



**REPORT ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE 145<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY OF THE  
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION AND RELATED MEETINGS**

**11 TO 15 OCTOBER 2022, KIGALI, RWANDA**

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Parliament of Rwanda, convened the 145<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the IPU and Related Meetings in Kigali from 11 to 15 October 2022 under the overarching theme “**Gender Equality and Gender Sensitive Parliaments as Drivers of Change for a more Resilient and Peaceful World**”. The 145<sup>th</sup> Assembly was attended by 1250 participants drawn from 120 countries, including 45 Speakers of Parliament. The theme of the Assembly was an acknowledgement of the achievement of the host Parliament which boasts of 61% women Parliamentarians.
- 1.2 The Hon. Advocate Jacob Francis Mudenda, Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Zimbabwe and one of Africa’s representatives to the IPU Executive Committee attended the Executive Committee meetings which preceded the 145<sup>th</sup> Assembly and Related Meetings in Montevideo, Uruguay, in June 2022, virtually in September 2022 as well as in Kigali, Rwanda on 09 and 10 October 2022 in person.

## 2.0 SADC GROUP AND AFRICA GEO-POLITICAL GROUP MEETINGS

- 2.1 As has become tradition, the SADC Group and the Africa Geo-political Group convened their Meetings on 10 October 2022 to consider and reach a consensus on issues on the Agenda of the IPU 145<sup>th</sup> Assembly and Related Meetings. These included the Report of the Executive Committee and the Emergency Item/s on the Assembly Agenda. The Hon Speaker, Advocate Mudenda, presented a summary Report to both groups subsequently.
- 2.2 Both Groups expressed reservations about the proposal submitted by the delegation of Pakistan as an Emergency Item entitled “**Creation of the global fund or financing facility for climate change vulnerable countries to address loss and damage associated with climate change**” as it did not meet the criteria for an Emergency Item in terms of Article 11 of the IPU Statutes.

### **3.0 OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 145<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY OF THE IPU AND RELATED MEETINGS**

- 3.1 The IPU 145<sup>th</sup> Assembly and Related Meetings was officially opened by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022. His Excellency Kagame welcomed delegates after being called upon to address the Assembly by the host Speaker, Dr. Mukabalisa. The President lauded the Assembly's theme which espoused gender equality in all spheres of human endeavours, more so when the women folk form 52% of the world's population. It was, therefore, incumbent upon Parliaments to enact laws that effectively promote gender parity. However, the President cautioned that there was "no size fits all" in tackling gender equality deficiencies. To him what was critical is the application of the political will to achieve the goal. The President wished the Assembly vibrant deliberations where outcomes should have positive resolutions that should be timeously implemented.
- 3.2 In welcoming the delegates to the land of a thousand hills, Hon. Donatella Mukabalisa, Speaker of the Parliament of Rwanda, expressed Rwanda's commitment to the participation of women in politics and inclusivity as enshrined Rwanda's constitution. Accordingly, Rwandan women are active participants in socio-economic and political development. She called on delegates to reflect and take stock of gender equality in our respective countries and proffer solutions to address the related challenges robustly.
- 3.3 In his address to delegates, Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU, called for the acceleration of progress to achieve shared goals on gender equality and gender sensitive Parliaments with zero tolerance to gender violence and sexism. In addressing instability as experienced in some parts of Africa and the Russia/Ukraine conflict, among others, the Secretary General underscored the value of dialogue as articulated by the founding fathers of the IPU. He called upon Parliaments to strive for peace, equity and opportunities for all in fulfilment of their constitutional mandates of legislation, representation and oversight on the Executive.
- 3.4 Hon. Duarte Pacheco, President of the IPU commended the collective efforts across the globe in the fight against the COVID 19 pandemic. He called for parliamentary cooperation in resolving global challenges, including climate change, political instability in Africa occasioned by military coups, Russia/Ukraine conflict and the situation in Palestine. Such

cooperation would pave way for sustainable development as well as progress in the fight for gender equality.

#### **4.0 EMERGENCY ITEM FOR INCLUSION ON THE AGENDA**

4.1 In accordance with Assembly Rule 11.1 which states that any Member of the Union may request the inclusion of an Emergency Item in the Assembly Agenda, the following delegations subsequently submitted proposals: -

- **“Creation of the global fund or financing facility for climate change vulnerable countries to address loss and damage associated with climate change”** submitted by the delegation from Pakistan;
- **“Condemnation of the invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent annexation of territories in defense of the territorial integrity of all states”** submitted by the delegation of Chile with the support of the GRULAC Geopolitical Group.
- **“Preserving Iraq’s sovereignty, rejecting repeated attacks and not interfering in internal affairs”** submitted by the delegation from Iraq.

4.2 The delegation of Iraq withdrew its proposal before the vote. The submission by the delegation of Chile carried the day after a vote and was accordingly included on the Agenda of the Assembly as an Emergency Item.

#### **5.0 DEBATE ON THE THEME OF THE ASSEMBLY**

5.1 In their interventions on the theme of the Assembly entitled **“Gender Equality and Gender Sensitive Parliaments as Drivers of Change for a more Resilient and Peaceful World”**, Parliamentarians took stock of the positive steps towards achieving gender equality. Speakers unanimously concurred that it had become an imperative to include women leadership in addressing global challenges such as conflicts, pandemics and climate change. Through their legislative and oversight roles, Parliaments can play a critical role in enacting robust legislation, including quotas for women in politics and ensuring gender responsive budgeting.

## 6.0 FORUM OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

- 6.1 The Forum of Women Parliamentarians contributed, from a gender perspective, to the draft Resolution before the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights “**Parliamentary impetus to local and regional development of countries with high levels of international migration and to stopping all forms , including state-sponsored, of human trafficking and human rights abuses**”. The Forum recommended a human rights based and gender sensitive approach to migration, addressing the root causes of trafficking of women and girls, including for sexual exploitation and combating human trafficking with focus on the rights and needs of survivors.
- 6.2 In addition, the Forum held a panel discussion on the theme “**Gender-sensitive Parliaments: Parliaments free from sexism, harassment and violence against women**”. Accordingly, debate highlighted policies and mechanisms for the prevention of and response to sexism and gender-based violence in Parliamentary space. In addition, the Forum recommended policy measures to prevent sexism and sexual harassment of female Members in Parliaments, independent reporting and complaint mechanisms as well as confidential spaces where victims can get information and support. Collaborating with the media for dissemination of information on the participation of women in politics and the violence they may face was also recommended.
- 6.3 The Forum of Women Parliamentarians organized a parity debate on the theme, “**Rejuvenating Parliaments: Why younger and gender sensitive Parliaments are more effective and efficient institutions**”. The debate examined the needs, expectations and aspirations of a more diverse generation of men and women Parliamentarians as well as practical ways of reconciling Parliamentary activities and family responsibilities.

## 7.0 FORUM OF YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS

- 7.1 The Forum Members recommended the creation of youth caucuses, youth wings of political parties and empowerment opportunities for young Parliamentarians.
- 7.2 The Forum also exchanged views on the theme of the General Debate on “**Gender equality and gender sensitive Parliaments as drivers of change**”

**for a more resilient and peaceful world”**. The Forum affirmed the need for Parliaments to be fully inclusive of young Parliamentarians. It called for innovative ways of addressing challenges of gender equality, including provision of feeding rooms for young mothers as well as policies that address sexism and gender-based violence.

- 7.3 The young Parliamentarians also shared the progress in launching the **“I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament”** Campaign in their respective Parliaments. Of note is that Parliaments have been receiving assistance from the IPU in the implementation of this initiative.

## **8.0 THE OUTCOMES OF THE 145<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS**

- 8.1 Kigali Declaration on **“Gender Equality and Gender Sensitive Parliaments as drivers of change for a more resilient and peaceful world”**:

The Declaration represents a milestone in progress towards gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments. It encourages IPU Members to step up their efforts to promote gender equality in both the public and private sectors. The full text of the Kigali Declaration is contained on Annexure A.

- 8.2 The IPU Assembly also adopted a resolution on **“Parliamentary impetus to local and regional development of countries with high levels of international migration and to stopping all forms, including state-sponsored, of human-trafficking and human rights abuses”**

The resolution calls on the United Nations to make the topic of human trafficking and modern-day slavery, a specific focus for the next UN General Assembly.

It also urges governments and parliaments to address the demand side of human trafficking, including trafficking in women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

- 8.3 The IPU 145th Assembly adopted by consensus a resolution on Ukraine entitled **“Condemnation of the invasion of Ukraine and the annexation of territories in defense of territorial integrity of all States”**

8.4 The full text of the resolutions as noted above were circulated to all Member Parliaments.

## **9.0 CONCLUSION**

**9.1** In line with the IPU Statues and Rules as well as the IPU Strategy which places emphasis on implementation of resolutions of the IPU, Parliaments will be called upon to report on action taken towards implementation of the adopted IPU resolutions. Accordingly, SADC Parliaments are encouraged to implement resolutions and provide feedback thereof timely to the IPU Secretary General.