapprochement with the NGOs that play a major role within civil society;
11. *Requests* the IPU Secretary General to arrange for the IPU to make a substantive contribution, including the circulation of a document on the IPU and democracy, to the 5th International Conference of New or Restored Democracies in June 2003 in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia);
12. *Stresses* the urgent need to reform existing multilateral institutions by promoting democratic principles to ensure that their policies and programmes meet the interests of and benefit all nations; and *reaffirms* that the United Nations is the only legitimate multilateral institution responsible for world peace and security and must perform its role and functions in compliance with the principles of international law and its Charter;

13. *Urges* parliaments around the world to make maximum use of existing processes for exerting legislative influence, financial control, scrutiny and accountability in support of a global democratisation and human development agenda, and to experiment with special debates, public consultations, committee studies and other initiatives designed to mobilise governments and world public opinion in favour of democratic institutions and human development;
14. *Encourages* parliaments to develop parliamentary diplomacy activities and to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation;
15. *Urges* parliaments, in this regard, to devote ever closer attention to international issues and particularly to development financing, debt, poverty reduction, human rights, gender equality, the rights of the child, and the right to education, and to routinely take account of this dimension when legislating;
16. *Also urges* parliaments to put into place the necessary structures to monitor and oversee the international negotiations conducted by governments, particularly when they need to be subsequently enacted into legislation;
17. *Requests* governments to ensure that all useful information relating to such negotiations is submitted to parliament, both in the negotiation phase and when implementing decisions, encompassing all texts, including those which do not require enactment into domestic law;
18. *Emphasises* the central role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, as the world organisation of parliaments, in making a key contribution to strengthening democracy in its relations with international institutions and to keeping world peace;
19. *Acknowledges* that, to achieve peace and security through social and economic stability, international institutions must offer the countries of the world the aid required to ensure reasonable standards of living, in contrast to the present disparities between rich and poor countries;
20. *Underscores* the importance of establishing an international and regional strategy for human development focused on attaining sustainable economic growth and combating poverty, and of supporting and expanding integration-promoting institutions through national political participation in policy formulation and legislative decision-making, with continuous re-evaluation;
21. *Requests* all parliaments to urge their governments to adopt measures to effectively enable them to honour the undertaking made by all the United Nations Member States in the Millennium Declaration, and to work jointly to establish more egalitarian processes in which all citizens in every country can participate;
22. *Also requests* all countries to make a firm pledge to human development and take all appropriate measures to increase current social expenditure allocated in their budgets for human development;
23. *Calls on* the parliaments of the developed countries to work towards the goal of earmarking at least 0.7 per cent of GNP as Official Development Assistance for global human development;
24. *Further calls on* all parliaments and parliamentarians to enact not only measures that focus on facilitating economic growth, but more particularly those that empower people and promote their welfare and development;
25. *Endorses* the Brussels Declaration, and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001, and emphasises, in particular, the need for the effective implementation of Commitment 2 of the Programme relating to good governance at the national and international levels, and of Commitment 7 relating to necessary implementation of the Programme at the national level;
26. *Requests* the IPU to devote special attention to the LDCs in its programmes and activities focusing on the areas of good governance at the national and international levels, and *also requests* parliaments to play a supportive role in ensuring the effective implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action at the national level;
27. *Strongly endorses* the resolution adopted by the IPU Council at its 168th session on 7 April 2001, expressing support for volunteerism and encouraging closer cooperation between the IPU and the United Nations Volunteers in this regard.

#### INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBORDER NATURAL DISASTERS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE REGIONS CONCERNED

*Resolution adopted unanimously by the 108th Conference (Santiago de Chile, 11 April 2003)*

The 108th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

*Noting* that natural disasters due to such phenomena as earthquakes, volcanic activity, floods, hurricanes, forest fires that devastate virgin lands, and drought have hit countries throughout the world in recent years; and that the prevention of natural disasters and the management of their effects have become issues of great concern to these countries,

*Conscious* that natural disasters cause death and physical disruption which entails enormous social

and economic cost and that the number of natural disasters (such as drought, floods and hurricanes) is increasing,

*Emphasising* the importance of identifying the meteorological and climatic causes of disasters, and the regions vulnerable to them, in order to lessen their impact,

*Realising* that the developing countries are the most seriously affected by these disasters because they are more vulnerable to natural risks,

*Noting* that natural risks connected with rivers, volcanoes and seismic fault lines often lie across national borders, necessitating their coordinated management by all the countries concerned,

*Noting also* that natural disasters which occur throughout the world have heightened national concerns for the safety of populations and the need for national and international measures to mitigate natural disasters,

*Emphasising* that environmental protection and mitigation of natural disasters may be closely linked and that natural disasters effect and may seriously damage the environment,

*Recognising* that each State bears primary responsibility for bringing relief to the victims of the natural disasters that occur on its own territory, and for adopting measures to allay their effects,

*Aware* of gender-specific differences in relation to vulnerability to natural risks, the impact of natural disasters and the needs to which they give rise,

*Emphasising* that vulnerability to natural disasters is often heightened by inequalities stemming from gender relations, economic circumstances, or ethnic or racial factors,

*Emphasising also* that natural disaster risk reduction is an integral part of sustainable development based on sound environmental management, and that

- Effective natural disaster prevention requires the participation of the vulnerable populations in planning, decision-making and operational activities;
- Any natural disaster prevention strategy involves various disciplines, sectors and institutions, thereby necessitating partnership arrangements,

*Recognising* the importance of legal instruments and international, regional and bilateral mechanisms that address natural disaster prevention and preparedness, and mitigate their effects,

*Appreciating* the work done by the agencies and partner organisations of the United Nations and by the various relevant regional organisations to mitigate the effects of natural disasters,

*Noting* the results of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1989-1999) and the in-

stitutional arrangements put into place after the closure of the Decade,

*Calling to mind* the strategy entitled A Safer World in the 21st Century: Risk and Disaster Prevention, and the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation, and its Plan of Action,

*Bearing in mind* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and its Plan of Action, and particularly the commitments to enhance the role of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and to allocate sufficient financial resources to the Special Fund for the Decade,

*Recalling* the relevant conclusions of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on "Women in the Year 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century",

1. *Expresses its solidarity* with countries and peoples struck by natural disasters;
2. *Calls on* governments to support efforts to build capacity in disaster preparedness, mitigation and management at regional, national and community levels, especially by increasing financial and technological assistance to developing countries, and to increase recognition and support for disaster management, in particular by incorporating disaster mitigation initiatives into national development strategies;
3. *Urges* all States to adopt and implement all necessary legislative and other appropriate measures to prevent, mitigate and manage the effects of transborder natural disasters, and to participate and engage constructively in regional and international disaster prevention and management forums;
4. *Encourages* the international community to cooperate more closely in mitigating the adverse effects of transborder natural disasters through improved preparedness, risk reduction and effective response, and to strengthen coordination mechanisms among States at the regional and international levels, including improved donor response coordination and harmonisation;
5. *Calls on* the international community to address funding, coordination, information exchange, and strategic planning in the context of transborder natural disasters, and to adopt common terminology, standards and practices to ensure greater interoperability in transborder disaster prevention and management;
6. *Urges* the UN agencies, multilateral and regional organisations, governmental and non-governmental actors to support research into the challenges of preventing and managing of transborder natural disasters;
7. *Calls on* governments to recognise the critical

role of voluntary community-based and non-governmental organisations in disaster preparedness and response, and to facilitate their work, respecting their roles and principles, by enacting appropriate legislation;

8. *Encourages* States to consider signing or ratifying the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, adopted at Tampere (Finland) on 18 June 1998, and also to commit to the Oslo Guidelines on the Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief;
9. *Urges* all States to pursue international cooperation in order more fully to understand and thus lessen the impact of extreme weather events and other climatic variables, to share relevant knowledge and experience, and to continue improving transborder disaster reduction capacities through increased scientific analysis of disaster causation and early warning mechanisms;
10. *Invites* States to support the programmes implemented under the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and to increase funding earmarked for the Special Fund;
11. *Urges* States to incorporate a gender-equal perspective into strategies, policies and activities relating to the prevention of natural disasters;
12. *Calls on* parliaments to improve national legislation on the prevention of natural disasters and the mitigation of their impact, by adopting a multi-disciplinary, gender-equal approach and by attaching special importance to the key role of local communities and partnership between all stakeholders;
13. *Also calls on* parliaments to ensure that national development programmes do not increase vulnerability to national risks, and that natural disaster preparedness is systematically incorporated into these programmes;
14. *Invites* parliaments to note that the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is preparing a report on the current state of international law relating to disaster response, to be presented to States and national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in December 2003, and *calls on* parliaments to make good use of this report;
15. *Urges* parliaments to recognise, according to established rules and criteria, the role of local bodies, the private sector, the scientific community, the media and other partners participating in activities linked to natural disaster prevention and management;
16. *Calls on* parliaments to make use of parliamentary diplomacy to promote international cooperati-

on in the fields of natural disaster prevention, early warning, intervention, disaster mitigation, recovery and reconstruction.

#### IMPORTANCE OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND OF MISSILES, INCLUDING THE PREVENTION OF THEIR USE BY TERRORISTS

*Resolution adopted unanimously by the 108th Conference (Santiago de Chile, 11 April 2003)*

The 108th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

*Convinced* that nuclear non-proliferation and prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons and their elimination, through effective measures, will facilitate general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

*Concerned* at recent developments in arms control, disarmament and the access to weapons of mass destruction, not least in consideration of the risk that such weapons may fall into the hands of terrorists,

*Also concerned* that certain States do not fulfil the commitments made with respect to weapons of mass destruction, and *deeply concerned* at recent serious incidents of non-compliance with international treaties and/or UN Security Council resolutions regarding the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction,

*Stressing* the need for confidence-building measures (information sharing and inspections) as suggested by the United Nations Department of Disarmament Affairs,

*Reaffirming* the crucial importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the cornerstone of the international régime for nuclear non-proliferation and as an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament,

*Wishing* to help achieve the purposes and enforce the principles of the United Nations Charter,

*Recalling* the various IPU resolutions adopted recently on this matter, in particular, "*Parliamentary action to encourage all countries to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty prohibiting all nuclear testing, to encourage universal and non-discriminatory nuclear non-proliferation measures and to work towards the eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons*" (101st Conference in Brussels, April 1999), "*To comprehensively ban nuclear weapons testing and halt all present nuclear weapons tests*" (94th Conference in Bucharest, October 1995) and "*The importance of adhering to the obligations specified in the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons*" (91st Conference in Paris, March 1994),

*Determined* to resolve these issues peacefully, and contribute, for the stability of the world, to international cooperation to strengthen non-proliferation mechanisms for nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, and missiles,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of achieving universal accession to the NPT, and of States not party to the NPT acceding to it promptly and unconditionally as non-nuclear-weapon States, and of all States party to the NPT fulfilling their obligations under the Treaty;
2. Also reaffirms the importance of achieving the universal prohibition of chemical and biological weapons, and *calls on* States not party to the relevant international treaties to accede to them promptly and unconditionally;
3. *Calls on* all States to comply with international treaties on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and the prohibition of biological and chemical weapons and to adopt stringent national legislation, where it does not already exist, for their implementation;
4. *Also calls on* all States to redouble their efforts to prevent and curb the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, confirming and strengthening their policies not to transfer equipment, materials or technology that could contribute to the proliferation of such weapons, not least in the hands of terrorists;
5. *Reaffirms* the importance for all States to fulfil their obligations under the relevant UN resolutions on the weapons of mass destruction;

#### *A. Nuclear weapons*

6. *Calls on* States which have decided to withdraw or are contemplating withdrawing from the NPT to retract the decision and to comply with all their obligations to the international community regarding the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, under the NPT, the IAEA Safeguards Agreement and all other relevant international commitments;
7. *Calls on* all Member States not to hinder the activities of States party to the NPT relating to the use of nuclear energy and technology for peaceful purposes, in accordance with the provisions of the relevant disarmament instruments;
8. *Urges* States not party to the NPT to accede to it immediately and unconditionally;
9. *Also urges* all States to take effective action to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons;
10. *Calls on* the international community to facilitate the creation of zones free from weapons of mass destruction;
11. *Agrees* that further reductions of non-strategic nuclear weapons should be accorded priority and

be included in the overall arms reduction negotiations;

12. *Calls on* all States which have not yet done so to conclude comprehensive safeguard agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and to conclude additional protocols to their safeguards agreements (on the basis of the Model Protocol);
13. *Urges* all States to accede to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty;

#### *B. Chemical weapons*

14. *Also urges* States party to the Chemical Weapons Convention to implement its provisions fully and without delay;
15. *Encourages* all the parties concerned to consider the use of challenge inspections as a way of verifying compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention;

#### *C. Biological and toxin weapons*

16. *Urges* all States which have not yet done so to accede to the 1925 Geneva Protocol;
17. *Appeals* to the States party to the 1925 Geneva Protocol that submitted reservations to withdraw them at their earliest convenience;
18. *Urges* parliamentarians to use all the mechanisms of parliamentary diplomacy to promote broader accession to the 1925 Geneva Protocol and to have any reservations attached to it withdrawn;
19. *Urges* all States which have not yet done so to accede to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction;
20. *Urges* all States signatories to the aforementioned Convention to ratify it as soon as possible;
21. *Urges* parliamentarians to use all the mechanisms of parliamentary and inter parliamentary diplomacy to promote broader accession to the Convention;
22. *Urges* the parties to the Convention on biological weapons to make efforts to establish a more effective control mechanism for the verification of the Convention;
23. *Urges* that measures be undertaken to ensure national implementation of the prohibitions provided for in the Convention;
24. *Calls on* parliaments and parliamentarians to identify the causes of failure to implement the Convention at the national level and the requirements for improving such implementation;
25. *Urges* national parliaments to exchange information on best practices for national implementation and parliamentary oversight of implementation through the interaction of parliamentarians

dealing with such aspects of legislation and oversight on parliamentary committees;

26. *Also urges* parliaments to raise awareness of the need to strengthen national and international preparedness to fight the deliberate spread of disease, both man-made and naturally occurring;
27. *Is convinced* that such awareness-raising efforts should be undertaken in close cooperation with the relevant international organisations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC);
28. *Recommends* that in specific areas and regions, parliaments and the IPU monitor the deliberate spread of disease;

#### *D. Missiles*

29. *Calls on* all States to exercise maximum self-restraint when conducting their missile activities, for the sake of regional and global peace and stability;
30. *Invites* States to consider adherence to The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation and endeavour to make it a legally binding instrument;

#### *E. Export control*

31. *Calls for* the strengthening of export control and the multilateral export control régimes, not least in fighting terrorism;
32. *Calls on* the United Nations – even though depleted uranium is not a weapon of mass destruction, but in view of its long term effects – to establish an additional protocol to the Geneva Convention of October 1980 known as the "Convention on Inhuman Weapons" to prohibit the use of depleted uranium weapons and cluster bombs;
33. *Reminds* the international community of the importance of doing its utmost to resolve peacefully the issues mentioned in this resolution and of expressing its firm commitment to international cooperation on such issues and to contribute to the peace and stability of the world, through dialogue between parliamentarians and cooperation with the relevant international organisations;
34. *Invites* the Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to contact on an annual basis the parliaments which have not ratified the international treaties mentioned in the present resolution with a view to encouraging them to do so.

### THE NEED TO PUT AN URGENT END TO THE WAR IN IRAQ AND TO RE-ESTABLISH PEACE: THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

*Resolution adopted by consensus\* by the 108th Conference (Santiago de Chile, 11 April 2003)*

The 108th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

*Gravely concerned* by the war in Iraq, a sovereign Member State of the United Nations, and its consequences for peace and stability in the region, and expressing profound sorrow for the victims amongst the civilian population, particularly women, children and the elderly,

*Recalling* the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security,

*Affirming* its adherence to the principle of maintaining the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of Iraq,

*Reaffirming* the right of the people of Iraq to determine their own political future and to control their own natural resources,

*Underlining* the importance of respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, and religious, ethnic and cultural diversity in the territory of Iraq at all times,

*Stressing* the urgent need to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Iraq, and *welcoming* UN Security Council resolution 1472 (2003) on the provision of humanitarian relief measures to the people of Iraq throughout the country on an equitable basis,

*Recalling* UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on the subject of women, peace and security,

*Conscious* of the role that the IPU must play in Iraq in promoting peace, democracy and cooperation through dialogue and by consolidating representative institutions,

1. *Affirms* the need to put an urgent end to the war in Iraq and to restore peace in the country;
2. *Emphasises* the importance of upholding international law, especially the Charter of the United Nations;
3. *Reaffirms* the fundamental importance of multilateralism and international cooperation in solving conflicts between States and, therefore, the war in Iraq, and calls on all States to cooperate fully with the United Nations and its Specialised Agencies;
4. *Requests* all parties to the armed conflict to abide strictly by their obligations under international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions and the Hague Regulations especially

those relating to the essential civilian needs of the people of Iraq;

5. *Emphasises* that the United Nations is the only organisation authorised under the Charter to use force, and therefore calls on it to assume a monitoring role with regard to the full withdrawal of foreign troops from Iraq and to facilitate the restoration of peace, law and order;
6. *Calls on* the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Iraq, including the provision of clean water, sanitation, food, shelter and emergency health care, and calls on the United Nations to continue playing its central role in the provision of such assistance;
7. *Calls on* the United Nations Security Council to lift the sanctions against Iraq as soon as possible in order to restore the necessary economic conditions for the survival of the population and the country's development;
8. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations must assume a leading role in the post-war period, including the reconstruction process, and *stresses* that Iraq's wealth should not be used, nor its natural resources depleted, to implement the reconstruction process;
9. *Calls on* all parties to ensure that women are fully integrated at all levels in the negotiation of peace agreements and that the resulting reconstruction programmes include a gender perspective reflecting the special needs and inputs of women and are based on equality and parity;
10. *Emphasises* the contribution that the United Nations can make in promoting the rule of law and building effective State institutions in Iraq;
11. *Underscores* the particular role the IPU can play in regard to democracy and representative institutions and thus contribute towards the rapid restoration of lasting peace in Iraq;
12. *Stresses* that it is for the Iraqi people to choose their own political institutions, and declares that the Inter-Parliamentary Union stands ready to put its expertise at the service of those choices;
13. *Recalls* that democracy is a mode of government to be applied according to modalities which reflect the diversity of experiences and cultural particularities without derogating from internationally recognised principles, norms and standards, including those relating to human rights, freedom, equality, transparency and responsibility, and in full respect for plurality of opinion and the common interest.

*After the resolution was adopted, the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic expressed a reservation on the text.*

### **Resolusjonstekster vedtatt under høstkonferansen i Genève**

#### **THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN ASSISTING MULTILATERAL ORGANISATIONS IN ENSURING PEACE AND SECURITY AND IN BUILDING AN INTERNATIONAL COALITION FOR PEACE**

*Resolution adopted by consensus\* by the 109th Assembly (Geneva, 3 October 2003)*

The 109th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*Noting* the importance of parliaments as the cornerstone of democracy and their role in promoting peace,

*Considering* that peace and justice are two inter-dependent issues of fundamental importance to humankind,

*Noting* that peace is not only a political issue defined by the absence of violence and war and that it also encompasses cultural, economic, social and educational issues,

*Recognising* that not only physical violence but also increasingly acute social, cultural and ethnic tensions, such as those resulting from severe pollution, impoverishment of the environment, corruption or poverty, aggravate the threat to peace and security,

*Concerned moreover* that the mass of weaponry produced throughout the world is a threat to the human race, as well as an enormous waste of resources in terms of human labour, financial investment, and the cost of stockpiling and deployment,

*Recognising* the fact that terrorism, including State terrorism and State-sponsored terrorism, has affected many countries of the world in a variety of ways for several decades,

*Observing* that, in the final decade of the last century and the first years of the present one, peace and security worldwide are still under threat from terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, armed internal conflicts, aggression, wars between members of the international community, occupation and weapons of mass destruction,

*Aware* that terrorism and organised crime, especially trafficking in weapons, drugs and human beings, are often closely interrelated, and *welcoming* in this context the recent entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime,

*Drawing attention* to UN Security Council resolutions 1368 (2001) of 12 September 2001 and 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001,

*Mindful* that, to prevent security from being threatened, joint global counteractive measures are required to combat environmental problems,

*Convinced* that parliamentarians can play an important role in early conflict prevention,

*Reaffirming* its position that internal conflicts in all countries and their spread into other countries can be averted through mutual respect and coexistence among the various religious and ethnic groups, as well as through dialogue and openness and a comprehensive and anticipatory development policy comprising political, economic, social and environmental elements,

*Also reaffirming* IPU resolutions "Achieving peace, stability and comprehensive development in the world and forging closer political, economic and cultural ties among peoples" (103rd Conference, Amman, April-May 2000), "Financing for development and a new paradigm of economic and social development designed to eradicate poverty" (104th Conference, Jakarta, October 2000), "Securing observance of the principles of international law in the interests of world peace and security" (105th Conference, Havana, April 2001), "Ten years after Rio: global degradation of the environment and parliamentary support for the Kyoto Protocol" (107th Conference, Marrakech, March 2002), and "Importance of the non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction and of missiles, including the prevention of their use by terrorists" (108th Conference, Santiago de Chile, April 2003),

*Convinced* that strengthening democracy, promoting human rights and supporting the peaceful settlement of conflicts are the most effective means of combating terrorism,

*Concerned* that the United Nations system has often been unable to prevent wars between members of the international community, and *reaffirming* the paramount importance of all States abiding by the United Nations Charter and resolutions,

*Mindful* of the importance of international instruments on the protection of fundamental human rights and liberties, for men and women alike,

*Welcoming* and *fully supporting* United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), entitled "Women and peace and security", and bearing in mind the specific recommendations on women and war made in the Beijing Platform for Action, and the outcome document of the "Beijing+5" Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly,

*Stressing* that education, particularly human rights education, is essential, and recognising the positive role that children can play in building a culture of peace,

*Aware* of the significant roles played by different sectors of civil society and of the importance of their cooperation with parliaments to foster democracy, peace and security,

1. *Calls on* governments and parliaments to promote reconciliation processes aimed at achieving sustainable solutions to internal conflicts;
2. *Also calls on* all parliaments to do everything possible at the national level to facilitate the establishment of standing mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution, as a way to promote action geared to achieving real peace;
3. *Further calls on* all parliamentarians to work hard to limit the effects of war on civilians, whom they represent, particularly as regards the vulnerable situation of women and children and the consequences of rape;
4. *Emphasises* the need for better control of small arms, encompassing the trading, trafficking and smuggling of small arms, in order to reduce the risk of violent conflicts;
5. *Unequivocally condemns* terrorism as a criminal act, noting that terrorism endangers the territorial integrity of countries and their national and international security, destroys innocent lives and the physical and economic infrastructure, and destabilises not only legitimately constituted governments but society as a whole;
6. *Emphasises* the need for the Inter-Parliamentary Union to focus more closely on the issue of terrorism and its root causes, and to work with the international community on a definition of terrorism;
7. *Vigorously condemns* all terrorist acts, methods and practices, and considers them criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomever they are committed;
8. *Strongly urges* all States and governments worldwide to refrain from funding or encouraging terrorist activity, supporting it by any other means, providing training for it or allowing their territory to be used for organising terrorist activities against other States, individuals or groups of individuals;
9. *Urges* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to cooperate closely with the Counter-Terrorism Committee established under Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and the Vienna-based United Nations Terrorism Prevention Branch, and to promote the implementation of the Global Programme against Terrorism;
10. *Invites* all States to consider, if they have not yet done so, acceding to and/or ratifying international instruments, as appropriate, in particular the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court, and *recalls* that, in establishing the crimes falling within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, the latter's Statute defines rape, sexual slavery, enforced prosti-



- tution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilisation, or any other form of sexual violence both as war crimes and, when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, as crimes against humanity;
11. *Reaffirms* its deep apprehension at the increase in terrorism and therefore:
    - (a) *Reiterates* its call to the world's parliaments to promote consensus on the United Nations conventions on terrorism, referring in this connection to the resolution entitled "Terrorism – a threat to democracy, human rights and civil society: the contribution of parliaments to combating international terrorism and addressing its causes in order to maintain international peace and security", adopted by the 107th Conference, Marrakech, March 2002;
    - (b) *Stresses* the need to confront the exercise of terror and eliminate the causes that lead to its development, and urges all States to enhance cooperation in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;
    - (c) *Reaffirms* its commitment to eliminate any perception that the fight against terrorism is also a fight against particular cultures, peoples or religions;
    - (d) *Calls* for the enhancement of national and multilateral export administration systems as part of the fight against terrorism;
    - (e) *Calls on* each country to ratify promptly the relevant international and regional treaties, conventions and protocols against terrorism;
    - (f) *Calls on* parliaments to support the elaboration of a comprehensive United Nations convention on international terrorism, and of an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism;
  12. *Calls on* all parliamentarians to press their governments to sign, accede to and ratify all international instruments drafted to eliminate the world's arsenal of weapons;
  13. *Calls* the international community's attention to the need for best efforts to resolve these issues as peacefully as possible, and *expresses* the IPU's firm determination to become involved in global cooperation for resolving such issues through dialogue among parliamentarians and cooperation with relevant international bodies, thus contributing to world peace and security;
  14. *Calls on* all countries to intensify efforts to prevent and curb the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and to consolidate policies for preventing equipment, materials and technology which may possibly be used for any proliferation of such weapons from being transferred, especially to terrorists;
  15. *Recognises* the need for a reform of the United Nations, in particular by enlarging the Security Council to make it more representative and effective in addressing issues of international peace and security;
  16. *Agrees* that peace at a global level can only be achieved through dialogue, within the framework of international law;
  17. *Calls on* the United Nations to place peace, an issue of grave human concern, on the agenda of its General Assembly meetings;
  18. *Calls on* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to exercise its right as an observer to the United Nations to speak during security policy debates in the United Nations General Assembly;
  19. *Views* with great concern the continuing occupation of territories belonging to other nations, while noting that any attempts to disrupt partially or totally the national unity and territorial integrity of a country are incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;
  20. *Calls on* the multilateral organisations to support efforts to achieve the following:
    - (a) The immediate termination of all forms of occupation;
    - (b) The formal recognition of the responsibility of all occupying forces for the remedy of all ills caused by occupation, including the misappropriation of resources, damage to infrastructure, deterioration of the environment and impediments to economic, social, cultural and educational achievement;
    - (c) The qualification of occupation as an infringement of international law;
  21. *Stresses* the importance for the United Nations to enhance its involvement and play a key role in the reconstruction process in Iraq, so as to allow the Iraqi people to decide independently on the measures which they find most suitable and which are compatible with their aspirations;
  22. *Further stresses* that Article 2 of the United Nations Charter should be observed in both letter and spirit and that, although the IPU and other multilateral organisations involved should assist the Iraqi people in their endeavour to regenerate their own State, no attempt should be tolerated to impose upon them what they do not voluntarily accept;
  23. *Agrees* that efforts to promote the concept and culture of peace and to renounce violence should be encouraged by fostering intercultural and inter-faith understanding and respect and by eliminating all forms of discrimination;
  24. *Calls on* parliaments and governments to strengthen measures to combat poverty, corruption and

environmental destruction through international cooperation, and to devote attention to the gender implications of conflict;

25. *Also calls on* governments to ensure that education seeks to promote respect and understanding, free from false indoctrination and hatred in various forms;
26. *Further calls on* parliaments to support national efforts and international cooperation aimed at promoting education for all, while paying special attention to human rights education as a means of fostering the culture of peace;
27. *Encourages* all parliamentarians to urge their governments and political parties to promote social justice as a guarantee for the establishment of lasting peace;
28. *Also encourages* parliaments to support NGOs, including those which seek to promote peace through art in all its forms.

\* *Reservations were expressed by the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic.*

#### GLOBAL PUBLIC GOODS: A NEW CHALLENGE FOR PARLIAMENTS

*Resolution adopted by consensus\* by the 109th Assembly (Geneva, 3 October 2003)*

The 109th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*Recognising* the increased globalisation and interdependence among world economies, and the enormous importance acquired by Global Public Goods,

*Stressing* the importance of the United Nations Millennium Declaration in increasing political and economic stability and reducing worldwide poverty,

*Recognising* the need for disseminating the concept of Global Public Goods as a new rationale for international cooperation,

*Emphasising* the collective responsibility of nations to debate resolutions to accelerate the process of development assistance by helping determine, with the appropriate parliamentary debates and national consultations of constituent groups, the definition of Global Public Goods and the way to finance them,

*Noting* the emphasis placed on Global Public Goods by the World Bank, the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union in tackling the problem of world food security,

*Further noting* that a definition of Global Public Goods will enable governments to have a greater influence on the development of their countries, especially with respect to provision of such goods at the domestic level,

*Considering* the impact of Global Public Goods on neighbouring countries and regions,

*Emphasising* that the consumption of traditionally defined Global Public Goods by one person does not reduce the possible consumption by another, irrespective of income levels,

*Acknowledging* that countries have differing incomes, economic structures and social priorities,

1. *Calls on* both developed and developing countries to recognise that Global Public Goods have transnational effects and therefore require joint assumption of responsibility;
2. *Calls on* both developed and developing countries to promote an active debate among public policy makers, civil society, businesses and academia, while stimulating further research on the subject of Global Public Goods;
3. *Urges* governments, parliaments, international organisations and donor agencies to channel financial resources to poor countries, especially those in the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) category, and to pay special attention to the debt burden of developing countries, which hinders them from providing Global Public Goods at the domestic level;
4. *Emphasises* the need for close cooperation among governments, parliaments, businesses, international organisations and NGOs if Global Public Goods are to play a role in the pursuit of economic growth, which is necessary for the eradication of world poverty, but which should not be achieved at the expense of the environment;
5. *Urges* the representatives of States to meet to evaluate preferences for Global Public Goods that cross borders;
6. *Encourages* governments jointly to identify and rank various Global Public Goods in order of financial feasibility and ease of implementation in order to lessen friction arising from the choice of alternatives;
7. *Stresses* the need to build financial solutions on the principle that nobody should be able to gain from Global Public Goods at the expense of another person and on the principles agreed upon at the UN Summit Meetings, for example the "polluter pays" principle;
8. *Urges* the governments of developed and developing countries to ensure that Global Public Goods are not financed at the expense of traditional sources of development finance;
9. *Calls on* governments to convene in a forum to exchange information about various financing mechanisms, including innovative use of private sources of funding, to be managed within the framework of the World Solidarity Fund adopted by the United Nations on 20 December 2002;

10. *Calls on the IPU Member parliaments to encourage governments to adopt, if required, the legal frameworks needed to institute agreed financing mechanisms, and to monitor the pursuit by governments of the above-mentioned objectives.*

\* *The delegation of India expressed reservations on certain parts of the text.*

#### THE CONTRIBUTION OF NEW INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES TO GOOD GOVERNANCE, THE IMPROVEMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AND THE MANAGEMENT OF GLOBALISATION

*Resolution adopted unanimously by the 109th Assembly (Geneva, 3 October 2003)*

The 109th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*Hoping* that the new information and communication technologies (NICTs) will help to build a more peaceful, more prosperous and fairer world based on global public goods in all their diversity,

*Convinced* that the NICTs can bring about significant political, economic and social changes that will reduce distances and generate new cultures and markets, although they give rise to concerns as well as hopes,

*Also convinced* that the NICTs play an increasingly important role in socio-cultural, economic and political development in an era of globalisation,

*Mindful* that the NICTs facilitate the sharing of knowledge among peoples,

*Fully supporting* the forthcoming World Summit on the Information Society, as a unique opportunity to foster the global consensus and commitment required to harness the power of the NICTs to advance human development,

*Mindful* that the NICTs as such are not the solution to the world's problems but rather tools, mechanisms and opportunities that require the political will of society and cooperation among States in order to ensure that they serve the goals pursued at the national and international level,

*Emphasising* the many financial, economic and social restrictions and barriers hindering the use of the NICTs in developing societies, including inadequate financial resources to cover the huge investments needed in this field, a shortage of managers and skilled personnel, weak demand for such services due to limited purchasing power and low incomes, and the rising costs of the services provided by the NICTs,

*Recalling* that good governance requires, within each country and at the international level, an ethic for the management of the State and its resources based on principles and norms that include require-

ments of transparency, accountability, communication, respect for the rule of law, an independent judiciary and a liberal and democratic State that protects human rights, guarantees clear rules for the free play of market forces and favours the unfettered development of civil society in all its cultural, economic, societal and political dimensions, enabling it to exercise a democratic power of initiative and oversight,

*Underscoring* that traditional means of communication, transparency and accountability, no matter how indispensable, can be enhanced by the NICTs to further good management of governance,

*Recalling* that the NICTs facilitate the defence and promotion of human rights and gender equality,

*Asserting* that without an appropriate public policy, the NICTs cannot be a factor of shared progress,

*Noting* that the majority of the developing countries have lagged behind the North in the economic and social field, *fearing* that the extremely rapid development of the NICTs may further widen the digital divide between industrialised and developing countries, and recognising the need to narrow the gap,

*Placing* great importance on mutual cooperation between industrialised and developing countries for further promotion of the NICTs on a worldwide basis,

*Acknowledging* that the NICTs can enhance but do not obviate the duty of national parliaments to take responsibility for good governance and parliamentary democracy in their own countries,

*Mindful* that if citizens are to fulfil their duties and assert their rights, they must be able to access and utilise information,

*Aware* that the NICTs can be a very useful tool for consolidating and renewing parliamentary democracy by allowing better participation by all citizens,

*Noting* that the NICTs make it easier to manage and participate in the globalisation process, especially as far as the international organisations are concerned,

*Hoping* that the NICTs will be used for development, and noting the importance of the NICTs as an integral part of efforts to combat poverty and discrimination and achieve the Millennium Goals,

*Recalling* that the NICTs advance education and training which are essential for development and gender equality,

*Mindful* that each State has a duty to ensure that the NICTs are acquired and utilised properly,

*Regretting* that the NICTs have to a large extent been used for so-called spam mail and destructive purposes involving anti-democratic messages and degrading pornographic content and including unregulated weapons trading,

1. *Calls on* parliaments to support the successful completion of the World Summit on the Information Society and to take the necessary steps to ensure that their representatives are included in the national delegations to the Summit;
2. *Calls on* parliaments and their members to make full use of the NICTs:
  - to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of their activities and to better connect with the electorate;
  - to expand inter-parliamentary relationships and cooperation at bilateral and multilateral levels, thus enhancing parliamentary democracy and diplomacy;
3. *Urges* the establishment of appropriate aid mechanisms, including an NICT observatory for Africa and other disadvantaged regions, and recommends the establishment of a network of correspondents among IPU Member parliaments;
4. *Recommends* that each parliament put in place the necessary structures to follow up and monitor annually the development of e-government in its country so as to guarantee its transparency for citizens and democracy;
5. *Urges* governments to take the necessary steps to ensure free community access to those NICTs that guarantee good governance;
6. *Calls on* the international community to seek further means of closing the South's NICT gap;
7. *Invites* the international community to promote NICT training for managers and technicians from the South;
8. *Calls on* international organisations and NGOs to promote knowledge sharing in this area and the establishment of NICT networks, in cooperation with partners from both the South and the North;
9. *Urges* governments to use the NICTs to broaden distance education, which can reach groups of people that otherwise would not have access to education;
10. *Draws* governments' attention to the need to strengthen the personal protection and security of the users of the NICTs and to strive for legislation on international range;
11. *Urges* governments to find ways to limit the use of spam mail and the use of the NICTs for destructive purposes;
12. *Supports* all NICT-related initiatives aimed at respecting and promoting linguistic and cultural diversity;
13. *Calls for* the introduction of national and regional policies that incorporate the development of information and communication infrastructures and existing resources;
14. *Calls on* the international community to promote the use of the NICTs to enhance civic involvement in public decision-making;
15. *Also calls on* governments to see to it that the NICTs are acquired and used properly with a view to guaranteeing good governance and avoiding all forms of discrimination;
16. *Encourages* States to put in place national strategies centred on education, including basic and digital literacy, for the implementation of the information society;
17. *Calls for* strengthened national efforts and international cooperation in order to prevent and combat the use of the NICTs for criminal and terrorist ends;
18. *Encourages* national policies and international action aimed at ensuring that the NICTs serve gender equality and the empowerment of women;
19. *Invites* parliaments to take legislative action with the aim of providing an environment conducive to the dissemination, development and secure use of the NICTs;
20. *Reaffirms* the principle of freedom of expression in cyberspace, with the restrictions required by the fight against terrorism, pornography, trafficking in human beings, organised crime, racism, revisionism and discrimination;
21. *Stresses* the need to facilitate Internet hook-ups by breaking the monopoly of the telephone companies and promoting cheaper alternative solutions;
22. *Considers* that the new technologies must help to integrate generations and social groups;
23. *Stresses* that the IPU can contribute to strengthening North-South and South-South cooperation in the NICT field via appropriate mechanisms;
24. *Urges* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to create a climate conducive to the advent of the information society by:
  - Encouraging the use of the NICTs in the organisation of elections so as to guarantee the democratic process, particularly in the countries of the South;
  - Strengthening the role of parliaments in following up decisions and resolutions relating to the information society by monitoring and implementing commitments made by governments in the NICT field;
  - Encouraging parliaments to commit themselves to knowledge acquisition, consultancy and assistance in the NICT field with a view to consolidating parliamentary democracy;
  - Further helping parliaments from emerging democracies and developing countries to take full advantage of the NICTs, by means of its technical assistance programmes.

PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROAD MAP FOR PEACE IN PUTTING AN END TO THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT AND ACHIEVING A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE PROCESS AND JUSTICE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

*Resolution adopted by consensus\* by the 109th Assembly (Geneva, 3 October 2003)*

The 109th Inter-Parliamentary Assembly,

*Recalling* its resolutions adopted at the 104th Conference, October 2000 (Jakarta), at the 106th Conference, September 2001 (Ouagadougou), and at the 107th Conference, March 2002 (Marrakech), which called for an end to the tension and violence in the Middle East,

*Reiterating* its support for a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict based on the relevant United Nations resolutions,

*Recognising* the full acceptance by the Palestinian Authority of the road map for peace proposed by the Quartet (the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and the Russian Federation) and *noting* the subsequent conditional acceptance of it by Israel,

1. *Strongly urges* the international community to exert pressure on Israel to desist from any act aimed at the expulsion of President Yasser Arafat and to cease all threats to the safety of the legitimately elected head of the Palestinian Authority;
2. *Urges* Israel to halt the building of settlements in the occupied territories, which, along with the demolition of Palestinian homes and property, is in contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the road map, to abandon its policy of erecting fences and imposing paralysing closures, and to stop using its regular army to police the civilian population and conduct extrajudicial killings in the occupied territories;
3. *Demands* that the Palestinian Authority take all necessary measures to put an end to the violent attacks that result in the deaths of large numbers of civilians and innocent people;
4. *Urges* Israel to withdraw completely from all the occupied territories in order to achieve a comprehensive peace process and justice in the Middle East in accordance with United Nations and IPU resolutions;
5. *Calls on* the UN Security Council and the Quartet to guarantee the full implementation of the road map, including by sending international observers to monitor the stage-by-stage implementation on the ground of the decisions contained in the road map;
6. *Calls on* both parties to return to the negotiating table and put an end to the cycle of violence in order to save lives on both sides, *urges* the parties to enact confidence-building measures, and *encourages* them to reach an accord through bilateral negotiations within the framework of the road map;
7. *Calls also on* both parties immediately to begin considering building a lasting peace through education for peaceful coexistence.

\* *The delegations of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Yemen expressed reservations on those parts of the text which might be construed to imply recognition of Israel. The delegation of Palestine expressed a reservation with respect to paragraph 3 stating that the text did not make it clear that the Palestinian Authority had started implementing the road map. The delegation of Israel expressed a reservation with respect to paragraph 4. A delegate of the United Kingdom expressed a personal reservation on paragraphs 2 and 4. A delegate of South Africa expressed a personal reservation on the entire resolution while the delegation as a whole stated that it wished to abstain from approving the resolution. The delegations of Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon also voiced comments on the resolution.*

RESOLUTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS CASES ADOPTED BY THE 173RD SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

(Geneva, 3 October 2003)

Case N°	Name	Country
BLS/01	Mr. Andrei Klimov	Belarus
BLS/05	Mr. Victor Gonchar	Belarus
BDI/01	Mr. S. Mfayokurera	Burundi
BDI/05	Mr. I. Ndikumana	
BDI/06	Mr. G. Gahungu	
BDI/07	Mrs. B. Ntamutumba	
BDI/29	Mr. P. Sirahenda	
BDI/35	Mr. G. Gisabwamana	
BDI/02	Mr. N. Ndihekubwayo	Burundi
CMBD/18	Mr. Chhang Song	Cambodia
CMBD/19	Mr. Siphon Phay	
CMBD/20	Mr. Pou Savath	
CO/01	Mr. Pedro Nel Jimenéz Obando	Colombia
CO/02	Mr. Leonardo Posada Pedraza	
CO/03	Mr. Octavio Vargas Cuéllar	
CO/04	Mr. Pedro Luis Valencia Giraldo	
CO/06	Mr. Bernardo Jaramillo Ossa	
CO/08	Mr. Manuel Cepeda Vargas	
CO/139	Mr. Octavio Sarmiento Bohórquez	
CO/09	Mr. Hernán Motta Motta	Colombia
CO/121	Ms. Piedad Córdoba	Colombia
CO/122	Mr. Oscar Lizcano	Colombia
CO/132	Mr. Eduardo Gechen Turbay	
CO/133	Mr. Luis Eladio Pérez Bonilla	
CO/134	Mr. Orlando Beltrán Cuéllar	
CO/135	Ms. Gloria Polanco de Lozada	
CO/136	Ms. Consuelo González de Perdomo	
CO/138	Mr. Gustavo Petro Urrego	Colombia
EC/02	Mr. Jaime Hurtado González	Ecuador
EC/03	Mr. Pablo Vicente Tapia Farinango	
ERI/01, ERI/02, ERI/03, ERI/04, ERI/05, ERI/06 ERI/07, ERI/08, ERI/09, ERI/10, ERI/11	Eleven parliamentarians	Eritrea
GMB/01	Mr. Lamin Waa Juwara	Gambia
GMB/03	Mr. Omar Jallow	Gambia
HOND/02	Mr. Miguel Angel Pavón Salazar	Honduras
IDS/13	Mr. Tengku Nasrihuddin Daud	Indonesia
MAG/01	Mr. Jean-Eugène Voninahitsy	Madagascar
MAL/15	Mr. Anwar Ibrahim	Malaysia
MON/01	Mr. Zorig Sanjasuuren	Mongolia

MYN/01, MYN/04, MYN/09, MYN/13, MYN/36, MYN/60, MYN/80, MYN/104, MYN/118, MYN/119, MYN/122, MYN/124, MYN/133, MYN/134, MYN/138, MYN/139, MYN/209, MYN/215 MYN/02, MYN/15, MYN/22, MYN/24, MYN/28, MYN/102, MYN/162, MYN/212, MYN/216, MYN/217, MYN/218, MYN/219, MYN/220, MYN/221, MYN/222, MYN/223, MYN/224, MYN/225, MYN/226, MYN/227, MYN/228, MYN/229, MYN/230, MYN/231, MYN/232, MYN/233 MYN/53, MYN/55, MYN/72, MYN/83, MYN/131, MYN/132 MYN/66, MYN/67	Fifty-two parliamentarians	Myanmar
PAK/08	Mr. Asif Ali Zardari	Pakistan
PAL/02	Mr. Marwan Barghouti	Palestine
PAL/04	Mr. Hussam Khader	Palestine
RW/01	Mr. Eustache Nkerinka	Rwanda
RW/02	Mr. Jacques Maniraguha	
RW/03	Mr. Jean-Léonard Bizimana	
RW/04	Mr. Joseph Sebarenzi Kabuye	
RW/06	Mr. Léonard Hitimana	Rwanda
SYR/02	Mr. Mamoun Al-Homsi	Syrian Arab Republic
SYR/03	Mr. Riad Seef	Syrian Arab Republic
TK/39, TK/40, TK/41, TK/42, TK/43, TK/44, TK/48, TK/51, TK/52, TK/53, TK/55, TK/57, TK/58, TK/59, TK/62	Fifteen parliamentarians	Turkey
TK/66	Ms. Merve Safa Kavakçı	Turkey
ZBW/12, ZBW/13, ZBW/14, ZBW/15, ZBW/16, ZBW/17, ZBW/18, ZBW/19, ZBW/20, ZBW/21, ZBW/22, ZBW/23, ZBW/24, ZBW/25, ZBW/26, ZBW/27, ZBW/28, ZBW/29, ZBW/30, ZBW/31, ZBW/32, ZBW/33	Twenty-two	Zimbabwe

Nærmere informasjon om den enkelte sak finnes under IPU's hjemmeside: <http://www.ipu.org/hr-e/173/173all.htm>