



## **Cooperation Agreement Between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union**

*The United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union,*

*Considering* the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations calling, *inter alia*, for the promotion of international cooperation in solving problems of a political, economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms,

*Considering* that “the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Transforming our World” is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity and seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom; mindful that all countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan and take the bold and transformative steps; and determined to work tirelessly to support the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030,

*Bearing in mind* that, in accordance with the Charter, the United Nations is the principal organization dealing with matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security and acts as a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of the goals set out in the Charter,

*Considering* that the Inter-Parliamentary Union (hereinafter "IPU"), as the world organization of parliaments, shares the principles and objectives of the Charter, and that its activities complement and support the work of the United Nations,

*Recognizing* in particular the important role played by IPU through its activities in promoting representative democracy, human rights and gender equality, as well as in promoting peace and sustainable development through political dialogue and parliamentary action,

*Considering* that the United Nations and the IPU concluded a Cooperation Agreement in 1996 and, by virtue of United Nations General Assembly resolution 57/32 of 19 November 2002, the IPU enjoys permanent observer status in the sessions and the work of the United Nations General Assembly and that the United Nations holds permanent observer status in the IPU,

*Considering* United Nations General Assembly resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, whereby the Heads of State and Government resolved to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the IPU, including in areas of peace and security, economic and social development, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction, international law, human rights, democracy and good governance, gender equality and youth engagement,



*Acknowledging* the importance of the United Nations and the IPU continuing to work closely together with a view to promoting the enhanced contribution of parliaments at the national level and the IPU at the global level in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Bearing in mind* United Nations General Assembly resolution 65/123 of 13 December 2010 which decided to more systematically engage with the IPU in organizing and integrating a parliamentary component of and contribution to major United Nations deliberative processes and the review of international commitments,

*Recalling* United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/272 of 19 May 2014 which invited Member States to further consider ways to work regularly with the IPU in facilitating a parliamentary component to major United Nations conferences and in more closely linking the annual parliamentary hearing at the United Nations to the main United Nations processes, so as to help to inform such deliberations from a parliamentary perspective,

*Taking note* of United Nations General Assembly resolution 63/24 of 18 November 2008 and resolution 68/272 which, inter alia, welcomes the growing practice of including legislators as members of national delegations to major United Nations meetings and events, as appropriate, and invites Member States to continue this practice in a more regular and systematic manner, and

*Recalling* the various resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly calling for greater cooperation with the IPU, in particular resolutions 66/261 of 29 May 2012 and 68/272 of 19 May 2014, which calls for a new cooperation agreement reflecting progress and developments over the years and establishment of a strategic partnership between the United Nations and the IPU,

*Have agreed* as follows:

## **Article I** **General**

1. The United Nations recognizes that the IPU, by virtue of its character and responsibilities, plays an important role in promoting peace and international cooperation in furtherance of and in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter.
2. The IPU recognizes the responsibilities of the United Nations under the Charter and undertakes to continue to support its activities in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter.



3. The United Nations and the IPU also agree that strengthening of cooperative relations between them will facilitate the effective exercise of their mutually complementary activities and, therefore, undertake to further those relations through the adoption of practical measures.

**Article II**  
**Cooperation and consultations**

1. The United Nations and the IPU shall cooperate closely and hold consultations as and when appropriate in pursuance of their respective mandates and for the realization of their shared objectives.

2. To this end, the United Nations and the IPU shall consider the appropriate framework for such consultations as and when appropriate.

3. The United Nations and the IPU agree to work closely together with a view to promoting a strong contribution of parliaments at the national level and the IPU at the international level to the implementation of international goals and commitments set by the United Nations, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Article III**  
**Appropriate representation**

1. Subject to the applicable rules of procedure, decisions and practices, the United Nations and the IPU may invite each other to participate as observers in meetings that fall within each other's purview of competence, activities and expertise.

2. Subject to the applicable rules of procedure and the decisions and practices of the Main Committees and subsidiary organs of the General Assembly, the IPU may be invited upon its request to participate in the meetings of such bodies when they consider a subject that falls within the purview of the IPU's competence, activities and expertise.

3. If the convening organ so decides, the IPU shall be invited to participate in the work of conferences convened under the auspices of the United Nations on subjects that fall within the competence, activities and expertise of the IPU.

**Article IV**  
**Joint action and technical cooperation**

1. Specific joint action and programmes may be initiated by the competent bodies of the United Nations and the IPU, with the overall intention to increase cooperation in the area of parliamentary development, and with respect to publications on issues of mutual interest.

2. In keeping with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 65/123 and 66/261, the IPU shall facilitate the development of closer cooperation between the United Nations and parliaments



at the national level, including in terms of strengthening parliamentary capacities, reinforcing the rule of law and helping to align national legislation with international commitments.

3. Within the framework of existing resolutions, the United Nations and the IPU may continue to cooperate closely in various fields, in particular peace and security, sustainable development, international law, human rights and democracy and gender issues. The IPU shall also work to support better mainstreaming of United Nations commitments and initiatives into the work of national parliaments and other regional and global parliamentary organizations.

4. The World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, organized by the IPU, may subject to approval by the General Assembly, be held at United Nations Headquarters on a full cost recovery basis.

#### **Article V** **Cooperation between the Secretariats**

The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary General of the IPU shall take appropriate measures to ensure effective cooperation and liaison between the two organizations.

#### **Article VI** **Exchange of information and documents**

1. The United Nations and the IPU shall arrange to the fullest extent possible and so far as is practicable for the exchange of information and documents in the public domain on matters of common interest.

2. Where appropriate and subject to the necessary requirements, information and documentation relating to specific projects, programmes or activities may also be exchanged between the parties with a view to attaining better complementary action and effective coordination between the United Nations and the IPU.

#### **Article VII** **Supplementary arrangements**

1. The Secretariat of the United Nations and the Secretariat of the IPU may, if necessary, enter into supplementary administrative arrangements for the implementation of the present agreement.

2. The IPU may enter into separate agreements with United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes.



**Article VIII**  
**Entry into force, amendments and duration**

1. This agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature by the duly authorized representatives of the two organizations.
2. This agreement may be amended by mutual consent of the United Nations and the IPU. The proposed amendment shall be made in writing and shall enter into force three months following the expression of consent by the United Nations and the IPU.
3. This agreement may be terminated by either the United Nations or the IPU providing a six-month written notice to the other signatory.

IN WITNESS THEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized representatives of the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, have signed the present agreement.

SIGNED this 21st day of July 2016 at New York in two originals in the English language.

For the Inter-Parliamentary Union:

Handwritten signature of Martin Chungong in blue ink.

Martin Chungong  
Secretary-General of the  
Inter-Parliamentary Union

For the United Nations:

Handwritten signature of Ban Ki-moon in blue ink.

Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary General of the  
United Nations