



**SUMMARY OF DECISIONS OF THE 142nd ASSEMBLY OF THE IPU
AND RELATED MEETINGS: 24TH TO 28TH MAY 2021 PRESENTED
TO THE 49TH SADC PF PLENARY ASSEMBLY**

BY

**SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE AND MEMBER OF
THE IPU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, HON. ADVOCATE J.F.N.
MUDENDA**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The 142nd IPU Assembly was held virtually under the overall theme **“Overcoming the pandemic today and building a better tomorrow: the role of Parliaments” from 24 to 28 May 2021.**
- 1.2 The Assembly was preceded by Meetings of the Standing Committees, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, the Forum of Young Parliamentarians and other subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council.

2.0 SUMMARY OF DECISIONS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

- 2.1 **Elections:** The following Members were elected into the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians:

- **Mr. S. Cogolati of Belgium;**
- **Mr. S. Spengemann of Canada;**
- **Mr. B. Mbuku Laka of Democratic Republic of Congo;**
- **Ms. L. Quartapelle of Italy; and**
- **Ms. C. Asiain Pereira of Uruguay.**

- 2.1.2 The following Members were elected into the Committee on Middle East Question:

- **Mr. M.E. Al-Sisi-Al Buainain of Bahrain;**
- **Mr. G. Migliore of Italy; and**
- **Mr. M. O. Almheri of United Arab Emirates.**

- 2.1.3 The Governing Council endorsed nominations received from Geo-political Groups for vacancies in other IPU bodies. Southern Africa submitted the candidatures of Hon. E. Mulembwe of Mozambique for the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and Hon. N. Bujela of Eswatini for the Bureau of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. Hon. Bujela’s candidature was endorsed while that of Hon. Mulembwe was rejected on the basis of the principle of rotation. Subsequently, the vacancy was filled by Mr. A. Kharchi from Algeria representing the Northern Region.

- 2.2 **Financial Statements for 2020:** The Governing Council approved the Financial Results for 2020. An analysis of the Financial Results which were given a clean bill by both the Internal Auditor and External Auditors.

- 2.3 **Revision of the IPU Strategy:** As indicated in my previous briefing, the process for the revision of the IPU Strategy was launched in early 2021. The revision will help reshape and accelerate how the IPU can better deliver on its core mandate to empower Parliaments to promote peace, democracy and sustainable development. In this regard, I wish to appeal to SADC Parliaments to actively engage the IPU Secretariat during the revision process by making sound and timeous input.

2.4 Future Parliamentary Meetings of the IPU: The Governing Council endorsed the schedule of the IPU Future Parliamentary Meetings. For now all meetings will be virtual. The hybrid format will be explored to allow for maximum participation by Member Parliaments. SADC Countries are encouraged to actively participate in the scheduled Meetings.

2.4.1 Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament: The in-person Fifth World Conference of Speakers is scheduled for 7th and 8th September 2021 in Vienna, Austria. The Conference will be preceded by the Women Speakers' Summit on 6th September 2021. Invitation letters were sent to all Member Parliaments. Please register your attendance now as directed by the IPU Secretariat.

2.5 Achieving Universal Membership: The IPU now has 179 Member Parliaments up from 155 Member Parliaments in 2010. Achieving Universal Membership remains on the Agenda of the IPU. Accordingly, diplomatic maneuvers to engage the non-Members continue under the stewardship of the IPU President. Member Parliaments are also encouraged to raise the issue of IPU Membership with sisterly non-Member Parliaments.

2.6 Status of Member Parliaments Arrears: The Governing Council Executive Committee is encouraging all Members Countries in arrears to own up. SADC PF Parliaments are, therefore, reminded to be up to date in their assessed contributions.

2.7 Creation of an IPU Cremer – Passy Prize: The Governing Council endorsed the Creation of the Cremer-Passy Prize which will be awarded annually to a Parliamentarian or group of Parliamentarians who make an “**outstanding contribution to the defense and promotion of the IPU’s objectives as well as those who contribute to a more united, fair, secure, sustainable and equitable world.**” Once operational, all Member Parliaments would submit nominations of eligible Parliamentarians.

2.8 Decisions of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians: The Governing Council endorsed the decisions of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians on Parliamentarians from Egypt, Libya, Myanmar, Philippines, Turkey, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

2.8.1 The case from Zimbabwe involves Hon. Joana Mamombe. I wish to apprise the Plenary that the Parliament of Zimbabwe has consistently provided the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians factual updates on affected MP such as Hon. Mamombe’s circumstances. As a gesture of goodwill, Parliament of Zimbabwe extended an invitation to the IPU to undertake a fact-finding Mission to Zimbabwe. It now behooves the Committee to propose convenient dates for that Mission.

3.0 Resolutions Adopted at the 142nd Assembly of the IPU

- 3.1** Resolution submitted by the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security on **“Parliamentary Strategies to Strengthen Peace and Security against Threats and Conflicts Resulting from Climate related Disasters and their Consequences,”** primarily calls for immediate and multilateral action to address climate change and mitigate its effects on international stability and security with the same urgency as the fight against the COVID 19 pandemic. Accordingly, Parliaments should expedite and facilitate the ratification, domestication and implementation of the Paris Climate Change Agreement.
- 3.2** Resolution submitted by the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade on **“Mainstreaming digitalization and the circular economy to achieve the SDGs, particularly responsible consumption and production,”** calls on Parliaments to mainstream digitalization and circular economy principles into public policies and national strategies and to adopt an enabling legal framework for implementation.
- 3.3 The Outcome Document:** The Outcome Document reflected on the unprecedented global impact of the COVID -19 pandemic, particularly as it exacerbated inequalities within and between countries and stalled socio-economic progress on sustainable development, youth empowerment and gender equality.
- 3.3.1** The Document underscored the need for Parliamentary action at the national level and through multilateralism to resolve global challenges arising from Covid – 19 unprecedented impact. Accordingly, participants made a commitment to ensure that relief efforts reach the most vulnerable groups and that vaccines, tests and treatments are affordable as well as being accessible to all who need them in line with the SDGs’ operative mantra “leave no one and no place behind.”

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1** It is imperative for SADC Parliaments to not only share the resolutions at national level but to also practically implement them to the extent possible within each country’s context in order to give meaning to our participation at IPU Assemblies and attendant Committee Meetings.