



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

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Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

We are pleased to share with you the Results of the 143rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Related Meetings, held in Madrid, Spain, from 26 to 30 November 2021.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Madrid Assembly was the first IPU Assembly held in-person in more than two years. In spite of the ongoing constraints, we were able to convene this event. We can all be proud of what we were able to achieve in terms of the level of participation, the quality of the deliberations and the substance of the outcomes. Over the course of the Assembly, some 950 delegates – including 39 Speakers of Parliament – from close to 120 countries and a variety of partner organizations, addressed several issues that are high on the international agenda.

The General Debate centred on the theme *Contemporary challenges to democracy: Overcoming division and building community*. Member Parliaments adopted the Madrid Declaration, which calls for parliamentarians to take a new approach to politics by showing true leadership in times of crisis, working to counter polarization, disinformation and hate speech, and behaving in a respectful and inclusive manner, with the overall aim of reconnecting people with their democratic institutions.

In an impressive show of solidarity, parliamentarians from around the world rallied around an emergency resolution entitled *Harnessing global parliamentary support for vaccine equity in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic*. The resolution recognizes that “vaccination is part of a comprehensive strategy to reduce transmission and save lives and is among the most important tools in the fight against the pandemic”. It also emphasized the principle of equity, whereby “each person must be vaccinated in accordance with their level of risk and needs”.

The Assembly adopted a resolution prepared by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights on *Legislation worldwide to combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse*. In the context of the ongoing pandemic, the scourge of online abuse is becoming particularly dramatic, and all parliaments are called upon to take resolute action in combatting this phenomenon.

The Governing Council adopted a number of decisions regarding violations of the human rights of parliamentarians. As highlighted in the IPU statement issued recently in the context of Human Rights Day, we are witnessing a record number of persecuted MPs worldwide, against the backdrop of political instability and a retreat in the observance of democratic principles and practices. Parliamentary solidarity is sorely needed to defend the right of all MPs to do their job safely and freely.

The Governing Council also unanimously adopted the new IPU Strategy for 2022-2026, the result of an extensive year-long Member-driven consultation process. The Strategy sets out five strategic objectives reflecting how the IPU makes positive change in the world, and four priority policy areas. It also places special emphasis on inclusion, resilience and accountability.

The attached publication contains a summary of the work carried out by the various IPU bodies, as well as the resolutions, decisions and other outcome documents adopted during a very vibrant and substantive Assembly in Madrid.

We very much hope that the main decisions and recommendations that emerged from the Assembly will be useful for your work in Parliament. We kindly request that these be circulated within your Parliament so that it may, as statutorily required, consider the measures for their implementation, through a variety of parliamentary initiatives or as inspiration for comprehensive legislation.

We look forward to hearing from you on the follow-up measures taken.

Yours sincerely,



Duarte Pacheco  
President



Martin Chungong  
Secretary General