



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
101st Conference and related meetings
Brussels, 10 - 16 April 1999



Conference
Item 4

CONF/101/4-DR
15 April 1999

PARLIAMENTARY ACTION TO ENCOURAGE ALL COUNTRIES TO SIGN AND RATIFY THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY PROHIBITING ALL NUCLEAR TESTING, TO ENCOURAGE UNIVERSAL AND NON-DISCRIMINATORY NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION MEASURES AND TO WORK TOWARDS THE EVENTUAL ELIMINATION OF ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS

*Draft resolution adopted by the Committee on Political Questions,
International Security and Disarmament
by 25 votes to 2, with 1 abstention*

Rapporteur: Mr. T.G. Alant (South Africa)

The 101st Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

- (1) *Determined* to contribute to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to the process of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, with a view to strengthening international peace and security, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,
- (2) *Recognising* the key role of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in achieving the above objective, and *appreciating* the extension of the Treaty in 1995 for an indefinite period of time,
- (3) *Underscoring* the gravity of nuclear tests and their harmful effects on the natural environment,
- (4) *Stressing* the importance of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) adopted by the United Nations and opened for signature on 24 September 1996,
- (5) *Emphasising* the need to achieve agreement on banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices,
- (6) *Recalling* the most recent resolutions of the Inter-Parliamentary Union on disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, in particular those adopted by the 94th (Bucharest, 1995), 91st (Paris, 1994) and 89th (New Delhi, 1993) Inter-Parliamentary Conferences,
- (7) *Convinced* of the imperative need to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction,

- (8) *Guided by a sense of responsibility towards the fate of humanity,*
- A. Nuclear Non-Proliferation
1. *Urges* all States which have not yet done so to sign and become parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT);
 2. *Appeals* to the parties to the NPT to fully implement the decision of the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference on Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament;
 3. *Urges* universal application of the comprehensive nuclear safeguards administered by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and adherence to the 1997 Additional Protocol strengthening the existing safeguards;
 4. *Calls* for the strengthening of controls in order to prevent transfers of nuclear weapon-usable material and equipment, while promoting international co-operation for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy by the parties to the NPT;
- B. Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty
5. *Calls* for the cessation of all nuclear-weapon tests and for the signature and ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) by all States;
 6. *Calls on* governments of the ratifying States to request the UN Secretary-General to convene a conference, prior to the 2000 NPT Review Conference, in accordance with Article XIV(2) of the CTBT, in order "... to facilitate the early entry into force of the Treaty";
 7. *Considers* it important to reach an agreement on the closure and abolition of all nuclear test sites;
- C. "Cut-Off" Treaty
8. *Calls* for the commencement and early conclusion of negotiations on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices ("cut-off" treaty), on the basis of the report of the Special Coordinator of the Conference on Disarmament and the mandate contained therein;
- D. Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones
9. *Welcomes* the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones in different regions of the world as an important step in achieving the objective of a nuclear-weapon-free world;
 10. *Supports* the existing nuclear-weapon-free zones in Latin America, the South Pacific, Africa and South-East Asia;
 11. *Calls* for the completion of the negotiations for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia;

12. *Also calls* for the elimination of nuclear weapons and for negotiations with a view to establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East;
13. *Further calls* for negotiations with a view to establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central and Eastern Europe;
14. *Lastly calls* for negotiations with a view to establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones in other parts of the world where no such zones exist;
15. *Calls on* all countries possessing nuclear weapons to respect the status of nuclear-weapon-free zones;

E. Non-Proliferation of Missiles

16. *Calls* for the strengthening of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in order to reduce the danger of proliferation of missiles capable of carrying weapons of mass destruction;

F. Nuclear Disarmament

17. *Urges* the acceleration of the nuclear disarmament process, as required by Article VI of the NPT, the decisions of the NPT Review and Extension Conference, and the 1996 Opinion of the International Court of Justice;
18. *Acknowledges* the efforts made by the Russian Federation and the United States of America, within the framework of the START I and START II Treaties, to achieve drastic reductions of their nuclear arsenals; *appeals* to the Russian side to ratify the START II Treaty, and *also appeals* to both sides to begin negotiations shortly on a START III treaty;
19. *Calls* for negotiations on the reduction and eventual elimination of tactical nuclear weapons;
20. *Welcomes* the ongoing dismantlement of nuclear weapons, and *notes* the importance of the safe and effective management of the extracted fissile materials;
21. *Supports* the efforts to set up a forum within the Conference on Disarmament to identify and consider nuclear disarmament measures for multilateral negotiation;
22. *Calls* for the renunciation of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.



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Item 5

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**THE PROBLEM OF METROPOLITAN AREAS: A GLOBAL CHALLENGE TO WHICH
PARLIAMENTARIANS MUST RESPOND IN TERMS OF URBAN CIVILISATION AND DEMOCRACY**

*Draft resolution adopted without a vote by the Committee on
Education, Science, Culture and Environment*

Rapporteur: Mr. L. Goovaerts (Belgium)

The 101st Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

- (1) *Aware* that due to the mushrooming of cities and the steady pace of population growth, half of the world's population will be living in urban areas by the start of the third millennium,
- (2) *Mindful* that cities are a driving force behind the overall economic and social progress of nations and that, as society has evolved, urbanisation has made it possible to improve the quality of life of a large proportion of the population by facilitating access to education, social services and health care for all citizens, especially children, as well as participation in cultural, political and religious life,
- (3) *Convinced* that the potential for progress of metropolitan areas can be exploited fully only if lasting solutions are found to the serious problems caused by the concentration of population and activities specific to large cities, the most significant of which are:
 - the shortage of housing and the inadequate nature of some existing housing;
 - environmental pollution in and around urban areas;
 - the lack or shortage of water resources or water-treatment facilities;
 - the deterioration of buildings and the architectural heritage;
 - the inadequacy of infrastructures;
 - the high unemployment rate;

- the insufficiency of basic social services, particularly childcare and care for the elderly, and of access to education and health care for all citizens, especially children;
- traffic congestion;
- problems linked to the ageing population;
- food insecurity;
- lack of financial resources for local authorities to meet their obligations;
- the rising crime rate;
- prostitution, sexual exploitation of children and drug abuse;
- heightened vulnerability to natural and man-made disasters;

(4) *Perturbed by:*

- the insufficient participation of women in political decision-making, particularly in local government, which means that decisions are taken without reference to women's needs,
- the fact that employed women are still frequently relegated to inferior jobs and are not paid equitably, that many women face harassment in the workplace, and that economic restructuring has had a profound impact on women's employment in many countries,
- the knowledge that women still carry most of the burden of housekeeping and family care, yet social programmes are not adapted to the dual role of women as paid workers and home-makers,
- the barriers faced by unemployed women, including lack of education and training, discrimination in hiring practices, and lack of access to credit to create their own businesses,

(5) *Deeply concerned* that all these problems primarily affect the poor and vulnerable social groups (the elderly, women, children, people with disabilities) while posing an ongoing threat to the life of all inhabitants of large cities, regardless of their social category,

(6) *Aware* that the developing countries, where the majority of the large cities on the planet are located, are the first to suffer from the negative effects of urbanisation, the cause of which is rural exodus rather than population growth rates, but *mindful* that the developed countries also face major, albeit different, difficulties linked with megacities,

(7) *Concerned* that the faster pace of the "urbanisation" of poverty and the ever growing gap between rich and poor in large cities jeopardise solidarity, accentuate the danger that part of the urban population will be alienated and marginalised, resulting in social segregation,

(8) *Preoccupied* by the increase, in recent years, of conflicts and wars which have led and are leading to the destruction of the housing and settlements of millions of people throughout the world,

(9) *Recalling* the support which the Inter-Parliamentary Union has provided with regard to following up the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, June 1992), the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, September 1994), the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, March 1995), the 4th World Conference on Women (Beijing, September 1995), and the World Food Summit (Rome, November 1996),

(10) *Recalling especially* the contribution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the preparation of the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Istanbul, June 1996), which addressed the problems of human settlements in general and large cities in particular, and the Union's action to promote the implementation, at national and international level, of the commitments and decisions adopted at this conference,

(11) *Recalling also* that the resolution entitled "Parliamentary Support to the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)", adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Council on the occasion of its 158th session (Istanbul, 20 April 1996), especially operative paragraph 4, points out that many of the human settlement problems will require legislative action and that the participation of national parliaments and their members in the implementation of the Habitat II commitments will therefore be vitally important;

(12) *Expressing appreciation* for the activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) carried out in co-operation with its partners in the UN system, with a view to promoting urban areas which are more productive, more equitable and more sustainable, in the spirit of the Habitat Agenda,

1. *Urges* national Parliaments to:

- (a) promote full awareness of the positive role that cities play in the world as a source of social, economic, cultural and political development and, hence, of their importance to the sustainable overall development of human society;
- (b) contribute, through appropriate legislative measures, to strengthening the institutional and financial capacity of governments to put into practice the commitments of the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and to monitor the way in which these commitments are applied at the national level;
- (c) when dealing with food insecurity, support the FAO Special Programme for Food Security which, *inter alia*, focuses on urban and peri-urban food production problems and addresses the bottlenecks associated with food supply and distribution systems;
- (d) adopt, improve and supplement national legislation to create conditions conducive to sustainable urban development, by undertaking in particular to:

- meet the need, in both the industrial and developing countries, for stronger local self-administration, systematic application of the principle of subsidiarity, increased deconcentration and decentralisation of responsibility, for the corresponding financial and personnel resources, and for greater participation by the people;
 - encourage the national private sector to invest in and contribute to solving the problems of large cities, and encourage its participation on a priority basis in urgent activities, such as the construction and improvement of housing and infrastructure, the management of household and industrial waste, the provision of adequate good-quality water, job creation, the delivery of basic services, etc.;
 - create a favourable and stable climate for foreign investment, especially in the developing countries, based on a balanced complementarity between the rural world and cities;
 - reinforce legislative measures to prevent and curb crime, prostitution, sexual exploitation of children and drug abuse, all of which are problems associated with urban areas;
 - ensure a healthy environment in and around large cities by preventing activities harmful to the environment, supporting public bodies and associations involved in the protection of the environment, and increasing financial and technical resources for the preservation of the environment;
 - promote measures for the conservation and restoration of the architectural heritage of cities, so as to preserve the identity and protect the spiritual and cultural particularities of each people;
 - revitalise urban social services, especially health care and education;
- (e) allocate to all levels of government, including local, the budgetary resources needed for sustainable urban development;
- (f) adopt the necessary legislative measures and allocate the necessary budgetary resources for the economic, social and cultural progress of rural areas, thereby helping to narrow the gap between cities and villages, balance rural-urban migration and thus prevent the overpopulation of large cities;
- (g) take into consideration, in the legislative process, women's role in and contribution to the life of large cities, and the need to promote real partnership between men and women in the framing and implementation of urban development policies, by seeing to it that the principle of equal opportunity is applied; and recognise the particular needs of urban women by:

- taking steps to increase the number of women involved in political decision-making and particularly in local government, whether as observers or as elected officials;
 - enacting specific legislation to encourage equality, end discrimination against women and in particular ensure equal pay for equal work;
 - changing specific laws and business practices that discriminate against women, including laws on inheritance, land tenure and housing allocation;
 - ensuring that credit is available to women, whether through dedicated funds or through the private sector;
 - addressing the safety and security of urban women, both in the design of cities and in the provision of safe havens for women who are victims of violence;
- (h) create or improve the legal framework for the protection of all underprivileged and vulnerable social groups living in large cities, *inter alia* by:
- preventing them from falling foul of discrimination or marginalisation;
 - facilitating their access to decent housing, employment, education, health care, basic social services, infrastructures, etc.;
 - encouraging them to participate actively in the framing of urban development policies;
- (i) contribute to the creation of an environment conducive to the development of co-operation between States, their urban players and the competent regional and world bodies, with a view to achieving the goals of the Habitat Agenda as soon as possible;
- (j) encourage the strengthening of technical and financial assistance to benefit large cities in developing countries;
2. *Calls on parliamentarians to:*
- (a) see to the systematic application of the principles of good governance, in order to ensure the transparency, accountability, effectiveness and participatory nature of the management and administration of large cities, as prerequisites for their sustainable development;
 - (b) facilitate contacts and dialogue between citizens, local authorities and competent national bodies, with a view to solving the difficulties faced by urban communities;
 - (c) promote partnerships involving all committed and concerned players - private sector, local authorities, civil society, including NGOs, government,

and also regional and international organisations - in the framing and implementation of sustainable development strategies of large cities;

- (d) encourage exchanges of information, experience and know-how between local authorities at national and international level;
 - (e) promote the introduction of national and local systems for the collection, processing and utilisation of data pertaining to urban conditions and trends, as a basis for coherent strategies and programmes for the sustainable development of large cities;
 - (f) commit themselves to sustainable development in urban areas by encouraging: sustainable patterns of production, consumption, transportation and settlement; pollution prevention; respect for the carrying capacity of ecosystems; and the preservation of opportunities for future generations;
3. *Urges* the industrialised nations to endeavour to allocate 0.7% of their GNP to development aid, as recommended by the United Nations and endorsed in the Brasilia Plan of Action adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union; and *invites* international financial institutions, the private sector and bilateral and multilateral aid organisations to contribute additional resources to consolidate national efforts to solve the problems of big cities;
 4. *Urges* national parliaments and parliamentarians to use all the mechanisms of parliamentary diplomacy to promote peace and stability, to eliminate hotbeds of conflict and to work towards a speedy end to current conflicts, thereby reducing the risk of loss of human life, the obliteration of historical and cultural values, and the deterioration of the environment and the architectural heritage in urban centres;
 5. *Recommends* that the Inter-Parliamentary Union and national parliaments support the activities of the UN Centre for Human Settlements and contribute more to the activities and programmes of the United Nations and its bodies operating in the field of sustainable development.



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Item 7

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WRITING OFF THE GOVERNMENT DEBT OF HEAVILY INDEBTED
POOR COUNTRIES (HIPCs)

*Draft resolution adopted without a vote by the Committee
on Economic and Social Questions*

Rapporteur: Mr. M.G.P. Lekota (South Africa)

The 101st Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

- (1) *Acknowledging and appreciating* the HIPC initiative launched by major donor countries, through the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to provide debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries,
- (2) *Concerned* at the slow and limited implementation of the initiative,
- (3) *Deeply concerned* that several poor countries cannot service their foreign debts,
- (4) *Also deeply concerned* that the burden of debt inhibits and in some cases totally prevents economic growth and the delivery of vital socio-economic services in these countries,
- (5) *Aware* that the stranglehold of poverty is a source of instability and conflict within countries and regions, making world peace difficult to attain,
- (6) *Distressed* at the abject poverty and deprivation of many communities and the impact this has on the lives of their members, in particular the most vulnerable (women, children and the elderly),
- (7) *Aware* that in many cases the debt burden of poor countries has been inherited from historical conditions of colonialism and foreign domination, and *further aware* of the problem of corruption existing in some debtor and creditor countries,

(8) *Recognising* the urgency of the issue, as evidenced by the high-level attention currently being devoted to the problem of HIPC's by donor governments, parliaments, multilateral institutions and citizens' groups world-wide,

(9) *Welcoming* the efforts of debtor countries, despite the short-term social impact often involved, to pursue economic reform, stabilisation and structural adjustment programmes,

(10) *Recalling* the relevant provisions of past IPU resolutions, notably the resolution on the "Need for a radical solution to the problem of debt in the developing world", adopted in Stockholm in September 1992, and the resolution on "Foreign debt as a factor limiting the integration of the Third World countries into the process of globalisation", adopted in Windhoek in April 1998,

1. *Urges* the creditor countries to commit themselves in principle to writing off the public debt of HIPC's in the shortest possible time;
2. *Calls on* both creditor and debtor nations to convene a meeting of heads of government for the purpose of accelerating debt forgiveness;
3. *Recommends* that the eligibility criteria for debt relief under the HIPC initiative be broadened to include other poor or vulnerable economies facing unsustainable debt burdens;
4. *Urges* debtor countries to perform in accordance with good governance, introducing transparent and accountable mechanisms of control in order to ensure that the benefits of debt relief result in the socio-economic development of their peoples;
5. *Recommends* that debt relief should be achieved without jeopardising the economies of other nations or the stability of the world's financial markets;
6. *Requests* the IPU Secretary General to transmit this resolution to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and to explore with them possibilities for future co-operation;
7. *Urges* the IPU Committee for Sustainable Development to monitor the follow-up of the present resolution and to report yearly to the Inter-Parliamentary Council.