

Parliamentary Strategies to Mitigate the Long-Lasting Impact of Conflicts, Including Armed Conflicts, on Sustainable Development

(Standing Committee on Sustainable Development)

The 150th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling the IPU's long-held position, expressed through many previous resolutions, that there cannot be peace without sustainable development and that there cannot be sustainable development without peace, and underlining the IPU's prominent role in condemning acts of aggression and human rights violations in recent years,

Concerned that conflicts, particularly armed conflicts, hinder progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), profoundly disrupt the environment, economic growth and the lives of millions globally, and have devastating effects on communities, and especially on women, children, and marginalized or vulnerable groups,

Concerned also about the complex interactions between, and the potential mutual reinforcement of, conflict, poverty, environmental degradation and injustice, and about the long-term effects of conflicts on civilian populations, communities, livelihoods, the environment and economies, which can extend across decades and even generations,

Noting that such long-term effects include poverty, hunger, forced displacement, environmental damage, and the destruction of civilian infrastructure – such as hospitals, schools, energy facilities, ports and dams – that enables the delivery of healthcare, education, energy, security and other essential services,

Recognizing that the destruction of ecosystems during armed conflicts has severe and long-term consequences for human security, biodiversity, climate stability and sustainable development, and that there is currently no international legal framework to hold aggressors accountable for such destruction, including for indirect environmental degradation resulting from the use of military force,

Recalling the urgent need for comprehensive and robust strategies to address conflicts and to protect sustainable development during such conflicts,

Emphasizing the important role played by parliaments in: addressing conflicts; mitigating their negative effects on sustainable development; promoting peace and stability through inclusive governance; strengthening the rule of law and good governance; fostering economic development; ensuring gender equality and human rights protections, particularly for women, children, and marginalized and vulnerable groups; and promoting inclusive decision-making processes,

Emphasizing also that IPU Assemblies – as places for parliamentarians, policymakers and strategists from around the world to come together to discuss the most pressing topics in the political sphere, and to engage in strategic capacity-building and regional cooperation on matters including peace and international security, risk management, and sustainable development – serve as vital platforms for international rapprochement and inclusivity, and as effective forums for mitigating and reducing conflicts through multilateralism and respect for the international rules-based order,

Highlighting the importance of multilateral partnerships, and of strong and impactful alliances, between parliaments globally in light of the conflicts and challenges the world is witnessing, all of which require more effective actions in order to provide a safe and prosperous environment for the benefit of countries, peoples and the future of the world as a whole,

Stressing that the achievement of the collective interests of all nations, and of progress on our shared commitment to sustainable development, peace and security, is dependent upon comprehensive support for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and upon the mitigation of tensions through: stronger compliance with international humanitarian law, including the right of prisoners of war to humane treatment; adherence to the principles of State sovereignty while upholding human rights and other international legal obligations; efforts to promote a culture of peace, tolerance and coexistence; renewed multilateral cooperation frameworks; and the development of new sustainable and resilient energy security policies,

Recognizing that the disappearance of persons has a profound impact on their families and societies, and that it hinders development, community cohesion and peacebuilding, and recalling the IPU resolution Missing persons, adopted at the 115th IPU Assembly,

Reaffirming the critical role of parliamentary diplomacy in supporting all efforts aimed at addressing conflicts, including by urging parties to such conflicts to engage in dialogue and seek peaceful solutions,

Underlining the importance of parliamentary collaboration with international and regional organizations, especially the United Nations, in order to strengthen global efforts aimed at achieving peace and mutual understanding, and emphasizing that reform of the global governance system, including of the United Nations, is essential to ensure that international organizations are effective and representative, and that the right to veto is not abused by States acting in violation of international law,

Stressing the need to: protect civilian infrastructure in conflicts, allowing humanitarian efforts to be delivered in line with humanitarian and environmental principles, and in accordance with the provisions of international humanitarian law; ensure respect for, and the protection of, all civilians and humanitarian personnel in armed conflicts, again in accordance with the provisions of international humanitarian law and as notably reiterated by UN Security Council resolution 2730 (2024); and ensure that services such as healthcare, education, food, water and energy remain accessible and uninterrupted during conflict,

Affirming the need for cooperation with development partners in order to ensure the continuity of humanitarian services in areas affected by conflicts, and for rapid response to the needs of populations in conflict situations, including consideration of strategies for reconstruction and emergency preparedness, and emphasizing the importance of removing any obstacles, including those of a political, bureaucratic or logistical nature, that hinder the timely provision of aid,

Affirming also that the achievement of security is not limited to conflict prevention but also requires the building of sustainable, equitable, inclusive and safe societies, which in turn contributes to the long-term stability and sustainable development of countries, in line with the objectives of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing the essential role of parliaments, where they exist, in promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and in providing access to justice for all,

Recognizing also that parliaments play a crucial role in developing and strengthening accountable, transparent and inclusive institutions at all levels, including in the security and justice sector, and in fostering the equitable representation of underrepresented groups in decision-making processes,

Recalling UN Security Council resolution 2553 (2020), which stresses the importance of reforming the security sector in post-conflict environments in order to prevent countries from relapsing into conflict, and which further stresses that a professional, effective and accountable security sector, and accessible and impartial law-enforcement and justice sectors, are equally necessary in laying the foundations for peace and sustainable development, and emphasizing the need for parliaments to support the implementation of international arms control treaties such as the Arms Trade Treaty, which aims to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and to prevent their diversion to the illicit market, or for unauthorized end use and end users, including in the commission of terrorist acts,

Recalling also the Pact for the Future (UN General Assembly resolution 79/1, 2024), which called on States to redouble efforts to significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere,

Reaffirming the importance of promoting the full integration of a gender perspective in peace and security initiatives, including through the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security, as well as subsequent resolutions on the matter, by strengthening the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women and girls in conflict prevention and resolution,

Conscious that, through their security sector oversight role, parliaments can play a crucial role in preventing the onset or recurrence of conflicts, thus mitigating their impact on sustainable development,

Stressing the need to reform the United Nations Security Council to ensure wider representation and fairness in international decision-making, and believing that a balance in the membership of, and powers within, the United Nations Security Council is necessary to strengthen its role in achieving peace and international security,

1. Affirms that the implementation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as a basis for peace and sustainable development, contributes to reducing conflicts, to mitigating the humanitarian impact of such conflicts, and to improving the political environment;
2. Encourages parliaments to promote democracy, the rule of law, human rights and environmental rights as fundamental principles and as a basis for strengthening peace and stability, and emphasizes the importance of climate and environmental justice and sustainability, ensuring the participation of all segments of society, including women, youth and marginalized or vulnerable groups, in political, social and environmental decision-making processes;
3. Calls upon parliaments to intensify their efforts to promote dialogue, reconciliation, understanding and peaceful dispute resolution between conflicting

parties, and to work towards comprehensive and sustainable solutions to ongoing conflicts, with the meaningful participation of all affected stakeholders;

4. Also calls upon parliaments to support humanitarian and development efforts to meet the needs of populations affected by conflicts and humanitarian crises, and to promote economic, environmental and social stability in affected areas, including the provision of basic services such as education, healthcare, food, water, electricity and sanitation;
5. Insists on the importance of parliamentarians' oversight, budgetary and legislative roles in pursuing sustainable development, in monitoring government policies and programmes related to security, peace and development, and in ensuring the fair representation of citizens, with particular attention paid to marginalized groups, while promoting transparency and accountability in decision-making;
6. Urges parliaments to exercise their oversight role in order to ensure the effectiveness of humanitarian and development assistance aimed at stemming reversals in the achievement of the SDGs in areas affected by conflicts and humanitarian crises;
7. Calls for enhanced cooperation between national parliaments, regional and international organizations, and civil society organizations in promoting joint efforts to strengthen support strategies for communities affected by conflicts;
8. Also calls for the strengthening of partnerships between the public and private sectors, civil society organizations and civil society in order to ensure the achievement of the SDGs in areas affected by conflicts;
9. Calls upon parliaments to consider the intersection of political, economic, social and environmental dimensions, including climate resilience measures and sustainable resource management, when developing strategies to mitigate the impact of conflicts on sustainable development;
10. Insists on the importance of encouraging and promoting dialogue and coexistence between parties to conflicts based on the principles of international law, including respect for internationally recognized borders, as a means of working towards peaceful and constructive dispute resolution;
11. Also insists on the importance of restoring sustainable development in post-conflict environments based on scientific data and evidence;
12. Further insists on the importance of strengthening education systems in order to spread awareness of the values of peace, tolerance and peaceful conflict resolution, and to promote a culture of peace and non-violence in society;
13. Stresses the need to foster a culture and awareness of human rights, sustainable development and environmental considerations in societies affected by conflicts, and on the need to ensure that such rights and considerations are part of any peacebuilding or sustainable development process;

14. Calls upon parliaments to support the development of legal frameworks addressing environmental harm in armed conflicts, including the establishment of ecocide as an international crime to ensure individual accountability, and encourages continued efforts to refine legal definitions and accountability mechanisms, both nationally and internationally, covering both individual liability and State responsibility;
15. Also calls upon parliaments to promote legal measures that ensure accountability for environmental harm directly resulting from the crime of aggression, recognizing that such damage would not have occurred but for the initiation of hostilities, and addressing both immediate and long-term environmental destruction, including forms of slow violence, within post-conflict justice frameworks;
16. Welcomes advanced parliamentary practices that play an important role in promoting dialogue and understanding, and in achieving peace, in communities affected by conflicts;
17. Calls upon parliaments to strengthen coordination with humanitarian and development organizations, to ensure that States grant international humanitarian organizations unhindered access to occupied territories, and to agree on clear safeguards to protect water, energy and crops, which are essential for human development and for the welfare and food security of nations of the world, as well as other humanitarian and civilian infrastructure in areas affected by conflicts, in line with international humanitarian law;
18. Insists that climate change and security are inseparable elements in achieving sustainable development and ensuring lasting peace, and calls for the development of integrated strategies to reduce the effects of climate change on areas affected by conflicts;
19. Calls for the implementation of comprehensive strategies to promote peace and stability on the basis of national reconciliation, and for the promotion of inclusive governance approaches that prevent marginalization, and foster social and political harmony, in the aftermath of conflicts;
20. Encourages parliaments to play a key role in preventing disappearances, in clarifying the fate of missing persons and in assisting their families, in particular by adopting domestic legislation on missing persons, by establishing adequate mechanisms to prevent, resolve and address disappearances, and by strengthening cooperation, both nationally and internationally;
21. Insists on the importance of incorporating humanitarian exemptions into sanctions regimes, in line with the precedent set by UN Security Council resolution 2664 (2022), as an important means of ensuring that humanitarian action is not impeded by the unintended impact of sanctions, as well as on the importance of ensuring that mechanisms are in place to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of such exemptions, thus helping to ensure continuity of access to essential services for the civilian population and to stem reversals in the achievement of the SDGs, and emphasizes the need for full compliance with sanctions regimes imposed on States for violations of international law in order to

bring conflicts to an end and to minimize their impact on sustainable development;

22. Calls for the strengthening of an existing global commission, such as the United Nations Mediation Support Unit, which comprises relevant experts, with a mandate to work towards a ceasefire, based on international law and leading to lasting and just peace, in countries affected by conflicts, and to ensure the implementation of the SDGs in conflict-affected areas, with a focus on addressing the root causes of such conflicts and developing innovative mediation approaches;
23. Recommends the establishment of an international compensation mechanism, ensuring that aggressors bear financial responsibility for ecological restoration in conflict-affected areas, stresses that this does not absolve the international community of its responsibility to engage in reconstruction efforts, and calls for the integration of environmental peacebuilding and transitional justice principles into all post-conflict recovery frameworks to ensure sustainable and just rehabilitation processes;
24. Encourages parliaments to periodically review national legislation to ensure its compatibility with the urgent and other needs of communities affected by conflicts, and to focus in particular on updating legislation that protects human rights and the environment in such situations;
25. Calls for the strengthening of partnerships between national parliaments and international and regional organizations with a view to exploring innovative solutions to restore sustainable development in countries affected by conflicts, while ensuring that civilian infrastructure is rebuilt in such a manner that it is resilient and better suited to both pre-existing and post-conflict challenges;
26. Also calls for the funding of post-war reconstruction through, inter alia, compensation provided by States whose unlawful actions have caused destruction, and calls upon the international community to consider alternative ways to ensure appropriate compensation should such States refuse to fulfil their obligation to provide compensation, including by redirecting the assets of such States for recovery purposes;
27. Further calls for parliaments to play a stronger role in the inclusive and equitable distribution of resources in areas affected by conflicts, in supporting reconstruction programmes in line with the principle of environmental and social sustainability, and in ensuring that marginalized or vulnerable groups benefit from such programmes and are not left behind;
28. Calls for the rapid restoration, in an inclusive and equitable manner, of essential services during early recovery and reconstruction following conflicts, while building back better and providing more resilient essential services to the civilian population, in line with UN Security Council resolution 2573 (2021);
29. Encourages parliaments to develop a sound legal framework for democratic oversight of the security sector, and to ensure that such a framework is compatible with international laws, norms and standards, including the Charter of the United

Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

30. Calls upon parliaments to exercise their budgetary function, with transparency and accountability, to challenge, question, cancel or adjust the resources allocated to security, and to demand that the security sector meet high standards of accountability and effectiveness in accordance with domestic laws and regulations;
31. Also calls upon parliaments to exercise their oversight function to verify whether security-related laws and policies are being implemented effectively and are having the intended effect, and whether resources allocated to the security sector are being used efficiently;
32. Recommends that parliaments exercise their representative function to facilitate political consensus on security issues through dialogue and transparency, and to ensure that all citizens, including marginalized and vulnerable groups, are always represented in the best possible way in the decision-making process.