

**Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia**



**Report of the Parliamentary Delegation to  
Canada**

**(31 March to 3 April 2003)**

**and the**

**108<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference**

**Santiago, Chile**

**(5 to 12 April 2003)**

**June 2003**

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# PREFACE

## Membership of the Delegation

Leader	The Hon. Neil Andrew MP Speaker of the House of Representatives Member for Wakefield South Australia, Liberal Party
Deputy Leader	Ms Maria Vamvakinou MP Member for Calwell Victoria, Australian Labor Party
Members	Senator Grant Chapman South Australia, Liberal Party  Senator Jeannie Ferris South Australia, Liberal Party  Senator Julian McGauran (IPU only) Victoria, National Party of Australia

Mr Con Sciacca MP, Member for Bowman, Queensland, Australian Labor Party, was incapacitated and therefore unable to join the Delegation.

The Delegation was accompanied by:

Mr Neil Bessell, Secretary to the Delegation, Department of the Senate

Dr Dennis Gifford, Adviser to the Speaker

Mr Phillip Allars, Adviser, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, IPU only

The Delegation was also accompanied by Mrs Carolyn Andrew and Mrs Sally Chapman.

## Administrative matters

The Delegation received a briefing from the Deputy High Commissioner of Canada, officers of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of the Parliamentary Library, prior to its departure. The Delegation wishes to record its thanks to all those who contributed to this briefing. The Delegation also received administrative support from various sections of the Parliament and in particular wishes to thank Ms Brenda Herd, Parliamentary Relations Office for her excellent assistance.

## **Acknowledgements - Canada**

The Delegation records its thanks and appreciation for all those involved in making its visit such a success.

The Delegation's hosts, the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the Ontario Legislative Assembly could not have been more generous in their welcome and hospitality. Australia has very close and valued friends in these parliaments.

The work of the Australian High Commission was outstanding and particular thanks must go to High Commissioner Tony Hely and his wife Wendy Jeffery, the Trade Commissioner David Buckley, Ms Mary Gleeson, Visits Officer, and to Ms Stacey Morgan for her tireless efforts during the visit.

It is usual for officers from the host parliament to accompany delegations and the Canadian Parliament can be very proud of the excellent assistance provided by Rosanne Karith, Parliamentary Exchanges Officer, Karen Thriepland, Logistics Officer and Michelle Tittley, Protocol Officer.

## **Acknowledgements - Santiago**

The assistance provided by the Australian Embassy in Chile, particularly Ambassador Elizabeth Schick and Mr Todd Mercer, First Secretary, was outstanding.

Although IPU conferences are well organised and scheduled, extra assistance is always welcome and the Ambassador and Mr Mercer went out of their way to assist the Delegation both before and during the conference. This contribution as well as the generous hospitality was much appreciated.

## **Part One**

### **Bi-lateral visit to Canada**

**31 March to 3 April 2003**



# CHAPTER 1

## BI-LATERAL VISIT TO CANADA

### Aims and Objectives

- 1.1 The Delegation's aims and objectives were:
- 1.2 To renew and strengthen ties with the Canadian Parliament
- 1.3 To gain an understanding of key domestic political, social and economic issues
- 1.4 To obtain an appreciation of Canada's views and encourage their continuing interests on issues of mutual concern including Iraq and security issues in the Asia Pacific region
- 1.5 To review current trade, investment and commercial relations and explore new directions
- 1.6 To discuss ways and means to strengthen people-to-people relationships such as cultural exchange and tourism
- 1.7 In the following sections of this report, the Delegation provides details of various meetings and appointments made during its bi-lateral visit to Canada.
- 1.8 The Delegation's visit took place as, internationally, the war in Iraq was unfolding and, in Canada, the SARS outbreak in Toronto was worsening. Not surprisingly, these issues receive considerable comment during the Delegation's meetings and appointments.
- 1.9 The Delegation was led by Speaker Andrew and received excellent access to all levels of government. It was a particular honour for Mr Speaker to meet with the Governor-General of Canada and the Prime Minister of Canada and for the Delegation, as a whole, to meet the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Speaker of the Senate, the Speaker of the Ontario Legislative Assembly, several Ministers of State and many Members and Senators.
- 1.10 The Delegation's report does not include general information on the political, economic and bi-lateral matters as this was addressed in detail in the report of the previous Australian Delegation to Canada in 2002.
- 1.11 A copy of the Delegation's itinerary appears in Appendix 1.

### Canada - at a glance

Official Name	Canada
Head of State	HM Queen Elizabeth II, represented by the Governor-General HE the Rt. Hon. Adrienne Clarkson
Head of Government	Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Jean Chretien PC QC MP
National Legislature	Parliament of Canada

Capital	Ottawa
Official Languages	English, French
Population	31.1 million (2001)
Area	9,976 thousand sq km
Inflation	1.8 (2002)
Unemployment	6.5 (2002)

### **Australia and Canada – similar achievements, similar challenges**

1.12 The Delegation's visit emphasized that Australia and Canada have a great deal in common, with similar achievements and similar challenges. In this regard, it is instructive to recall that both countries:

- are huge but sparsely populated countries inhabited for thousands of years by indigenous people before European settlement;
- were colonized by Europeans during a relatively recent and short time frame, and both moved to independence through evolution, not revolution;
- have, more recently, added vibrant multicultural communities to their indigenous heritage and common European immigrant frontier spirit; today 21% of Australia's population was born overseas, 18% for Canada;
- have had to contend with the tyranny of distance, and difficult, though different climates (Canada cold – Australia hot);
- are resource rich and have experienced periods of economic boom and recession, based on the level of commodity prices. Although the numbers engaged in the agricultural sector continue to fall in both countries, agriculture has been a strong historical determinant for both;
- are re-orienting economic structures towards the services and high technology sectors. This is now the dominant pattern of economic development in both countries;
- are leading the OECD in economic growth performance;
- spread their respective populations along relatively narrow corridors - Canada's along the US border and Australia's around the coastline;
- are highly urbanized - 77% for Canada and 84.7% for Australia;
- have developed, from similar histories, similar rules of law, similar institutions of Government and similar Federal systems, although:
  - Canberra holds more power relative to the Australian States than does Ottawa relative to the Canadian Provinces;
  - Canadians see a larger role for Government than do Australians – 43% of GDP is spent on government outlays in Canada, whereas in Australia it is 32%;

- 
- the Parliamentary systems differ. In Canada, there is first past the post voting; voting non-compulsory; and a selected Senate whereas in Australia it is preferential voting; compulsory voting; an elected Senate based on proportional voting;
  - have similar contemporary public policy challenges, eg:
    - sustainable development/environment and energy use;
    - delivery of government services to remote/isolated communities;
    - indigenous populations with similar health, education, crime and social indicators;
    - transport infrastructures;
    - social/economic implications of ageing populations;
    - education;
    - work – family balance.

### **Meeting with the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade**

1.13 The Delegation met with members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade including its Vice-Chair, Mr Stockwell Day (Canadian Alliance Party – British Columbia) and also Mr Bill Blaikie (New Democratic Party – Manitoba) and Mr Keith Martin (Canadian Alliance Party – British Columbia).

1.14 Discussion at the meeting was dominated by the unfolding events in Iraq. Mr Day advised the Delegation that in March 2003 Prime Minister Chretien stated that Canada would not join the war against the regime of Saddam Hussein without a new resolution of the UN Security Council. The government's position that any military action against Iraq must be sanctioned by the United Nation. It was noted that Canada has three frigates operating in the Gulf region as part of a mission against terrorism.

1.15 Mr Day advised that his party supported the position adopted by the United States, Britain and Australia. The governing Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party did not share this view.

1.16 The Speaker, the Hon Neil Andrew MP, advised members of the Canadian committee of the Australian Government's position on Iraq.

1.17 Ms Maria Vamvakinou MP advised the committee of the Opposition's views on Iraq.

1.18 The meeting discussed the situation in North Korea with the Australian Delegation indicating the Government's concern over North Korea's escalatory actions. Australia's view is that a solution to the nuclear issue will be achieved by dialogue, North Korea's return to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and cooperation with the International Atomic Nuclear Agency. Australia maintains a policy of engagement with North Korea through dialogue and the provisions of humanitarian assistance and training. To this end, in January 2003, a delegation of senior Australian officials went to Pyongyang to convey the international community's deep concern about North Korea's nuclear program.

1.19 The meeting also discussed bilateral trade and investment issues with the Australian Delegation and the committee members emphasizing the value of strong economic and investment trade between Australia and Canada.

1.20 The meeting discussed the proposed Australia – United States Free Trade Agreement (FTA) noting that the first round of these negotiations were held in mid March 2003. The Delegation reported that the FTA talks and the Australian position on Iraq are extremely separate, and negotiations made a productive start and are expected to continue into 2004. Australia will give high priority to reducing the most significant market access barriers with the US, particularly in the agricultural sector.

1.21 The Canadian committee also questioned the Delegation on:

- funding and delivery of programs for indigenous people;
- the result of the Republic referendum; and
- Australia's role in, and the future of, East Timor

1.22 In relation to the issue of Iraq the Delegation and the members of the Canadian committee noted that both countries had significant Muslim populations, predominately in Toronto and Vancouver. The meeting noted that the Canadian committee will shortly commence a study of Canada's relation with the Muslim world.

### **Meeting with the Hon. Robert Thibault PC MP, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans**

1.23 Canada has the world's longest coastline, and approximately 7 million Canadians that is, 23% of the country's population, live in coastal communities, many depending on the coast and seas to make a living. Of Canada's total territory, comprising its landmass plus the continental shelf off its three coasts, 40% is submerged, under coastal waters, such as the Grand Banks off Newfoundland, or under internal waters, such as the Great Lakes or Hudson Bay.

1.24 Canada's aquatic resources, both oceans and freshwater, are central to Canada's history, to its economic well being and to the quality of life in Canada. The Delegation was advised that Canada is committed to making the most of the social and economic benefits that these resources can bring to present and future generations of Canadians.

1.25 The use of Canada's marine and freshwater resources and waterways contributes significant value to the Canadian economy and external trade. The oceans sector alone generated almost \$20 billion of Canada's gross domestic product in 1996, from such sectors as commercial fishing, aquaculture, marine shipping and shipbuilding, tourism, manufacturing and services, and oil and gas industries.

1.26 Aquatic resources also play an important social and cultural role for many Aboriginal and other communities in Canada.

1.27 Canada's management of aquatic resources is therefore based on the concept of sustainable development — which means finding the best ways to integrate economic, environmental and social considerations into the protection and use of aquatic resources.

1.28 The Minister emphasized the importance of sustainable development when he provided statistics on the depletion of stocks of Atlantic cod and Pacific salmon.

1.29 The meeting also discussed indigenous fishing rights in relation to economic self-sufficiency.

### **Lunch hosted by the Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House, The Hon. Don Boudria PC MP**

1.30 In March 2003, Minister Boudria, in his capacity as Vice Chair of the House of Commons Modernisation Committee, led a parliamentary Delegation to Australia to assess Australian parliamentary practice. He was accompanied by Mr Chuck Strahl MP, Ms Libby Davies MP and Mr John Reynolds MP.

1.31 Mr Speaker and the Delegation were pleased to renew acquaintances with Minister Boudria and members of the Committee.

### **Meeting with the Secretary of State (Asia – Pacific) The Hon. David Kilgour MP**

1.32 The Delegation enjoyed a wide ranging and informative discussion with Mr David Kilgour, Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific).

1.33 A lawyer by profession, Mr Kilgour was elected to the House of Commons in 1979 as a Progressive Conservative and since 1991 as a Liberal. A former secretary of State for Latin America and Africa, he was appointed Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) in January 2001. He attended CHOGM in Australia in March 2002.

1.34 The Delegation notes that Mr Kilgour has summarized his views on Asia-Pacific region in the following terms:

The Asia-Pacific region is incredibly important, not only to Canada but to the world's long term prosperity and security. What happens in the Asia-Pacific region matters to Canada. It matters because Canada is home to millions of people who trace their ancestry to the region, because it holds enormous business opportunities, and because it is increasingly a source of investment in our country.

1.35 The Delegation found that Mr Kilgour was well informed about Australia and the region. He participated in the inaugural Canada-Australia Dialogue (CAD) in October 2002 at which the topic *Assisting Countries Emerging from Conflict* was discussed. The aim of the dialogue is to capitalize on common experience between Australia and Canada and enable Ministers in various portfolios to exchange views and consider joint collaboration.

1.36 At the meeting with Mr Kilgour, Speaker Andrew took the opportunity to commend Canada for its assistance in East Timor and Mr Kilgour responded positively about Australia's role. The Delegation also encouraged and, the Secretary of State under took to consider, high level Canadian representation at the next South Pacific Forum.

1.37 The Delegation discussed other issues, including:

- the acute humanitarian/food problem in North Korea; and
- the political and economic situation in Papua-New Guinea.

1.38 The Delegation and Mr Kilgour reflected on the unfolding events in Iraq and implications for the United Nations, Europe, the European Union, NATO, and the Middle East.

1.39 Mr Kilgour raised the issue of Indonesia and provided the Delegation with a speech he recently made on *Indonesia-Canada: Relations for 50 Years*. The Delegation emphasized that Indonesia is Australia's largest and most influential neighbour and that its size and strategic location means it will play a leading role in the South East Asia region.

### **Dinner hosted by HE Tony Hely, High Commissioner of Australia**

1.40 The High Commissioner and Ms Wendy Jeffery hosted a very successful dinner in honour of the visit by the Delegation.

1.41 Several Canadian Ministers including the Hon. David Kilgour (Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific)), the Hon. David Anderson (Minister of the Environment), the Hon. Wayne Easter (Solicitor General of Canada) and the Hon. Dennis Coderre (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration) attended. Also at the dinner were several Senators and Members of the House, Canadian departmental officers, Mr Trevor Cook (President, Corangamite and Head of the Ottawa Australian Business Network) and staff from the Australian High Commission and the House of Commons Protocol.

### **Meeting with the Canada – Australia – New Zealand Parliamentary Friendship Group**

1.42 This Parliamentary Friendship Group was established in 2002 under the inaugural chairmanship of Mr Bob Speller MP. The current membership of the Group is approximately 80 making it one of the largest in the Canadian Parliament.

1.43 As Mr Speller was overseas, the meeting was hosted by Mr Paul Szabo MP from Mississauga South, Ontario, the Treasurer of the Canada-Australia-New Zealand Friendship Group. Also in attendance were Mr Paul Cullen MP (Etobicoke North, Ontario), Mr Julian Reed MP (Holton, Ontario) and Mr John Bryden MP (Ancaster, Ontario). The Delegation briefed the Group on major issues of interest, including Iraq and also held informal discussions with members of the Group.

### **Meeting with the Dr Jeannot Castonguay MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health**

1.44 The Delegation was pleased to meet Parliamentary Secretary Castonguay, a physician by profession and who was elected to the House of Commons, representing New Brunswick, in 2000. He was appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Health in 2001.

1.45 The meeting discussed a variety of issues and the Delegation took the opportunity to compare and contrast health systems and issues in the two countries. Issues of interest included:

- the recent agreement between the Canadian government and provincial governments on specific problem areas, such as home care, as identified in the Royal Commission Report titled *Building on Values: The Future of Health Care in Canada*, also known as the Romanow report;

- growing public demand in Canada for more accountability in health care spending;
- the Canadian health care system is primarily publicly funded and guarantees public payment for “medically necessary” treatments. Treatments which are not medically necessary can be covered privately - either by individual or employment-based medical insurance;
- the Canadian government is responsible for First Nation and Inuit (indigenous) health care. This is mainly through on-reserve health facilities with an emphasis on community involvement. Substance abuse and injuries are the highest mortalities amongst indigenous populations. The health of young indigenous people on reserves is a particular dilemma. The Parliamentary Secretary advised that, in relation to these issues, community involvement, consultation and co-operation cannot be over-emphasised
- specific challenges of providing health care in geographically-large countries;
- problems associated with medical malpractice and the costs of insurance;
- increasing cost of health care and prescription drugs. Most provinces have a register of drugs covered by the system and these are reviewed regularly. However, each province may have different drugs on the register and this results in inconsistent cover. This has encouraged moves for better co-operation between the Canadian and provincial governments to ensure consistency of coverage. Most provinces only provide cover to those on social assistance and not to prime age adults. However, the national and provincial governments are moving to a “catastrophic drug coverage” for those who have spent a minimum on pharmaceuticals. Recent reports have recommended a National Pharmacare system.

### **Meeting with the Speaker of the House of Commons, The Hon. Peter Milliken MP**

1.46 The Delegation was honoured to meet with the Speaker of the House of Commons in Canada, the Hon. Peter Milliken MP. A lawyer by profession, Speaker Milliken was first elected as a Liberal member to the House of Commons in 1988 from Ontario. A former House Leader and Deputy Speaker, he was elected Speaker in January 2001.

1.47 The House of Commons is the major law-making body in Parliament. In the Commons Chamber, Members devote most of their time to debating and voting on bills. The members of the Commons make decisions on spending public money and imposing taxes. The Chamber is also a place where members represent constituents' views, discuss national issues and call on the government to explain its actions.

1.48 Federal elections based on first past the post voting are held about every four years and there are 301 constituencies, or ridings. Seats in the House of Commons are distributed roughly in proportion to each province's population.

1.49 In general, the more people in a province or territory, the more members it has in the House of Commons. Every province or territory must have at least as many members in the Commons as it has in the Senate.

1.50 The distribution of seats in the House are as follows:

<b>Distribution of House of Commons Seats</b>	
<b>Area</b>	<b>Seats</b>
Ontario	103
Quebec	75
Nova Scotia	11
New Brunswick	10
Manitoba	14
British Columbia	34
Prince Edward Island	4
Saskatchewan	14
Alberta	26
Newfoundland and Labrador	7
Northwest Territories	1
Yukon Territory	1
Nunavut	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>301</b>

1.51 The Delegation was interested to learn that the Canadian Speaker of the House has use of an official residence, 'Kingsmere', an historic estate in the Gatineau Hills, North of Ottawa, and a small apartment in the Parliament Building.

1.52 At the conclusion of the meeting, Speaker Andrew presented Speaker Milliken with an invitation for a Canadian Parliamentary delegation to visit Australia.

### **Meeting with and lunch hosted by the Speaker of the Canadian Senate, The Hon. Daniel Hays**

1.53 A farmer, rancher, lawyer and parliamentarian Speaker Hays, was appointed to the Senate in 1984, representing Calgary. Having served on a number of Senate committees he was appointed Speaker of the Senate in 2001. He led a Canadian parliamentary delegation to Australia in June/July 2001.

1.54 The Senate studies, amends and either rejects or approves bills passed by the House of Commons. It can also introduce its own bills, except those to spend public money or impose taxes. No bill can become law until it has been passed by the Senate. Senators also study major social and economic issues through their committee work.

1.55 One of the duties of the Senate is to represent the interests of Canada's regions, provinces, territories and minority groups. Seats in the Senate are distributed to give each major region of the country equal representation.

1.56 There are 105 senators and they are appointed by the Governor General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. They hold office until age 75 unless they miss two consecutive sessions in Parliament. The distribution of Senate seats is as follows:



<b>Distribution of Senate Seats</b>		
<b>Area</b>		<b>Seats</b>
Ontario		24
Quebec		24
Maritime		24
Nova Scotia	10	
New Brunswick	10	
Prince Edward Island	4	
Western Provinces		24
Manitoba	6	
British Columbia	6	
Saskatchewan	6	
Alberta	6	
Additional representations		9
Newfoundland and Labrador	6	
Northwest Territories	1	
Yukon Territory	1	
Nunavut	1	
<b>Total</b>		<b>105</b>

1.57 The Delegation's meeting with Speaker Hays covered a range of topics, including Iraq and East Timor. In relation to the Bali bombing, Speaker Hays said that when he heard the news of the tragedy he felt deeply for Australia and all Australians.

1.58 At the conclusion of the meeting, Speaker Andrew presented Speaker Hays with an invitation for a Canadian parliamentary delegation to visit Australia.

1.59 The Delegation then attended a lunch hosted by Speaker Hays and Mrs Kathy Hays. At the lunch, the Delegation met several Senators, including Lise Bacon and Joan Fraser from Quebec, Consiglio Di Nino, Laurier LaPierre, Lowell Murray and Trevor Eyton from Ontario, Rose-Marie Losier-Cool from New Brunswick and Mira Spivak from Manitoba. Also present was the Clerk of the Canadian Senate, Monsieur Paul Belisle.

1.60 Members of the Delegation took the opportunity over lunch to exchange views with Senator Fraser, a member of the IPU Executive, on issues to be debated at the forthcoming IPU Conference in Santiago, Chile.

### **Attendance in the Houses**

1.61 Following lunch, the Delegation observed Senator's Statements from the Governor-General's Gallery in the Senate and then observed Question Period from the Speaker's Gallery in the House. The Delegation received very warm and generous welcomes from both Chambers, when recognized by the respective Speakers.

### **Speaker Andrew's meeting with the Canadian Prime Minister, The Rt. Hon. Jean Chretien PC QC MP**

1.62 The Speaker was honoured to meet and have longer than scheduled discussions with Mr Chretien, following Question Period in the House of Commons.

1.63 The Canadian Prime Minister was first elected to the House of Commons in 1963 representing Quebec Riding. He served in a range of ministerial portfolios before being elected leader of the Liberal Party in 1990 and Prime Minister in November 1993. Prime Minister Chretien has announced that he will step down as Leader and Prime Minister in February 2004.

### **Speaker Andrew's meeting with the Governor General of Canada HE The Rt Hon. Adrienne Clarkson**

1.64 The Speaker was honoured to meet and have longer than scheduled discussions with the Canadian Governor General, at her official residence, 'Rideau Hall'.

1.65 Born in Hong Kong, Her Excellency came to Canada as a refugee in 1942. She has been a leading figure in Canadian cultural life with a distinguished career in broadcasting, journalism, the arts and public service. Her Excellency served as Ontario's first Agent-General in Paris and worked as host, writer and producer on CBC television. She was appointed Governor General in 1999.

### **Meeting with the Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, the Hon Claude Duplain**

1.66 Parliamentary Secretary Duplain was elected to the House of Commons in 2000 from Quebec. He was appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture in 2003. He told the Delegation that he had recently visited Australia attending talks on agriculture in Sydney.

1.67 The Delegation raised the issue of genetically modified organisms with the Parliamentary Secretary. Canada has grown genetically modified (GM) canola since 1995. Canada regulates GM food in the same manner as any other food and has put in place a policy of voluntary labelling for GM food. Canada has put in place science-based pre-market assessment mechanisms considering risks to human health and the environment that are posed by the cultivation of crops, feed and food, which covers both conventionally-produced and GM products.

1.68 The Delegation reported that Australian authorities are considering two applications for commercial release of GM canola and has invited public comment on potential risks to human health and the environment. These canola varieties have already been approved for cultivation and food and feed uses in the USA and Canada. Industry is developing arrangements to ensure that GM and non-GM products are kept separate where necessary so that markets risks can be addressed. After extensive consultation, Australia instigated mandatory labelling of GM food.

1.69 Currently, Canada considers that GM food should be regulated using existing mechanisms that ensure that all food in the marketplace is safe for consumption. GM foods must be labelled in cases where genetic modification has resulted in potential health or safety concerns, indicating the nature of the change.

### **Dinner hosted by the Hon Peter Milliken MP, Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada**

1.70 The Delegation was honoured to attend a dinner hosted by the Speaker of the House of Commons in the Canadian Parliament.

1.71 The dinner provided members of the Delegation with an excellent opportunity to discuss informally with Canadian parliamentarians matters of mutual interest and concern. Speaker Milliken in his welcome and Speaker Andrew in reply, emphasized the excellent parliamentary and bi-lateral relations between the two countries.

### **Visit to Ontario**

1.72 Ontario is one of 10 provinces and three territories that form Canada.

1.73 Information given to the Delegation advised that, with over 11 million people, Ontario is Canada's most populous province, accounting for about 38 per cent of the country's population. By 2016, Ontario is projected to have a population of 13.7 million, a 20 per cent increase. About 77 per cent of the population of the province lives in urban centres. Ontario's capital is Toronto.

1.74 Ontario has a very good health care system and the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) provides medical and hospital services at no charge to eligible residents of Ontario. The health care system provides long-term and home care services, community and public health programs, assistive device programs, services, services for the mentally ill, and part of the costs of drugs for people over 65 or on social assistance. It also operates psychiatric hospitals and medical laboratories, co-ordinates emergency services, and regulates hospitals and nursing homes.

1.75 The mix of ethnic and linguistic groups that make up Ontario contribute to the cultural life and spirit of the province. More than 50 major languages are spoken in Ontario. Ontario's population is more diversified than Canada as a whole while Ontario's capital, Toronto, is Canada's most multicultural city.

1.76 Toronto is the third largest theatre centre in the English speaking world after New York and London. Musicals, opera, ballet, symphony concerts fill out the cultural scene in Ontario's cities. Toronto is Canada's largest city with a population of 4.3 million. It is Canada's number one tourist destination.

### **Tour of the Ontario Legislative Assembly and lunch hosted by The Hon. Gary Carr MPP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario**

1.77 The Delegation had a most interesting tour of the Ontario Legislative Assembly, known locally as Queen's Park. The Delegation was impressed with the Chamber of the Assembly, an imposing room, in keeping with its important role in the Ontario democratic system. Massive panels of intricately carved mahogany and sycamore deck the walls, which soar four storeys to a magnificent ceiling fresco – hidden since 1912 by a layer of acoustic tile. The most impressive carving is an immense Royal Coat of Arms above the Speaker's chair at the south end of the room.

1.78 Facing the Speaker's chair is a wide central aisle. As is customary, to the right sit the Members of the Provincial Parliament or MPPs from the government party, to the left, the MPP's from opposition parties. In front of the Speaker's chair is the table occupied by the Clerk and the Clerks Assistant.

1.79 Candidates representing the various political parties campaign in each of the province's ridings in order to win a seat in the legislature. The party winning the largest number of ridings across the province becomes the governing party. The Lieutenant

Governor of Ontario, upon determining which party has the majority in the Legislative Assembly, swears the Premier and members of the Executive Council (Cabinet) into office. The Lieutenant Governor is the representative of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in Ontario and is appointed to the position by the Governor General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister of Canada.

1.80 The current standing of the parties in the Ontario Legislative Assembly is as follows: Progressive Conservative 56; Liberal 36; New Democratic 9; Independent 1; Vacant 1; Total 103.

1.81 The Delegation was interested to learn that interpretation services in French and English are provided to all sittings of the House and to specific meetings of committees and on the road in areas designated under the French Language Services legislation.

1.82 The Hon. Gary Carr was first elected to the Ontario Legislature in September, 1990, as the MPP. for Oakville South. He was re-elected again in 1995, and for a third consecutive term in June 1999, to represent the new riding of Oakville. In October, 1999, Mr Carr was elected as Speaker of the Assembly.

1.83 Mr Carr served as Parliamentary Assistant to the Solicitor General and Minister of Correctional Services from July, 1995, until April, 1997.

1.84 Mr Carr co-chaired the government's Task Force on Strict Discipline for Young Offenders. While in opposition, he was the Progressive Conservative Party Deputy House Leader and critic for the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade.

1.85 Ontario's first Speaker was John Stevenson from 1867 to 1872. Today, the Speaker is the guardian of the Members' rights and privileges and is the spokesperson for parliament. The Speaker still wears the traditional uniform of a black gown, white shirt, white gloves and a tricorn (three-cornered) hat.

1.86 In Ontario, the position of Speaker is fourth in precedence in the provincial government hierarchy following the Lieutenant Governor, Premier and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The Speaker presides over the meetings in the House in a non-partisan and non-political manner, upholding the Standing Orders or the rules of procedure and ensuring that the business of the House is carried out in an orderly manner. The Speaker is also the administrative head of the Office of the Legislative Assembly, which provides support and services to Members and the public.

1.87 Following a general election when the Members meet at Queen's Park, the election of the new Speaker is the first order of business on the first day of the new parliamentary session. The Speaker is elected from among the Members of Provincial Parliament.

### **Tour of Niagara Falls**

1.88 As indicated in its Annual Report, which was given to the Delegation, the Niagara Parks Commission, since 1885, has served as guardian over the vast parks system extending along the Niagara River from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario. As the Report records:

These havens for man and nature encompass some of the most beautiful and diverse landscapes in the world. They touch the majestic splendour of the Falls, encircle hectares of fragrant gardens, provide quiet refuge for wildlife and border local farms and busy vineyards.

1.89 As a self-sufficient agency of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, the Commission now maintains over 1,700 hectares of parkland at no cost to taxpayers.

1.90 The Mission of the Commission is to preserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Falls and the Niagara River Corridor to ensure that future generations will enjoy their splendour.

1.91 In terms of its economic performance, NPC played a significant role in helping attract the 12 to 14 million visitors that came to Niagara in 2000. It is estimated that these visitors spent almost half a billion dollars on direct purchases of tourism goods and services in this region alone. This economic effect resulted in and supported the over 13,000 full time jobs related to tourism in Niagara. If this trend continues, forecasters predict tourism-related jobs will swell to over 25,000 full time positions by 2003. The NPC generated over \$70 million in revenue in 2000.

### **Tour of the Peninsula Ridge Estate Winery**

1.92 Given the fact that several delegates have wineries in their electorates, it was interesting to tour the Peninsula Ridge Estate Winery, Beamsville, near Niagara, Ontario.

1.93 In doing so, the Delegation was pleased to meet Mr Norman Beal the President and CEO of the winery.

1.94 It was apparent from discussions with Mr Beal that he is committed to investing in the very best technology and advanced viticulture techniques to build a world class winery in Niagara. His entrepreneurial spirit is matched by his enthusiasm and commitment to the community.

1.95 The Delegation was also pleased to meet Mr Jean-Pierre Colas, the head of winemaking operations at Peninsula Ridge. He has had a distinguished career as a winemaker, working in Chablis France, Chile and Argentina. He is focussed on finding the best expression of Niagara – its soils, climate and geography – in wines of supreme quality and character. The Delegation toured the winery with Mr Colas and was left in no doubt about his passionate advocacy for Peninsula Ridge and the Niagara region. The winery uses state of the art equipment, the wines age in 300 French oak barrels. Mr Beal described this as a combination of New Age technology with old world traditions that reveal the distinction of the Niagara region in wines of world class quality.

1.96 The Delegation also enjoyed a superb dinner at the Restaurant at Peninsula Ridge, located in an historic red brick Victorian manor house restored in 2002.

### **Meeting with the Hon. Norman Sterling MPP, Ontario Attorney General and Minister responsible for Native Affairs**

1.97 The Delegation had a very interesting meeting with the Attorney-General.

1.98 The focus of the meeting was issues relating to indigenous peoples and the efficient and effective delivery of services and programs to them.

1.99 The Attorney advised that the Ontario government's overall approach to Aboriginal Affairs is to help build the capacity with Aboriginal communities to develop stronger economies, become more self-reliant and exercise greater responsibility for their well-being

while maintaining balance and stability in relations between Aboriginal and other residents in the province.

1.100 The Attorney agreed that this was an admirable goal but represented a significant challenge for both federal and provincial governments. The Attorney emphasised that the Ontario government is committed to its obligation to Aboriginal people and in doing so must be accountable for public expenditure and will require Aboriginal organisations to be accountable for the provincial funding they receive and the results achieved.

1.101 The Delegation notes in information supplied to it by the Attorney that in Canada, the Courts have decided that Aboriginal rights arise from the fact that ancestors of the indigenous peoples of Canada lived on the land in distinctive societies. Rights may continue to exist following the surrender of lands to the Crown. Some Aboriginal rights are provided by treaties. They often examine matters such as reserves, and the rights of Aboriginal communities to hunt, fish and trap on Crown lands.

1.102 Both Aboriginal and treaty rights are referred to in section 35(1) of the Constitution Act 1982, as follows:

The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognised and affirmed.

1.103 In Canada, the caveats clarify the law on Aboriginal rights including title to land and government's constitutional obligations to Aboriginal people. The caveats have urged governments to resolve disputes through negotiation. Today, the federal and most provincial governments have established processes and policies for addressing Aboriginal land claims.

1.104 While the resolution of land claims is primarily a federal responsibility, provincial governments like Ontario, often have a role.

1.105 In Ontario, almost all of the land base is covered by treaty agreements with Aboriginal peoples. Therefore issues usually concern the meaning of the original treaty agreements, the extent to which commitments have been honoured, and redress in cases where treaty commitments have been breached.

1.106 Most land claims in Ontario are claims of improperly located reserve boundaries and the expropriation, flooding or trespass on reserve lands without lawful authority or adequate compensation.

1.107 A key feature of the Ontario approach is the negotiations framework agreement that addresses matters such as cost sharing arrangements, negotiation timeframes, funding, public participation and approval procedures for the final agreement.

1.108 The Delegation raised the issue of indigenous leadership and the Attorney commented that it has improved considerably over the years and that there are democratic structures that are managed in a responsible manner.

### **Meeting with the Special Adviser to the Commissioner of Public Safety and Security for the Province of Ontario**

1.109 The Delegation met with Mr Scott Newark, a Special Adviser to the Commissioner of Public Safety and Security and he briefed the Delegation on a number of issues including the co-ordination of federal and provincial security agencies following September 11 in New

York. This involves the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Ontario Provincial Police working closely to counter terrorist activity.

1.110 Mr Newark emphasized the importance of the Canada-US border. In this regard, the Delegation understands that the Canada-US border is the longest undefended border in the world and is also the busiest with more than 200 million crossings a year. Since 11 September 2001, the management of cross-border issues has become a significant part of the Canada-US relationship. With more than C\$1.9 billion in goods and more than 300,000 people moving across the Canada-US border each day, both countries have a critical stake in each other's economic security.

1.111 On 12 December 2001, the then Foreign Minister John Manley and the US Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge signed the Canada-US Smart Border Declaration. This Declaration outlines a shared commitment to develop a border that securely facilitates the free flow of people and commerce. On 9 September 2002, Prime Minister Chretien and President Bush released a Joint Statement on Canada-US Border Cooperation and Status Report on the Smart Border Action Plan. Both governments indicated that they were on track to implement many action plan elements. The US decision on 17 March 2003 to raise the US threat level of terrorist attack has meant tighter security at this border.

### **Meeting with the Hon. Tony Clement MPP, Ontario Minister for Health and Long-term Care**

1.112 The Delegation met with the Minister during the week in which Toronto received world-wide attention with several cases of SARS being detected in the city. SARS stands for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and is a potentially severe and fatal form of pneumonia. The symptoms of SARS begin in 10 days after direct contact with a SARS patient. On the day of the Delegation's meeting with the Minister, Dr Colin D'Cunha, Commissioner of Public Health, reported the seventh SARS related death in Ontario.

1.113 The Minister provided the Delegation with a thorough and comprehensive briefing about the situation in Toronto and the strategies being used to contain the outbreak. He emphasised that in Toronto, health officials have extensively shared with the general public, the national and international media, all information regarding all SARS cases, extent of person-to-person contact, potential risks of exposure, and the specific measures taken in order to limit the outbreak, including extensive quarantines of large groups such as entire schools or specific religious communities. The Minister said that the following few days would be crucial in containing the outbreak.

1.114 The meeting with the Minister also included discussions on broader health issues and the Delegation was very interested to hear about the provinces' *Hospital Report*.

1.115 This report is a comprehensive, balanced scorecard on the performance of Ontario's hospitals. The report provides a valuable showcase for the achievements of the province's hospitals including those that are most effective and the highest performing. It provides a useful indication of the quality of services provided by hospitals. Based on individual hospital report cards, the Report promotes accountability for taxpayers' dollars and identifies hospitals that are excelling and those that need improvement.

1.116 The Report covers 92 hospitals and provides information on

- what patients said about their stay in hospital;

- how the hospital staff looked after patients;
- how the hospital managed its resources; and
- how the hospital coped with change.

1.117 One aim of the report is to ensure that the care and services provided in hospitals continue to improve. Another is to inform hospital administrators how their hospital measures up and provides information they can use to make improvements. The Minister stressed that improving performance means better health care.

### **Lunch with the Australian Chamber of Commerce in Canada**

1.118 This lunch was co-hosted by HE Tony Hely, High Commissioner of Australia and Mr David Buckley, Senior Trade Commissioner, Australian Trade Commission in Toronto, Ontario. It was attended by the representatives of several companies and agencies operating in Canada, namely Mr Ron Kelly (KOM Education Consultants), Mr Greg Homonylo (Australian Wine Bureau), Ms Daphne Christie (Southcorp Wines), Mr Peter Salisbury (Macquarie Bank), Mr Steve Martin (Pacesetter Travel), Mr Russ Waterhouse (Computershare) and Mr Mark Bruni (Beringer Blass). On behalf of the Delegation, Mr Speaker thanked them for their attendance and noted their positive assessments of Australian business prospects in Canada. Mr Speaker also recognized the contribution of Mr Brian Hemming, the Vice President of the Australia Canada Chamber of Commerce.

1.119 At this lunch, Mr Buckley reminded the Delegation that Canada and Australia interact in many ways and on many levels through industry associations, the education sector and all levels of government. Australia and Canada are mid-ranging trade partners, with trade roughly in balance and solid investment growth. Canada is Australia's 16<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner with two-way merchandise trade worth A\$3.6 billion in 2002. Australian exports to Canada include wine, food and other beverages, biotechnology, information and communication technology and mining. Services trade is increasingly important both ways especially tourism and travel but also education.

1.120 The Delegation noted that Australia's merchandise exports to Canada totalled A\$1.9 billion in 2002, a small increase of 2 percent over the previous year. Principal exports are alumina/aluminium ores, sugar, beef (A\$317 million), nickel (A\$148 million) and wine (A\$145 million). Australia's imports from Canada were valued at A\$1.7 billion in 2002. Principal imports are internal combustion piston engines (C\$209 million), frozen pork (C\$102 million), telecommunications equipment (C\$99 million) and wood (C\$96 million). Canada is an important market for services with total exports amounting to A\$390 million in 2002. Tourism and travel related services account for around 80 percent of services exports. Service imports from Canada amounted to A\$387 million, consisting mostly of travel related expenditures. Two-way business investment is solid and has grown strongly in recent years. The stock of Australian investment in Canada was valued at A\$4.4 billion at 30 June 2002, Australia's 11<sup>th</sup> largest destination for investment abroad. Investment in Canada is chiefly in the mining, transportation and packaging sectors. Australia's investors include Macquarie Bank, Kelvindale; One Rail; PalmTEQ; Mincom; Club Assist, Vehicle Inspection Systems; Caroma, to name a few. BHP Billiton has strengthened its presence by centering its exploration office for the Americas region in Vancouver. Canadian investment in Australia stood at A\$4.17 billion at 30 June 2002, our 14<sup>th</sup> largest source of foreign investment. Canada's investment is mostly in resource-related industries, but also in telecommunications



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and broadcasting where Nortel and Canwest global are major players. Other Canadian investors include Placer Dome Barrick; Noranda and Inco, and Bombadier.

1.121 Mr Buckley advised that Canada provided a very convenient entrée into North America as it is accommodating, manageable, has similar methods of business and is built around a strong rapport and shared experience between Canadians and Australians. Australia is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest exporter of beef to Canada, the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest exporter of wine and also is a significant exporter of lamb and minerals, including alumina and nickel concentrate. Importantly, Australia also exports an impressive array of manufactured products including Caroma dual-flush toilets, Blunt stone boots, Godfrey Hirst woolen carpets, Capilano honey, Sakata rice crackers and mouth guards, children wear and cookbooks.

1.122 The Delegation was reminded that Australia has a strong presence in Canada in the arts, including films, theatre, literature and the visual arts.

1.123 In relation to education student numbers have increased significantly in recent years.

1.124 New initiatives and strategies are resulting in new exports particularly in the wine industry, the education sector, gift wear and natural products.

1.125 The Australian Delegation took the opportunity to informally discuss trade and investment with the members of the Chamber of Commerce. The Delegation was left in no doubt about the value of strong economic, trade and investment relations with Canada. While appreciating that Canada's focus is the Americas, the Delegation considers it essential for Australia to realize the opportunities for expanding trade and investment in Canada given the compatibility of our two economies and markets.

## **Conclusion**

1.126 The Delegation considers that its visit to Canada has renewed and strengthened ties with the Canadian Parliament, as evidenced by the warm and generous welcome from the Presiding Officers of the Canadian Parliament and the comprehensive briefings provided by several Ministers and the frank exchange of views between the Delegation and Canadian Parliamentarians. The visit took place as events in Iraq were unfolding and the Delegation was questioned on several occasions on views in Australia on this issue and on Australia's participation in US-led Coalition forces.

1.127 The Delegation was accorded excellent access to all levels of government and this enhanced the Delegation's understanding of key domestic political, social and economic issues. In particular, the Delegation gained an appreciation of Canadian views on issues such as Iraq, security and the Asia Pacific region. The Delegation was impressed with current trade, investment and commercial relations and recognizes the efforts of the Australian Trade Commission in Toronto and the Australian Chamber of Commerce.

1.128 As evidenced in this report, the Delegation considers that it fully met the aims and objectives of the visit.

## **Part Two**

**Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference**

**Santiago de Chile**

**5 to 12 April 2003**



## CHAPTER 2

### INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

#### IPU Conference

2.1 The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is the international organisation that brings together representatives of the Parliaments of sovereign states.

2.2 At its conferences, which are held twice a year, members of national delegations participate in the following:

- The conference itself, being a focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue on political, economic, social and cultural issues of international significance;
- The Inter-Parliamentary Council, comprising two delegates from each affiliated group; and
- Various specialist committees established by the IPU and specific meetings convened under the auspices of the IPU including the Human Rights of Parliamentarians Committee, the Committee on Middle East Questions and an Ad Hoc Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law and the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.

2.3 A 14-member Executive Committee administers the Union and supervises its annual program and budget.

#### Geo-political meetings

2.4 Informal meetings of geo-political groups are also held during the Conference. Australia participates in the meetings of the '12+ Group' (the geo-political group centred originally on European Union membership but now including several other countries) and also the 'Asia-Pacific Group'. The meetings of these Groups foster multilateral contact and provide the delegation with an important opportunity to put its point of view in a relatively informal atmosphere, and to cement friendships with other countries.

2.5 This report is based on the official *Results of the IPU Conference in Santiago de Chile* compiled by the IPU Secretariat.

## Other Activities

2.6 During the week of the IPU conference, the Delegation undertook other activities that should be recorded, namely:

- *Launch of the Australian Education Fair:* Members of the Delegation were delighted to attend the official launch of the inaugural Australian Education Fair in Chile Ambassador Schick at a reception in Santiago on Friday 11 April 2003. The reception was very well attended by both Australian and Chilean senior representatives of key business, government, tourism and education groups. The Delegation notes that the Australian Education Fair held over the weekend of 12-13 April received a public response far exceeding expectation, with about 2400 potential students attending the event. More than 30 Australian education institutions were represented at the Fair and there was considerable interest in learning more about courses available in Australia from short and long-term English language courses, through to undergraduate and post graduate studies.
- *Wine briefing:* Members of the Delegation received a briefing from the International Relations Manager of the Chilean Wine producers Association.
- *Conferring of the Gran Cruz, Order of Bernado O'Higgins:* members of the Delegation were please to attend the conferring of the Gran Cruz, Order of Bernado O'Higgins on Senator Chapman. This is one of the highest decorations that the Government of Chile confers on outstanding foreign personalities. The award recognises Senator Chapman's "work promoting the political, economic and cultural relations between Australia and Chile" and strengthening "the cooperation links between both Parliaments". In conferring the award, Senator Paez, the President of the IPU Council and a senator from Chile, recognised Senator Chapman's work in the areas of economy, agriculture and industry and as an advisor to the United Nations in the sensitive area of desertification. He also paid tribute to his work in the parliamentary diplomatic sphere and within the activities of the International Parliamentary Union.

## Highlights of the Delegation's work at the Conference

- Mr Speaker participated in the General Debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world, speaking on the war in Iraq.
- Mr Speaker was appointed to the drafting committee on the emergency supplementary item: *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.*
- Ms Vamvakinou attended the deliberations of the study committee considering: *Parliaments' role in strengthening democratic institutions and human development in a fragmented world* and was elected to the drafting committee to prepare a resolution for consideration by the Conference.
- Senator McGauran contributed to the debate on *Parliaments' role in strengthening democratic institutions and human development in a fragmented world.*
- Senator Chapman attended the deliberations of the study committee considering: *International cooperation for the prevention and management of transborder natural disasters and their impact on the regions concerned* and was elected chair of the drafting committee to prepare a resolution for consideration by the Conference.
- Senator Ferris attended the deliberations of the study committee considering the supplementary item: *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.*
- Ms Vamvakinou and Senator Ferris attended the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.
- Ms Vamvakinou was elected by the IPU Council to the position of substitute member on the Committee on Middle East Questions.
- Senator Chapman contributed to the consideration of the IPU's Financial Statement.
- Senator Chapman had conferred on him the Gran Cruz, Order of Bernardo O'Higgins from the Government of Chile.
- Delegates attended geo-political meetings of the 12+ and Asia-Pacific groups.

## CHAPTER 3

### 108TH CONFERENCE OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

#### Inaugural Ceremony

3.1 The 108<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference was inaugurated on 6 April at a ceremony in the Centro de Convenciones Diego Portales in the presence of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Chile Mr. Ricardo Lagos Escobar.

3.2 Inaugural addresses were delivered by Mr. Andrés Zaldívar Larraín, President of the Senate of Chile, Mr. Juan Antonio Ocampo, Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Mr. Sergio Pérez, President of the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The ceremony concluded with an address by His Excellency the President of the Republic, who declared the 108<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union officially open.

#### Meeting

3.3 The 108<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference commenced at the Centro de Convenciones Diego Portales in Santiago de Chile on Monday, 7 April, with the election of Mr. Andrés Zaldívar Larraín, President of the Senate of Chile, as President of the Conference.

3.4 During the morning sitting, the Conference heard an address by Mr. Mark Malloch Brown, Administrator of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), in which he referred to the development goals of the Millennium Summit. He told the Conference that reaching these goals would improve the everyday existence of the common citizen. He underlined the role of parliaments and drew attention to the United Nations Millennium Campaign. He expressed the hope that a new and far-reaching political commitment would emerge from the parliamentarians' efforts. He concluded that human development could only succeed if democracy and growth were seen as two sides of the same coin.

3.5 The Conference also heard an address by the Chilean Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Soledad Alvear. The Minister of Foreign Affairs emphasised that the management of political, economic, social and cultural affairs had become internationalised and that multilateral parliamentary work allowed the voice of the people to be heard and enabled dialogue to be promoted for the sake of a better and more secure world. At times of crisis, the message of the Inter-Parliamentary Union could help to re-establish the international consensus essential to achievement of the shared objectives of peace, security and progress for all countries. She also stated that economic and political globalisation had its advantages but the international community should adopt rules to organise the new international system. The United Nations and its specialised agencies represented the ethical basis which would allow that task to be achieved. The Millennium Summit had laid down the objective of giving priority in international relations to freedom, equality, solidarity, and the protection of the environment. The present crisis affecting the international community had been a source of concern in Chile about the immediate and future consequences. The Minister indicated that Chilean diplomacy had made every effort until the very last moment to avoid the conflict, and disappointment at having failed to secure a multilateral response was sorely felt. Multilateralism represented the space where an international order could be built which

afforded protection of the interests of governments and of the people. To foster legitimate measures from the ethical and legal angle, a constant dialogue was needed to which parliamentarians should contribute.

## **Participation**

3.6 Delegations of the Parliaments of the following 115 countries took part in the work of the Conference:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

3.7 The following Associate Members also took part in the Conference:

Andean Parliament, the Central American Parliament, the European Parliament and the Latin American Parliament.

3.8 Observers included representatives of:

(i) Palestine; (ii) United Nations system: United Nations, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Volunteers (UNV), International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO); (iii) International Organization for Migrations (IOM), League of Arab States, African Parliamentary Union (APU), Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO), Assembly of the Western European Union (WEU), Confederation of Parliaments of the Americas, European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA), Interparliamentary Association of the Eurasian Economic Commission, Maghreb Consultative Council, Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and the Russian Federation, Parliamentary Union of the OIC States (PUOICM); (iv) Amnesty International, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

3.9 Of the total of 1,201 delegates who attended the Conference, 579 were members of national parliaments. The parliamentarians included 26 presiding officers of parliament, 33 deputy presiding officers and 147 women parliamentarians (25 per cent).



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## Supplementary Item

3.10 The Conference had before it four requests for the inclusion of a supplementary item presented within the statutory deadline by the delegations of Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Italy and Hungary.

3.11 At the beginning of the consideration of this item, the President announced that the delegations of Japan and Hungary had decided to merge their proposals and present their subject under the following wording: *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.*

3.12 The delegation of Italy took the floor to withdraw its proposal.

3.13 Two proposals remained for consideration by the Conference, one presented by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was amended in its original title to read: *A call by parliamentarians to support a collaboration for peace and the merged proposal from the delegations of Japan and Hungary.*

3.14 Following statements by the authors of the two proposals, a vote was taken by roll call with the following outcome:

Islamic Republic of Iran: 763 votes to 324, with 256 abstentions.

Japan and Hungary: 776 votes to 330, with 237 abstentions.

3.15 The proposal of the Parliaments of Japan and Hungary, having received both the necessary two-thirds majority and the highest number of affirmative votes, was added to the agenda. The results of the roll-call vote appear at Appendix 2.

3.16 Having decided to add this item to its agenda as a supplementary item, the Conference referred it to the First Study Committee (Political Questions, International Security and Disarmament).

3.17 The Committee held two sittings, on 9 and 11 April, with its Vice-President, Ms. E. Papadimitriou (Greece), in the Chair for the first sitting, and its President, Mr. A.H. Hanadzlah (Malaysia), in the Chair for the second sitting.

3.18 The Committee had before it four texts: elements for a draft resolution submitted, on the one hand, by the Group of Hungary and, on the other hand, by the Group of Sweden, and two draft resolutions submitted by the Groups of Japan and the Islamic Republic of Iran. It also had before it an information document submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

3.19 During the debate on the item at the Committee's sitting of 9 April, 24 speakers took the floor. Senator Ferris attended committee sittings.

3.20 The Committee then appointed a drafting committee comprising representatives of parliaments of the following countries: Algeria, Chile, El Salvador, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Japan, Kenya, Morocco, Peru, Sweden and Switzerland. The drafting committee met on the following day (10 April) and began its work by electing Mr. P. Günter (Switzerland) as Chairperson and Ms. E. Yamatani (Japan) as Rapporteur. The Algerian representative then stated that he would not take part in the work of the drafting committee as he had been designated without his knowledge. The drafting committee took note of his

withdrawal. The Chairperson then drew the members' attention to IPU practice whereby draft resolutions to be prepared on general topics should favour the broadest possible consensus; in the case at hand, that implied that it was preferable to refrain from referring to specific situations or countries. Once that clarification had been made, the drafting committee took the text submitted by the Group of Hungary as a basis for its work, supplementing the draft with parts of the other draft resolutions as well as proposals put forward by members of the drafting committee. The resulting consolidated text was then adopted by five votes to zero, with one abstention.

3.21 On the morning of 11 April, the First Committee examined the text, introducing two amendments: one to clarify the wording of a paragraph, and the other to encourage the Union's Members that had not yet done so to ratify the international instruments mentioned in the draft resolution. It then adopted the draft unanimously.

3.22 On the afternoon of 11 April, the Conference, after having heard the report of Ms. Yamatani, unanimously adopted the draft resolution. The text of the resolution appears at Appendix 3.

### **Emergency Supplementary Item**

3.23 The Conference had several proposals before it and decided on the first day to allow time for negotiations. At the end of its Tuesday morning sitting, the Conference was informed that the four original proposals presented by Egypt, Sudan, Indonesia and Argentina had been merged into one item, as follows: *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.*

3.24 The Conference was also informed that the delegation of the United Kingdom had withdrawn its proposal, and that the delegation of Portugal, supported by Australia, Denmark, Italy, Latvia, Nepal, Netherlands, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain and United Kingdom had submitted the following proposal: *The ending of the conflict in Iraq, the role of the United Nations and the international community in assisting the people of Iraq in their future political, economic and social development; support for humanitarian efforts to relieve the suffering of the Iraqi people and the role of the IPU in supporting the development of democratic institutions.*

3.25 The Conference therefore had before it two proposals. Following statements by their authors, a vote was taken by roll call with the following outcome:

Argentina, Egypt, Indonesia and Sudan: 1,095 votes to 215, with 105 abstentions.

Portugal and supported by Australia, Denmark, Italy, Latvia, Nepal, Netherlands, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain and United Kingdom, 430 votes to 694, with 289 abstentions.

3.26 The proposal of Argentina, Egypt, Indonesia and Sudan, having received the required four-fifths majority, was added to the agenda. The results of the roll-call vote appear at Appendix 4.

3.27 On Tuesday, 8 April, the Conference decided to include the topic, *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*, on its agenda as an emergency supplementary item. It then decided to refer it to a drafting committee set up by the Conference Steering Committee.

3.28 The drafting committee appointed Ms. T. Yaryguina (Russian Federation) as its Chairperson. It was composed of representatives of the delegations of Algeria, Australia, Chile, France, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Namibia, Russian Federation, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, and Ms. G. Mahlangu (South Africa), representing the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians. Mr. A. Lie (Indonesia) was nominated as Rapporteur to the Conference. Speaker Neil Andrew MP participated in the work of the drafting committee.

3.29 The drafting committee met in the afternoon of Tuesday, 8 April and in the morning and evening of Wednesday, 9 April. At its final sitting, it adopted a draft resolution by consensus.

3.30 During the morning session of Thursday, 10 April, the draft resolution was adopted by consensus by the Conference. After adoption, the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic expressed a reservation to the effect that it would have preferred the resolution to state that the war in Iraq had no legal foundation. The text of the resolution appears at Appendix 5.

### **Item 3 - General Debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world**

3.31 The General Debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world took place over four days of the Conference. A total of 119 speakers from 103 delegations took part in the debate. Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Neil Andrew MP participated in the general debate.

3.32 During the various sittings, the President invited the Vice-Presidents from the delegations of Algeria, Australia, Bangladesh, Croatia, Ethiopia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, and Singapore to replace him in the Chair.

### **Parliaments' role in strengthening democratic institutions and human development in a fragmented world**

3.33 This item was considered on 8 and 10 April by the Second Study Committee (Parliamentary, Juridical and Human Rights Questions), that met in two sittings with its President, Ms. B. Mugo (Kenya) in the Chair.

3.34 The Committee had before it ten memoranda submitted by the delegations of Australia, Canada, Egypt, France, India, Poland, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia and by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, along with three information documents submitted by the IPU Secretariat, the United Nations and the United Nations Development Program.

3.35 It also had before it 16 draft resolutions submitted by the delegations of Australia, Canada, Congo, Cuba, France, Gabon, Germany, India, Indonesia, Netherlands, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Sudan, United Kingdom and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, as well as elements for two draft resolutions, one submitted jointly by Bangladesh, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Sudan and Zambia, and the other by Sweden.

3.36 A total of 63 speakers took the floor during the two sittings. The Committee also heard statements from the Administrator of the United Nations Development Program and the United Nations Under-Secretary General for the Least Developed Countries. Ms Maria Vamvakinou MP attended the committee proceedings and Senator McGauran participated in the debate emphasizing commitment to the rule of law and free and fair elections.

3.37 Following the debate on the item, the Committee appointed a drafting committee composed of representatives from Australia, Canada, France, Guinea, Kenya, Netherlands, Peru, South Africa, Thailand, United Kingdom and Venezuela. Ms Maria Vamvakinou MP participated in the work of the drafting committee.

3.38 The drafting committee met on 9 April and began its work by electing Ms. B. Prentice (United Kingdom) as Chairperson and Ms. G. M. Borman (South Africa) as Rapporteur. In preparing the draft resolution, it took into consideration all the 18 draft resolutions that had been submitted.

3.39 On 10 April, the Second Committee considered the draft resolution prepared by the drafting committee. After making a number of amendments and additions, it adopted the draft unanimously.

3.40 On 11 April, the draft resolution was adopted unanimously by the Conference as proposed by the Second Committee. The text of the resolution appears at Appendix 6.

### **International cooperation for the prevention and management of transborder natural disasters and their impact on the regions concerned**

3.41 This item was considered on 9 and 11 April by the Third Committee (Economic and Social Questions), which met with its Vice-President, Mr. J.-K. Yoo (Republic of Korea), in the Chair. The Committee had before it 13 memoranda submitted by Australia, Canada, Chile, Congo, Egypt, France, Hungary, Japan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; two information documents prepared respectively by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. The Committee also had before it 18 draft resolutions submitted by Australia, Canada, Chile, Congo, Cuba, Germany, France, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, United Kingdom, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, including one draft resolution submitted jointly by Hungary, Poland, Romania and Czech Republic, and elements for a draft resolution submitted by Sweden.

3.42 A total of 49 speakers from 42 countries and one international organisation participated in the debate that took place in the Third Committee on 9 April. It is noteworthy that nearly one third of speakers were women. Senator Grant Chapman attended the committee's deliberations. The Committee appointed a drafting committee comprising representatives of parliaments of the following 11 countries: Australia, Belgium, Congo, Greece, India, Japan, Mexico, Niger, Romania, South Africa and Uganda. Senator Chapman was elected to the drafting committee. Special mention should be made of the fact that six members of the drafting committee were women parliamentarians. A representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies participated in the work of the drafting committee as an adviser.

3.43 The drafting committee, after electing Senator Grant Chapman (Australia) as Chairperson and Ms. R. Kadaga (Uganda) as Rapporteur, met on the morning of 10 April. In preparing the consolidated draft, the Committee used the ideas contained in all of the drafts at its disposal, but drew in particular on the one presented jointly by the group of four Central European countries (Hungary, Poland, Romania and Czech Republic) and the one presented by Australia. The resulting consolidated draft was adopted without a vote. On the morning of 11 April, the Third Committee examined the text submitted to it by the drafting committee and unanimously decided to adopt it in its entirety.

3.44 On the afternoon of 11 April, Ms. R. Kadaga submitted the Third Committee's draft resolution to the 108<sup>th</sup> Conference, which adopted it unanimously. The text of the resolution appears at Appendix 7.

### **Amendments to the Statutes and Rules of the Conference**

3.45 During the last sitting of the Conference on Friday, 11 April, and in keeping with Article 27.3 of the Statutes, the Conference unanimously approved the proposal to modify the Statutes following the favourable opinion expressed by the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. On the same occasion, the Conference adopted the amendments to its own Rules.

### **Draft resolutions and memoranda submitted by the Australian Delegation**

3.46 The records of the Conference show that Australia was one of very few countries that submitted draft resolutions and memoranda within the statutory deadline on each agenda item debated at the Conference.

3.47 The Delegation expresses its appreciation of Mr. Phillip Allars and other departmental officers in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for the comprehensive and timely advice and assistance provided to the Delegation.

## CHAPTER 4

### 237TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

#### Meetings of the Executive

4.1 The Executive Committee held its 240<sup>th</sup> session in Santiago de Chile on 3, 4, 5, 10 and 11 April 2003. President Páez, chaired the meetings.

4.2 The following members and substitutes took part in the session: Mr. S. Fazakas (Hungary), Ms. J. Fraser (Canada) (replaced by Mr. D. Oliver on 10 and 11 April), Ms. G. Mahlangu (South Africa), Mr. J. Trobo (Uruguay), substituting for Mr. W. Abdala, Mr. G. Nzouba-Ndama (Gabon), replaced by Mr. A. Ndjavé Djoye on 10 and 11 April, Ms. B. Angara-Castillo (Philippines) substituting for Mr. F. Drilon, Ms. Z. Ríos-Montt (Guatemala), Mr. R. Salles (France), and Mr. I. Ostash (Ukraine). Mr. N. Enkhbold (Mongolia), Vice-President, Mr. M. Al-Saqer (Kuwait), and Ms. P. Larsen (Denmark) were absent.

4.3 The proceedings of the Executive Committee were devoted to discussing and making recommendations on agenda items to be addressed by the Council. The other matters considered by the Committee are summarised below.

4.4 The Committee devoted considerable attention to its recommendation to the Council regarding the affiliation request from the Shura Council of Saudi Arabia, as it had at its 239<sup>th</sup> session in Geneva.

4.5 The Committee approved amendments to its own Rules.

4.6 The Committee was informed of various new staff appointments for the positions of Director of the IPU Office of the Permanent Observer to the United Nations in New York, Program Officer for Technical Cooperation, and Researcher on Gender Issues and Development Questions, the third appointment still to be confirmed.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **THE WORK OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND COMMITTEES**

#### **Introduction**

5.1 In this Chapter, the Delegation records in detail the workings of the following subsidiary bodies and committees:

- Meeting of Representatives of the Parties to the CSCM Process;
- Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians;
- Committee on Middle East Questions;
- Committee to promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law;
- Gender Partnership Group.

#### **Meeting of Representatives of the Parties to the CSCM Process**

5.2 The representatives of the parties to the process of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CSCM) held their twenty-first meeting in Santiago de Chile on Wednesday, 9 April 2003, with Mr. R. Salles in the Chair. The session was attended by: Representatives from 15 of the 24 main participants: Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Monaco, Morocco, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey; a government official from Malta attended the meeting as an observer, since the Maltese Parliament could not attend the conference. Representatives of the following associate participants: (i) Palestine; and (ii) Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, Assembly of the Western European Union, and the Maghreb Consultative Council; An observer from the Parliament of Germany. The session was preceded by a meeting of the Mediterranean Women Parliamentarians' Task Force chaired by Ms. A. Vassiliou (Cyprus), on Tuesday, 8 April. In that capacity, she was automatically a member of the CSCM Coordinating Committee. The session was also preceded by a meeting of the CSCM Coordinating Committee, held on the previous day, with Mr. R. Salles in the Chair. It was attended by representatives from Algeria, France, Italy, Morocco, Spain, and Tunisia, by the representative of the Mediterranean Women Parliamentarians' Task Force and, as an observer, by a representative from the Government of Malta.

#### **Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians**

5.3 The 101<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians was scheduled to be held from 6 to 11 April 2003 in Santiago de Chile. Only the Committee's President, Inter-Parliamentary Union – Subsidiary Bodies and Committees of the Council Mr. M. Samarasinghe (Sri Lanka), and Ms. V. Nedvedová (Czech Republic), full members, together with Mr. J. Lefevre (Belgium), the latter's substitute, were able to travel to Santiago. In the absence of the necessary quorum to deliberate and to take decisions, the session was brought to a close on 9 April 2003.

5.4 At its 101<sup>st</sup> session, the Committee had before it 57 cases concerning 230 former or incumbent MPs in 29 countries. Six cases were referred to it for the first time. The

Committee members present at the session took advantage of the presence in Santiago of delegations of countries in respect of which it was examining cases to hear them informally, share concerns with them and exchange information. They also heard representatives of sources. A total of 11 hearings were held and the information and observations thus gathered were included in the relevant case reports. An updated version of the reports on cases already pending before the Council was thus placed at the disposal of the Council.

### **Committee on Middle East Questions**

5.5 The Committee met on 7 and 10 April with the newly elected President, Mr. F.M. Vallersnes (Norway), in the Chair. The other titular members present were Ms. M. Bergé-Lavigne (France), Mr. T.Hadjigeorgiou (Cyprus), Mr. S. El-Alfi (Egypt) and Ms. P. Chagsuchinda (Thailand). Mr. R.Ahouadjinou (Benin) was absent. During its first session, the Committee held a hearing with Israeli and Palestinian representatives in the presence of delegates from Egypt and Jordan. The Committee regretted that, due to the current situation in the Israeli-Palestinian region as well as the formation of the new Palestinian cabinet, no member of the Palestinian Legislative Council was able to attend the meeting. The Committee stressed that in order to fulfil its mandate of facilitating dialogue between members of the Knesset and the Palestinian Legislative Council, the latter should be able to freely attend international forums and return to their country safely. The Committee welcomed the existence of the Road Map drafted by the Quartet, which called for an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours by 2005 at the latest, at the end of a three-phase process which had been presented to both parties to the conflict, plus Egypt and Jordan. The Committee called for publication of the document and expressed its will to contribute actively to its implementation. It called on the MPs concerned to monitor the action taken on its implementation by their governments. It encouraged the Israeli and Arab delegations attending the Committee's sessions to study the document and come back to discuss it with their counterparts, within the framework of the Committee. The Committee regretted the postponement of the Palestinian presidential and legislative elections that had been scheduled for 20 January 2003. The Committee encouraged the Palestinian National Authority to reschedule those elections as soon as Inter-Parliamentary Union – Subsidiary Bodies and Committees of the Council possible and stressed the need for a safe, free and fair process, without any outside interference. The Committee also regretted that, due to the elections to the Knesset held in Israel on 28 January 2003, a meeting between legislators from the Knesset and the Palestinian Legislative Council that was due to be organised at IPU Headquarters in Geneva in December 2002 had been postponed. The members of the Committee unanimously asked the IPU to re-launch that initiative. The Committee asked the Council to authorise it to hold a half-day meeting during the session of the Assembly in October in Geneva.

### **Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law**

5.6 The members of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL), Ms. B. Mugo, President, and Mr. R. Vázquez met on 11 April 2003. Also present were the Secretary General of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) and representatives from the ICRC and the UNHCR. During its meeting in Santiago, the Committee discussed means of ensuring efficient follow-up to the Regional Conference on *International Humanitarian Law for the Protection of Civilians during Armed Conflict*. The event, which took place in February 2002, in Niamey (Niger), was organised by the APU in cooperation with the ICRC and the IPU and with input from the UNHCR. The Committee asked the



organisers to produce an assessment of follow-up measures taken, inviting them to work in cooperation with the Follow-up Committee set up after the Conference. One suggestion strongly recommended by the Committee was to organise a regional conference in Africa along the same lines as the Niamey one, but with the question of refugee protection as a main topic. The Committee agreed to close the survey it had launched in October 2000, designed to assess the status of parliaments' involvement in IHL issues and collect updated information on States' actions to ensure respect for IHL. The survey had confirmed that implementation of international humanitarian law was hampered by the fact that parliaments were unfamiliar with IHL and unclear as to their role in implementing it, and the means available for doing so. The Committee felt the need to strengthen its efforts to monitor respect for IHL. It suggested that, with ICRC support, it monitor compliance with IHL at each of its sessions and take action, when necessary, to ensure respect by means of bilateral individual contacts, letters from the Secretary General, letters from the Committee President and, if need be, letters from the President of the IPU Council. The Committee members then took stock of the progress made in translating and disseminating the three Handbooks for Parliamentarians, which were produced under their guidance, in their capacity as IHL Committee members or Officers of the Second IPU Study Committee. They welcomed the fact that the IPU-ICRC Handbook on *Respect for International Humanitarian Law* existed in 12 languages with six more in preparation, the IPUUNHCR Handbook on *Refugee Protection* existed in 21 languages and the IPU-ILO Handbook on *Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour* existed in seven languages, with one more version in preparation.

5.7 The Committee thanked those parliaments which had translated the Handbook(s) and encouraged others to follow suit, in consultation with the IPU and the ICRC, the UNHCR, or the ILO. It also commended the very positive working relationship that had been established with the three partner organisations and thanked them for their support. All parliaments were invited to organise a public launch of the Handbook(s) in parliament, once translated, with the participation of the IPU and the partner organisations concerned.

5.8 The Committee also recommended that the Handbook(s) be brought to the attention of parliamentarians, the relevant parliamentary committees, competent ministries and other relevant institutions. Turning to future activities, the Committee took note with great interest of the results of the ICRC Conference on *The Missing* in Geneva in February 2003. It recognised the unique character of the Conference and suggested that the IPU could contribute to its follow-up by collecting information on existing legislation and best practices on some aspects of the question. The Committee further agreed that regional seminars for parliamentarians on this question could be very useful. The second proposed new activity concerned cooperation with the International Campaign for the Banning of Landmines (ICBL) and the need to revive parliamentary action to achieve universal accession to and implementation of the *Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on their Destruction*. To that end, a series of recommendations to Parliaments were brought to the attention of the Council. The Committee also agreed to monitor the situation at each of its meetings and to raise this issue at regional group meetings. Finally, it decided to cooperate with ICBL to contribute to the 2004 Review Conference on action taken since the Convention's entry into force.

### **Gender Partnership Group**

5.9 The Gender Partnership Group held its 11th session in Santiago de Chile. The participants were Ms. J.Fraser, Ms. G. Mahlangu, Mr. R. Salles and Mr. J.Trobo, substituting for Mr. W. Abdala. Ms. Fraser acted as moderator. Ms. Z. Ríos Montt took part as an

observer in order to replace Ms. Fraser who could not be present during the whole Conference.

5.10 A joint session with the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians also took place on 7 April 2003. The Group studied the composition of delegations attending the 108th IPU Conference in Santiago. Of the 579 delegates attending, 147 were women (25%).

5.11 The Group welcomed the fact that the proportion of single-gender delegations had decreased to 22% (25 delegations out of the 115 present), while noting that this figure remained high. Of these, 23 delegations were all-male (20 per cent) and two were all-female (2%). All of the five single member delegations attending were made up of men. The Group welcomed the fact that its proposed amendments to the Statutes of the IPU, as amended by the Belgian Group, had been approved by the Council and subsequently adopted by the Conference. The amendments, which would be implemented as of the next Assembly, provided strong incentives to Members to ensure that their delegations included both men and women. They set out sanctions for delegations which failed to include both men and women parliamentarians in their delegation for three Assemblies in a row, by reducing the number of delegates and number of votes to which they were entitled by one. The amendments also ensured that membership of the Executive Committee was limited to parliaments of countries where women were entitled to vote and stand for election. The Group would continue monitoring women's participation in IPU delegations at each of its sessions and would assess the amendments' impact before determining any new additional measures. It also invited the IPU Secretary General to continue to write to parliaments that announced single-gender delegations.

5.12 The Group recommended that the IPU continue to collect and disseminate data on women's status and participation in politics together with information on progress in domestic and regional legislation with regard to gender issues and women's contribution to the democratic process. In addition, the Group advocated the collection of data on parliamentary committees on women's rights and on the impact of some affirmative action measures aimed at facilitating equal participation of men and women in politics. Another recommendation was to strengthen the activities of the IPU Focal Points for Questions relating to the Status of Women and urge IPU Focal Points to attend IPU Conferences, as this would facilitate exchange of information on national situations and best practices. A number of parliaments in the world still had no women parliamentarians, and several countries had yet to grant women the right to vote and stand for election.

5.13 The Group expressed concern at the outlook and decided to monitor the situation of those parliaments and to determine ways in which the IPU could assist them in remedying it. It suggested holding informal consultations with delegations from the parliaments concerned at each of its sessions.

5.14 Turning to the question of future activities, the Group discussed the importance of raising awareness among men and women parliamentarians regarding ways and means of developing gender-sensitive budgets. It welcomed the fact that the IPU had organised a series of regional seminars on *Parliament and the budgetary process, including from a gender perspective*, and expressed its willingness to act as an Advisory and Editorial Board for the finalisation of a Handbook for parliamentarians on that same subject. The Group also expressed an interest in ensuring that the IPU budget was gender-sensitive. It suggested starting work on the question by determining criteria for a gender-sensitive IPU budget, with a view to developing recommendations for future IPU budgets. The new Standing Committees should take gender issues into account in their debates and work. The Group

offered to act as a link with the Committees to mainstream gender into their discussions and reports. The Group also suggested that panels on gender issues take place on the occasion of IPU Assemblies. Specific concerns of women in the regions where Assemblies were held should be kept in mind. Conscious of the need for the IPU to take public stands on certain critical situations relating to women between Assembly Meetings, the Group recommended that it be given a mandate to publicly voice IPU positions on certain issues with the authorisation of the President of the Council. This was approved by the Council. Finally, the Group recommended that the practice of holding joint sessions with the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians be pursued.

## **Other Events**

### ***Panel on Trafficking of Children***

5.15 A panel on *Trafficking of Children* was held during the 108<sup>th</sup> Conference, in close cooperation with UNICEF, the International Labour Office and the International Organization for Migration. The panel, which took place on 9 April 2003, was chaired by Ms. I. Allende. Panellists included MPs from Ghana, Japan, Romania, Sweden, and Thailand, as well as representatives of UNICEF and ILO. Ms. D. Del Gatto, Director of the Chilean National Department of Minors, presented the work done in her country, and served as Rapporteur.

5.16 There was a broad consensus among participants that child trafficking ranked as a serious violation of the fundamental rights of children - a violation consisting of illegally displacing and detaining children with a view to their sale, work-related exploitation, illegal adoption or sexual exploitation. Every year, some 1.2 million children fall prey to this form of trafficking, which constituted a worldwide and constantly growing problem.

5.17 Participants agreed that solving it would require the assistance and cooperation of all sectors concerned that must work towards its prevention and elimination at the national, regional and international levels. Public and private efforts made under many different strategies (legal, legislative, awareness-building, assistance to victims and cooperation between countries) must target the countries of origin, transit and destination. It was therefore agreed that parliaments were strategically well placed to help drive the program to combat trafficking of children nationally, regionally and internationally.

5.18 Given that countries were at different stages with regard to advocacy, legislation, prevention and interregional cooperation relating to trafficking in children and adolescents, parliaments, with the backing of the international organizations concerned, had to work together towards a solution to this problem. Participants strongly insisted on the need to ensure efficient follow-up to the panel, and endorsed a series of recommendations to parliaments, their members and the IPU, presented by the Rapporteur.

### ***Think Tank on Female Genital Mutilation***

5.19 The Think Tank on combating female genital mutilation (FGM) met in Santiago on 9 April 2003. The session was attended by its members, Ms. K. Andersen (Norway), Ms. R. Kadaga (Uganda) and Ms. M. Roe (United Kingdom). Also in attendance were Ms. G. Malhangu and representatives from UNICEF and the UNHCR. Ms. Kadaga chaired the session.

5.20 Since the Marrakech Meetings, the Think Tank had endeavoured to increase awareness of the work of parliaments and of the IPU in this field. Members had represented the IPU at the statutory Meeting of the African Parliamentary Union in Sudan (October 2002) and at the International Conference on *Zero Tolerance to FGM* held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, organised by the African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (IAC). Members welcomed the results of the Conference and the Common Agenda for Action to Eliminate FGM that it adopted, as well as the fact that 6 February was declared International Day of *Zero Tolerance to FGM*. The Think Tank also took stock of initiatives taken in different countries to eradicate FGM. It welcomed the report submitted by the Parliament of Guinea on *Consultations carried out for the development of a draft International Convention for the Eradication of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)*; information on action taken in the United Kingdom to make it a criminal offence to deliberately send a child overseas for FGM purposes; information on Inter-Parliamentary Union – Elections, Appointments and Membership initiatives taken in Norway which included the organisation of awareness-raising activities among Somali immigrants, and information on the fact that FGM was recognised as a form of persecution which should enable girls to obtain refugee status.

5.21 Discussion showed that legislation was only the first step in eradicating FGM. It had to be complemented by stringent implementation, awareness-raising campaigns, the sensitising of religious leaders, education campaigns to change mentalities, assistance to victims, assistance to former excision practitioners, and the provision of funding for programs and NGOs. Combating FGM therefore required multifaceted actions in which parliaments had a crucial role to play. The Think Tank submitted the following recommendations to the Council:

1. It recognised that the IPU database on existing legislation on FGM was a very practical tool and recommended that the IPU continue collecting and updating the data. It should also be supplemented with information on existing operational structures which would serve as good examples of best practices for other countries.
2. It recommended producing user-friendly information on FGM, emphasising the use of good practices in all regions, to facilitate parliamentary action.
3. It recommended that the IPU monitor the progress made at the legislative level at each of its Assembly meetings and that information on countries that had not yet passed legislation should be given to the Regional Groups concerned and discussed.
4. It agreed that it should raise the issue at the Meeting of Leaders of Delegations, on the occasion of each Assembly, inviting those concerned to take action.
5. It recommended that the African Parliamentary Union and the IPU jointly organise a conference in Africa as soon as possible on parliamentary action to address FGM. The Conference should bring together members of parliament, religious and traditional leaders, activists, NGOs, former practitioners of FGM, and others. A specific parliamentary strategy and plan of action to coordinate parliamentary action to combat FGM should result from the Conference, ensuring a parliamentary follow-up to some of the objectives set out in the Common Agenda for *Action for the Elimination of FGM*, adopted by the IAC Conference last February.
6. It recommended that the IPU strengthen cooperation with UN agencies and international organisations that have developed expertise in the field.

7. It called on the IPU to set up a sub-committee on child protection issues as soon as possible, so as to ensure appropriate follow-up on the issue and on others relating to children's rights. It therefore requested the Council to bring the suggestion to the attention of the Executive Committee for appropriate consideration and recommendations, and to take the matter up at its next session.

### ***Media events***

5.22 The 108<sup>th</sup> IPU Conference enjoyed very good press coverage. Chilean and international media covered the four official press conferences and other press events, at which three Handbooks for MPs were presented. The first, published jointly by the IPU and the United Nations, covered the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)* and its *Optional Protocol*. Ms. I. Allende, Ms. A. King and Ms. G. Mahlangu presented the CEDAW Handbook to the press.

5.23 The IPU also launched a Handbook with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) on *Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector* at a media event attended by Mr. S. Páez, Mr. F. Flores, Chairman of the Chilean Senate Defence Committee, General J.C. Salgado, Defence Chief of Staff, Mr. P. Günter (Switzerland) and Dr. P. Fluri, Deputy Director of DCAF.

5.24 The launch by the IPU and the UNHCR of the Spanish-language version of the Handbook for MPs on International Refugee Law gave an opportunity to bring refugee issues to the attention of the media. After the President of the IPU Council had made some opening comments, Mr. A. Castro-Pita, Acting Regional Representative of the UNHCR, and Mr. R. Vázquez (Argentina), along with other parliamentarians and representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees drew attention to the importance of ensuring that States join forces to guarantee protection and assistance for refugees and displaced persons, particularly in the light of current events.

5.25 The parliamentary television channel of the Chilean Senate staged a round table on the commitment of States and parliaments to the refugee question. The participants were Mr. R. Vázquez, Mr. J. Riera, representative of UNHCR, Mr. G. Ceroni (Chile) and Mr. R. Nuñez (Chile).

## CHAPTER 6

### MEETING AND CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

#### Meeting

6.1 The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Women Parliamentarians took place on 6 April 2003 and was attended by approximately 90 women and several men from the following 71 countries:

Algeria, Angola, Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Venezuela and Zambia.

6.2 Observers from the United Nations, UNICEF and UNHCR also attended the proceedings.

6.3 After a welcome by the President of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Ms. G. Mahlangu, the Meeting elected as its President Ms. I. Allende, President of the Chilean Chamber of Deputies, who made a brief presentation on the situation of women in the world, with particular emphasis on the women and children living in Iraq.

6.4 Mr. Páez, President of the IPU Council, also welcomed the participants. The Meeting also heard Ms. C. Pérez, Chilean Minister of Women's Affairs, who presented the situation of women in Chile and the Government's efforts geared to the advancement of the status of women.

6.5 Ms. Y. Kamikawa (Japan), first Vice-President of the Coordinating Committee, reported on the work of the Committee at its last two sessions. The Meeting then elected Ms. P. Ernstberger (Germany) as titular regional representative and Ms. D. Arellano Sandoval (Nicaragua) and Ms. G. Gautier (France) as substitute regional representatives to the Coordinating Committee to fill the posts that had become vacant during the course of the year. It also approved three amendments to its Rules, proposed by the Coordinating Committee and designed to encourage the participation of men parliamentarians in the work of the Meeting, in addition to achieving a better balance in the composition of the Committee.

6.6 Further to a proposal submitted by the Coordinating Committee, the Meeting changed its agenda to replace the item initially dedicated to debating item 5 of the Conference agenda on *International cooperation for the prevention and management of transborder natural disasters and their impact on the regions concerned* with a debate on *The situation of women and children in conflict situations, with particular reference to Iraq*.

6.7 Ms. S. Damen-Masri (Jordan) and Ms. T. Heberlein (Switzerland) were asked to present in the afternoon a summary of the main points raised during the debate. This

summary, subsequently approved by the Meeting, provided the basis for a series of elements for a draft resolution which was submitted to the drafting committee of item 8 of the Conference agenda on *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*. Many of the recommendations of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians were subsequently incorporated into the resolution adopted by the 108<sup>th</sup> Conference on this item.

6.8 The Meeting heard a statement by Ms. A. King, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Affairs and Advancement of Women, on the occasion of the launch of the recently published Handbook for Parliamentarians on the CEDAW and its Optional Protocol, jointly produced by the IPU and the United Nations. Men and women parliamentarians were strongly encouraged to make use of the Handbook by organising awareness-building events in their respective parliaments and by ensuring that the CEDAW was properly implemented. Furthermore, the Meeting urged all those States that were not party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention to consider ratifying it as soon as possible

6.9 A special dialogue between men and women parliamentarians also took place for the first time during the Meeting. The debate on: *The best ways to account for women's contribution to the economy and the general welfare of society and to assess it at its full value*: was introduced by Ms. P. Torsney (Canada) and Mr. D. Bakker (South Africa). It provided a good opportunity for men and women to engage in dialogue and exchange views on a topic of mutual interest.

6.10 Ms. J. Fraser, Rapporteur of the IPU Gender Partnership Group, reported on the Group's work in Santiago. The IPU's work in the field of gender partnership was also discussed, with a special reference to action aimed at combating female genital mutilation.

6.11 The Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians met on 6 and 11 April with its President, Ms. G. Malhangu, in the Chair. The sitting of 6 April served to prepare and facilitate the work of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.

6.12 At its sitting on 11 April, the Committee assessed the outcome of the Santiago Meetings from the standpoint of the women MPs and began preparing the Coordinating Committee's next session in Geneva, in September 2003, as well as the Meeting's following session in London in March-April 2004. With regard to the work of the new Standing Committees, the Coordinating Committee decided to brief the Rapporteurs for the item on: *The contribution of new information and communication technologies to good governance, the improvement of parliamentary democracy and the management of globalisation* so as to ensure that they took gender issues into account in their report.

6.13 Regarding the Ninth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, the Coordinating Committee decided to continue the dialogue between men and women on: *The best ways to account for women's contribution to the economy and the general welfare of society, and to assess it at its full value*. It also hoped that a Panel on *Sexual exploitation of children* could be included in the program of the 110<sup>th</sup> Assembly. Finally, the Coordinating Committee suggested that the next IPU survey on women in politics deal with the question of men's contribution to gender equality in politics.

6.14 The Coordinating Committee also had a joint session with the Gender Partnership Group on 7 April 2003. The results of these discussions were included in the Group's report.

## **CHAPTER 7**

### **172ND SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

#### **Introduction**

7.1 The Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held its 172<sup>nd</sup> session in the Centro de Convenciones Diego Portales on 7, 9 and 12 April 2003. The sittings were chaired by the President of the Council, Mr. Páez.

7.2 The opening sitting began with a minute of silence to mark the untimely passing of Mr. S. Almansury (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), a member of the Executive Committee.

7.3 The sitting on 9 April was devoted to the reform of the IPU, the approval of the amended Statutes and Rules, and the choice of subject items for the 109th Assembly.

7.4 The Council noted the report by Mr. Páez on his activities and meetings since the end of the 171st session in September 2002. It also noted an oral report by the President on the activities of the Executive Committee during its 239th (Geneva) session and 240<sup>th</sup> (Santiago) session. The Council also took note of the written report of the Secretary General on the activities of the Union in 2002.

#### **Membership of the IPU**

7.5 The Council approved a request for affiliation from the Shura Council of Saudi Arabia after hearing a report by the Executive Committee rapporteur on the question, Mr. R. Salles (France).

7.6 It also approved a request for reaffiliation from the National Assembly of Pakistan.

7.7 It decided to suspend the Parliament of the Central African Republic after a coup d'état which had seen the dissolution of the parliament.

7.8 It deferred discussion of the situation of the seven Members that fell under the terms of Article 4.2 of the Statutes to the 173rd session of the Governing Council in October.

#### **Financial Results for 2002**

7.9 Mr. O.R. Rodgers (Suriname), one of the Internal Auditors, presented the audited financial statements for 2002, along with his comments on the financial administration of the Union based upon his communication with the external auditor. For the first time, the accounts were presented on a full accrual basis, which had resulted in a downward adjustment of the Working Capital Fund balance by 7.3 million Swiss francs. The Union had an operating surplus of 424,000 Swiss francs in 2002 due to a substantial reduction in spending. Some changes were proposed to administrative procedures including a greater involvement of the Internal Auditor in the oversight of financial operations.



7.10 The Council recognized the work of the Secretary General in relation to the financial administration of the Union, in particular for the fiscal control demonstrated by an operating surplus, a realistic approach to receivables and liabilities, and transparent and detailed financial statements.

7.11 Several members, including Senator Chapman, contributed to the debate on the financial statements. Senator Chapman welcomed changes to reporting and increased transparency and encouraged further improvements in financial administration, including a more consistent approach to employment contracts and more rigorous purchasing procedures.

7.12 The Council approved the financial statements, approved the transfer of the operating surplus to the Working Capital Fund, agreed to use the Randal Cremer Fund to reduce the cost of the new headquarters, and sanctioned the financial administration of the Union.

### **Reform of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Statutory Amendments**

7.13 The IPU has been involved in a reform process since the reform debate was initiated by the Executive Committee in Amman in April 2000.

7.14 In Santiago, the final stage of a lengthy procedure was completed when the Conference adopted all of the amendments proposed to the Union's Statutes and Rules on the recommendation of the Council, including amendments to the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians that were not directly related to the reforms.

7.15 The Geneva statutory meetings scheduled for October 2003 will thus be the first to take place under the reformed structures.

7.16 The statutory amendments were presented to the Council by the Executive Committee rapporteur on reform, Ms. Z. Ríos-Montt (Guatemala), at a special sitting on 9 April. After approving the amendments to its own Rules, to the Rules of the Study Committees, to the Financial Regulations and to the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, the Council discussed the sub-amendments submitted within the statutory deadline and endorsed the Executive Committee's recommendations on them.

7.17 In keeping with the requirements of the amended Statutes, the Council elected the bureau of the three new Standing Committees, namely

- Peace and International Security,
- Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, and
- Democracy and Human Rights.

7.18 It also elected the two rapporteurs for each of these Committees.

7.19 Given the mandates of the new Committees, it decided to discontinue the existing Committee on Sustainable Development and agreed that the Committee on International Humanitarian Law would be made up of the members of the bureau of the new Committee on Peace and International Security.

7.20 It also approved the amendments to the Rules of the ASGP required by the reforms.

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## **New Headquarters of the IPU – The House of Parliaments**

7.21 The Secretary General reported on the construction of the new headquarters of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva. The project had an approved budget of 11 million Swiss francs financed with a loan from the Swiss Government, a mortgage from the Canton of Geneva, and voluntary contributions. In the course of the construction, savings had been realised and the Council had authorised the restoration of the external façade of the Annexe in addition to the work on the main building. Fund raising had exceeded expectations and there were now sufficient funds to complete the Annexe and install the archives.

7.22 The Council acknowledged the financial assistance that had been given to the project by the parliaments of Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, United Kingdom and by the Canton of Geneva, and approved the completion of the Annexe.

7.23 The Secretariat moved into the new premises in December 2002 when the construction was substantially complete. The Executive Committee, the Human Rights Committee, and the Post-Doha Steering Committee had already had an opportunity to meet in the new conference wing. The United Nations had issued a commemorative stamp in recognition of the new headquarters building.

## **Cooperation with the United Nations System**

7.24 The Council noted the decision taken by the United Nations General Assembly to grant observer status to the Inter-Parliamentary Union along with the additional right to circulate its official documents at the United Nations. The Council also welcomed the speech subsequently delivered by the President of the Council to the UN General Assembly in which he invited Member States to assist in identifying specific areas where national parliaments, working through the IPU, could make a measurable contribution to the work of the United Nations.

7.25 The Council also took note of the Secretary General's report regarding discussions under way in the Executive Committee to identify elements for a program of activities aimed at tightening the relationship between the two organisations. The report pinpointed democracy and governance, human rights and gender issues, sustainable development and the fight against terrorism as areas in which the IPU could provide a unique contribution based on its parliamentary expertise.

7.26 The Council approved a recommendation of the Executive Committee to establish a network of focal points in parliaments for matters relating to UNESCO and to launch the initiative on the occasion of the next UNESCO General Conference in September/October 2003.

7.27 The Council approved in principle a proposal to launch a parliamentary campaign to promote safe drinking water in conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Finally, the Council took note of plans to strengthen the IPU's cooperation with several programs and agencies of the United Nations, including the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Volunteers (UNV), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

## **Second Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments**

7.28 The Council approved the Executive Committee's recommendation to hold a Second Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments in 2005. The Second Conference would review progress in implementing the recommendations issued by the first Conference in 2000 on the establishment of a parliamentary dimension to international cooperation, and assess action taken by national parliaments in support of the Millennium Development Goals. A Preparatory Committee would be set up in October 2003 to make the necessary arrangements for the Conference.

## **Relations with Inter-Parliamentary Organisations, Assemblies and Networks**

7.29 At its 170<sup>th</sup> session in Marrakech, the Council adopted a series of criteria to govern its relations with inter-parliamentary associations, assemblies and networks as a response to their increasing proliferation, which has the effect of diluting the Union's efforts to provide an effective parliamentary dimension to international cooperation. In Santiago, the Council returned to the matter, recommending that it be taken up directly with the Speakers of Member Parliaments, who should be strongly urged to ensure that all projects which MPs launch with international organisations be systematically channeled through the IPU.

## **Strengthening Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions**

7.30 The Council heard a report by the Secretariat on activities it had undertaken in recent months under its Technical Cooperation Program. In 2002, the IPU had implemented activities related to strengthening capacity in a dozen parliaments in projects valued at some 1.3 million US dollars.

7.31 The IPU was increasingly adopting an integrated approach in its parliamentary strengthening program, combining capacity building in the area of parliamentary procedures and practice with improving knowledge in substantive areas such as human rights, promoting gender partnership in parliament's work, and enhancing accountability through the budget process.

7.32 Interesting new initiatives included major projects for the future in Nigeria and Equatorial Guinea, as well as governance capacity building for parliaments in the least developed countries, in cooperation with the United Nations. The IPU was also initiating contacts with a view to providing assistance in the establishment of a parliament in Afghanistan. Similar efforts would be made with regard to Iraq. Pursuant to the mandate entrusted to him by the governing bodies, the Secretary General had approached several donors, through national parliaments, with project proposals relating to the promotion of democracy. The initial response to requests for funding had been encouraging and funding had already been obtained for some of the project proposals. Other donors had expressed willingness to contribute, and it was hoped that agreements would be concluded in coming weeks. Member parliaments were encouraged to lend more support to the Secretary General in his contacts with donor agencies in their countries.

## **Recent Specialised Conferences and Meetings**

7.33 The Council took note of the results of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO jointly organised by the IPU and the European Parliament and held in Geneva on 17 and 18 February 2003. The Conference was an important step on the path to establishing a

permanent parliamentary process for the WTO evolving around regular parliamentary meetings held initially once a year and on the occasion of WTO Ministerial Conferences. Following introductory remarks by President Páez, who had co-chaired the Conference together with a Vice-President of the European Parliament, Mr. R. Imbeni, the Council took note of the report on the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO and of the text of the Final Declaration which it had adopted by consensus.

7.34 The concluding recommendation of the Conference called on the IPU and the European Parliament to work together in organising the next session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, to be held on the occasion of the fifth WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancún, Mexico, in September 2003. The Council was briefed by the IPU Secretary General on the preparation of the Cancún session and in particular on the successful outcome of his exploratory visit to the WTO Conference site.

### **Reports of Plenary Bodies and Subsidiary Committees**

7.35 At its sitting on 12 April, the Council took note of the following reports: the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, the Meeting of Representatives of the Parties to the CSCM Process, the Committee on Middle East Questions, the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, and the Gender Partnership Group, the Panel on Trafficking of Children and the Think Tank on Female Genital Mutilation.

### **Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians**

7.36 The 101<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians was scheduled to be held from 6 to 11 April 2003 in Santiago de Chile. Only the Committee's President, Mr. M. Samarasinghe (Sri Lanka), and Ms. V. Nedvedová (Czech Republic), full members, together with Mr. J. Lefevre (Belgium), the latter's substitute, were able to travel to Santiago. In the absence of the necessary quorum to deliberate and to take decisions, the session was brought to a close on 9 April 2003.

7.37 At its 101<sup>st</sup> session the Committee had before it 57 cases concerning 230 former or incumbent MPs in 29 countries. Six cases were referred to it for the first time. The Committee members present at the session took advantage of the presence in Santiago of delegations of countries in respect of which it was examining cases to hear them informally, share concerns with them and exchange information. They also heard representatives of sources. A total of 11 hearings were held and the information and observations thus gathered were included in the relevant case reports. An updated version of the reports on cases already pending before the Council was thus placed at the disposal of the Council.

7.38 The Australian Delegation recognizes the importance of the work of this Committee and the interest of members and Senators in its work. Accordingly, the Delegation includes a report on the work of the Committee at Appendix 8.

### **Meeting of Representatives of the Parties to the CSCM Process**

7.39 The representatives of the parties to the process of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CSCM) held their twenty-first meeting in Santiago de Chile on Wednesday, 9 April 2003, with Mr. R. Salles in the Chair.

7.40 The session was attended by:

- Representatives from 15 of the 24 main participants: Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Monaco, Morocco, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey; a government official from Malta attended the meeting as an observer, since the Maltese Parliament could not attend the conference.
- Representatives of the following associate participants: (i) Palestine; and (ii) Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, Assembly of the Western European Union, and the Maghreb Consultative Council;
- An observer from the Parliament of Germany.

7.41 The session was preceded by a meeting of the Mediterranean Women Parliamentarians' Task Force chaired by Ms. A. Vassiliou (Cyprus), on Tuesday, 8 April. In that capacity, she was automatically a member of the CSCM Coordinating Committee.

7.42 The session was also preceded by a meeting of the CSCM Coordinating Committee, held on the previous day, with Mr. R. Salles in the Chair. It was attended by representatives from Algeria, France, Italy, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia, by the representative of the Mediterranean Women Parliamentarians' Task Force and, as an observer, by a representative from the Government of Malta.

### **Committee on Middle East Questions**

7.43 The Committee met on 7 and 10 April with the newly elected President, Mr. F.M. Vallersnes (Norway), in the Chair. The other titular members present were Ms. M. Bergé-Lavigne (France), Mr. T. Hadjigeorgiou (Cyprus), Mr. S. El-Alfi (Egypt) and Ms. P. Chagsuchinda (Thailand). Mr. R. Ahouadjinou (Benin) was absent.

7.44 During its first session, the Committee held a hearing with Israeli and Palestinian representatives in the presence of delegates from Egypt and Jordan. The Committee regretted that, due to the current situation in the Israeli-Palestinian region as well as the formation of the new Palestinian cabinet, no member of the Palestinian Legislative Council was able to attend the meeting.

7.45 The Committee stressed that in order to fulfil its mandate of facilitating dialogue between members of the Knesset and the Palestinian Legislative Council, the latter should be able to freely attend international forums and return to their country safely.

7.46 The Committee welcomed the existence of the Road Map drafted by the Quartet, which called for an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours by 2005 at the latest, at the end of a three-phase process which had been presented to both parties to the conflict, plus Egypt and Jordan. The Committee called for publication of the document and expressed its will to contribute actively to its implementation. It called on the MPs concerned to monitor the action taken on its implementation by their governments. It encouraged the Israeli and Arab delegations attending the Committee's sessions to study the document and come back to discuss it with their counterparts, within the framework of the Committee.

7.47 The Committee regretted the postponement of the Palestinian presidential and legislative elections that had been scheduled for 20 January 2003. The Committee encouraged the Palestinian National Authority to reschedule those elections as soon as Inter-

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Parliamentary Union – Subsidiary Bodies and Committees of the Council possible and stressed the need for a safe, free and fair process, without any outside interference.

7.48 The Committee also regretted that, due to the elections to the Knesset held in Israel on 28 January 2003, a meeting between legislators from the Knesset and the Palestinian Legislative Council that was due to be organised at IPU Headquarters in Geneva in December 2002 had been postponed. The members of the Committee unanimously asked the IPU to re-launch that initiative.

7.49 The Committee asked the Council to authorise it to hold a half-day meeting during the session of the Assembly in October in Geneva.

### **Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law**

7.50 The members of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL), Ms. B. Mugo, President, and Mr. R. Vázquez met on 11 April 2003. Also present were the Secretary General of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) and representatives from the ICRC and the UNHCR.

7.51 During its meeting in Santiago, the Committee discussed means of ensuring efficient follow-up to the Regional Conference on *International Humanitarian Law for the Protection of Civilians during Armed Conflict*. The event, which took place in February 2002, in Niamey (Niger), was organised by the APU in cooperation with the ICRC and the IPU and with input from the UNHCR.

7.52 The Committee asked the organisers to produce an assessment of follow-up measures taken, inviting them to work in cooperation with the Follow-up Committee set up after the Conference. One suggestion strongly recommended by the Committee was to organise a regional conference in Africa along the same lines as the Niamey one, but with the question of refugee protection as a main topic.

7.53 The Committee agreed to close the survey it had launched in October 2000, designed to assess the status of parliaments' involvement in IHL issues and collect updated information on States' actions to ensure respect for IHL. The survey had confirmed that implementation of international humanitarian law was hampered by the fact that parliaments were unfamiliar with IHL and unclear as to their role in implementing it, and the means available for doing so.

7.54 The Committee felt the need to strengthen its efforts to monitor respect for IHL. It suggested that, with ICRC support, it monitor compliance with IHL at each of its sessions and take action, when necessary, to ensure respect by means of bilateral individual contacts, letters from the Secretary General, letters from the Committee President and, if need be, letters from the President of the IPU Council.

7.55 The Committee members then took stock of the progress made in translating and disseminating the three Handbooks for Parliamentarians, which were produced under their guidance, in their capacity as IHL Committee members or Officers of the Second IPU Study Committee. They welcomed the fact that the IPU-ICRC Handbook on *Respect for International Humanitarian Law* existed in 12 languages with six more in preparation, the IPUUNHCR Handbook on Refugee Protection existed in 21 languages and the IPU-ILO Handbook on *Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour* existed in seven languages, with one more version in preparation.

7.56 The Committee thanked those parliaments which had translated the Handbook(s) and encouraged others to follow suit, in consultation with the IPU and the ICRC, the UNHCR, or the ILO. It also commended the very positive working relationship that had been established with the three partner organisations and thanked them for their support. All parliaments were invited to organise a public launch of the Handbook(s) in parliament, once translated, with the participation of the IPU and the partner organisations concerned. The Committee also recommended that the Handbook(s) be brought to the attention of parliamentarians, the relevant parliamentary committees, competent ministries and other relevant institutions.

7.57 Turning to future activities, the Committee took note with great interest of the results of the ICRC Conference on The Missing (Geneva, February 2003). It recognised the unique character of the Conference and suggested that the IPU could contribute to its follow-up by collecting information on existing legislation and best practices on some aspects of the question. The Committee further agreed that regional seminars for parliamentarians on this question could be very useful.

7.58 The second proposed new activity concerned cooperation with the International Campaign for the Banning of Landmines (ICBL) and the need to revive parliamentary action to achieve universal accession to and implementation of the *Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on their Destruction*. To that end, a series of recommendations to Inter-Parliamentary Union – Subsidiary Bodies and Committees of the Council Parliaments were brought to the attention of the Council. The Committee also agreed to monitor the situation at each of its meetings and to raise this issue at regional group meetings. Finally, it decided to cooperate with ICBL to contribute to the 2004 Review Conference on action taken since the Convention's entry into force.

### **Gender Partnership Group**

7.59 The Gender Partnership Group held its 11th session in Santiago de Chile. The participants were Ms. J. Fraser, Ms. G. Mahlangu, Mr. R. Salles and Mr. J. Trobo, substituting for Mr. W. Abdala. Ms. Fraser acted as moderator. Ms. Z. Ríos Montt took part as an observer in order to replace Ms. Fraser who could not be present during the whole Conference. A joint session with the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians also took place on 7 April 2003.

### **Human Rights Mission to Colombia**

7.60 At the request of the Council, the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians carried out a mission to Bogota on 31 March and 1 April 2003 relating to the human rights cases it was examining in the country. At the recommendation of the Executive Committee, which echoed the recommendation of the mission itself, the Council decided to invite all member parliaments to take action to support the conclusion of a humanitarian agreement between the Government of Colombia and the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) to secure the release of the hostages, including the members of the Colombian Congress held by the guerrilla group, and to pave the way for peace negotiations.

**Future Inter-Parliamentary Meetings**

7.61 The Council approved the dates of the future IPU Assembly scheduled to take place in Geneva, adopted the agenda for the three Standing Committees and approved the list of observers. It also approved the list of future meetings and other activities.



## **CHAPTER 8**

### **MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARIES-GENERAL OF PARLIAMENTS**

#### **Introduction**

8.1 The Clerk of the House of Representatives, Mr Ian Harris, attended the meetings of the Association of Secretaries-General of Parliament (ASGP) and its Executive Committee held in conjunction with the deliberations of the IPU Conference and the 172<sup>nd</sup> session of the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held in Geneva. Mr Christopher Paterson, Director of the Parliamentary Relations Office, attended the meetings as the substitute of the Deputy Clerk of the House, Mr Bernard Wright.

8.2 The meetings of the Executive Committee and of the ASGP plenary were held from 7 to 11 April 2003. Mr Harris chaired all meetings of the Executive Committee and all of the plenary meetings except for the session at which he presented the final report on promoting the work of Parliament .

#### **Consideration of Parliamentary matters**

8.3 The general meetings of the ASGP continued the format of a general, thematic debate, adopted for the first time in Geneva 2002. The chosen subject was the management role of the Secretary-General. Specific sub-themes were as follows:

- Parliament's independence of the Executive in relation to internal management (budget, finance and procurement, personnel management, recruitment of staff, status of staff, control of premises etc) – Mr Xavier Roques, France, Moderator;
- The authority of the Secretary-General in relation to the Presidency/President (preparation and execution of decisions, commitment of funds, capacity in tendering procedures etc) – Mr Carlos Hoffman Contreras, Chile, Moderator;
- The role of the Secretary-General in control of the compliance with the Constitution and Rules of Procedure (powers of the Secretary-General, the role of the Secretary-General in proposing reforms) – Mr Anders Forsberg, Sweden, Moderator.

8.4 Each segment was open to discussion, and each was fully debated by the meeting.

8.5 There were also presentations and discussions on specific parliamentary topics:

- Good governance towards sustainable development: The Knesset Commission for Future Generations;
- Parliamentary Diplomacy;
- Parliamentary scrutiny of the secret services: The Norwegian experience;
- Final report on promoting the work of parliaments (sponsored by Mr Harris); and

- Inter-parliamentary co-operation.

## **Administrative matters**

### *New members*

8.6 A number of new members were admitted to the Association. Most were replacing existing members who had retired or moved to other employment.

### *Executive Committee matters*

8.7 As a result of the Association's President, Madam Adelina SA CARVALHO, leaving the position of Secretary-General of the Portuguese Parliament, the position of President was vacant. Mr Harris acted as President until the Association chose a new one. He was subsequently unanimously elected as President of the Association for a three-year term.

8.8 Mr Harris' election as President, and the end of the Executive Committee term of office of Mr Mohamed Rachid IDRISSE KAITOUNI (Morocco) following the Geneva 2002 meetings, meant that there were two vacancies of Vice-President. As a result of the adoption of the new working methods and rules of the ASGP, vacancies were not filled at the September meetings of the Association. (The rule was subsequently change to enable vacancies to be filled at the Geneva meetings).

8.9 Ms Helene Ponceau from France and Mr Anders Forsberg from Sweden were elected unanimously as Vice Presidents. Mr Carlos Hoffman Contreras from Chile, Dr Mohammed Al-Masalha from Jordan and Mr Ibrahim Salim from Nigeria were elected to vacancies of the Executive Committee. Each of these were elected to a three-year term of office also.