

Agenda Item 21(f): Cooperation Between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union Statement by Mr. Bhagwant S. Bishnoi, Counsellor on December 6, 2001

Mr. President,

The need for cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union is more real now than it has ever been before. Durable solutions for the enormous range of challenges and problems that most societies face require the promotion of democracy, of tolerance and of respect for diversity. It is those who overthrow these principles, who also seek to strike at societies which uphold them as their highest goals. The Inter-Parliamentary Union, through its commitment to the Universal Declaration of Democracy and to the promotion of pluralistic systems of representative government, can be an important ally of the United Nations in facing up to the challenges which confronts the world community today.

2. We are, indeed, gratified that the Secretary General's report reflects growing and mutually beneficial cooperation between the UN and the IPU. The concerns of both organisations are common. These are democracy, respect for human rights, equitable economic growth, sustainable development, social progress and the achievement of international peace and security. There is, given this, much that the UN and the IPU can bring to each other. Parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union can be a bridge between the global and the local. By mobilising public opinion, they can contribute to forging national support for international cooperation.

3. On behalf of the co-sponsors, it is an honour for me to introduce the draft resolution A/56/L.35 on "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union". In addition to the delegations listed in L.35, the following delegations have joined as co-sponsors:

Algeria, Andorra, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Georgia, Ghana, Indonesia, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Senegal, Slovakia, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Zambia.

4. The operative part of the resolution welcomes the on-going efforts to explore ways in which a new and strengthened relationship may be established between the UN and the IPU and encourages member States to continue their consultations. It also welcomes the efforts by the IPU to provide parliamentary contribution and enhanced support to the UN and calls for such cooperation to be consolidated further. It is our hope, Mr. President, that the resolution can, as in previous years, be adopted by consensus.