

Agenda Item 26: Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Statement by Mr. Kamallesh Sharma, PR on November 8, 2000

Mr. President,

I have the honour of introducing the draft resolution contained in document A/55/L.20 and Add.1, on Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The text of the draft resolution has been jointly prepared by members of the Executive Committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union itself, and I hope that it can be adopted by consensus, as in the previous years, specially at this juncture, when we constantly seek to imbue our work with that much sought after entity, political will, which obviously resides in parliaments.

The report prepared by the Secretary General (A/55/409) highlights the intensification of cooperation between the United Nations and the IPU, in several areas of concern to the international community. Apart from describing the actions taken by the IPU to support and complement the work of the United Nations, it "demonstrates the potential for greater contribution by national parliaments through IPU, to the work of the United Nations, and to disseminating and understanding of that work and ensuring the requisite follow-up". These sentiments are fully reciprocated by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the final declaration entitled "The Parliamentary Vision for International Cooperation at the Dawn of the Third Millennium" adopted by consensus at the Conference of the Presiding Officers of National Parliaments, organised by the IPU in cooperation with the UN at New York from 30th August to 1st September, 2000, pledged the commitment of speakers and the presiding officers to "international cooperation with a stronger United Nations at its core". The Millennium Declaration adopted by our Heads of States and Government also identified the need to further strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organisation, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in various fields, including peace and security, economic and social development, international law and human rights and democracy and gender issues. We, therefore, fully share the Secretary General's hope that "the increasingly close and productive relationship between the United Nations and the IPU would soon be recognised through a new, strengthened, and formalised relationship between the IPU and the General Assembly."

Mr. President,

Substantially, the concerns of the United Nations and the IPU are common: equitable economic growth, the achievement of international peace and security, democracy, respect for human rights, sustainable development and social progress. There is an essential similarity in approach, convergence of actions and, most importantly, a congruence of the objectives of the two organisations. It is for this reason that the resolution in its preambular part, having recalled Resolution 54/12 of 27 October, 1999, and having considered the report of the Secretary General (A/55/409), notes with appreciation the Resolutions adopted and the activities carried out by the Inter-Parliamentary Union during the past year in support of the United Nations. It furthermore welcomes the unanimous adoption of the Declaration "The Parliamentary Vision of International Cooperation on the eve of the Third Millennium" at the Conference of the Presiding Officers of National Parliaments and recalls with satisfaction the United Nations Millennium Declaration which contains the resolve of the member States to further strengthen cooperation between the UN and the national parliaments through their world organisation, the Inter-Parliamentary Union. It also recalls the unique inter-State character of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. In its operative part, the resolution welcomes the efforts of the IPU to provide for greater parliamentary contribution and enhanced support to the UN and calls for further consolidation of cooperation between the two organisations. The second operative paragraph as originally drafted requested the Secretary General, in the true spirit of transparency and openness

characterising all democracies, to explore ways, in consultation with the member States and the IPU, in which a new and formalised relationship, as recommended by the Secretary General, might be established between the IPU, the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs, and to report thereon to the General Assembly by May next year. However, in order to achieve consensus on the text, it has been decided to change one word in this operative paragraph 2, namely, the word “formalised” which would be replaced by the word “strengthened”. In operative paragraph 3, the resolution requests the Secretary General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its 56th Session on various aspects of cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the last operative paragraph decides to include the item entitled ‘Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union’ in the provisional agenda of the 56th Session of the UN General Assembly.

In conclusion, given the fact that the draft resolution that I have just introduced has no financial implications for the programme budget, and in view of the resolve of our Heads of State and Government expressed at the Millennium Summit, as also the desire of the Speakers and the Presiding Officers of national parliaments, to strengthen cooperation between IPU and the UN, I wish to propose on behalf of all co-sponsors that the resolution be adopted by consensus.