

Role of UNDP

Message of Vladimir Petrovsky
the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva
and Under-Secretary-General

Amman, Jordan
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Towards a Well-Managed Network of Cooperation

Distinguished Parliamentarians,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to address ^{*Interparl. Council*} ~~you once again~~. Today I would like to make a few remarks concerning the cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Since our last discussion of this issue in Berlin, the world organization of Parliaments and the UN have continued to complement each others efforts towards the achievement of an array of common objectives. ~~a well managed network of cooperation~~ ^{*and creation with this in*}

In his report to the 54th session of the General Assembly on "Cooperation between the UN and the IPU", the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, made clear how much he appreciated the activities carried out thus far by the IPU in support of UN actions in specific fields and looked forward to continued and close cooperation.

In light of the UN's increasing efforts to respond to "the peoples" who comprise the United Nations, the Secretary-General attaches great importance to a Parliamentary dimension of the Organization's work. He frequently ^{visits Parliaments} meets law-makers during his visits to different countries-- for example, he addressed the Italian Parliament in Rome last month-- and consistently works towards reinforcing cooperation between the UN and the IPU. The IPU's Geneva Headquarters and its now well-established IPU Liaison Office in NY, permit a continuous exchange of ideas with the major UN bodies located in both cities.

The SG of IPU involved in the working meet with heads of states and got a hand

The agreement of cooperation signed between the UN and the IPU in 1996 had been further consolidated by the IPU's signing of a similar agreement with the International Labor Organization (ILO) in May 1999 and a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of the UN High Commissioner For Human Rights in July of the same year. Again, both documents are intended as means to develop the well-managed network of cooperation.

The SG is very

~~The report has been~~ very much pleased with the recent and enhanced collaboration in many specific areas and the clear strengthening of institutional links between the two organizations.

First of all, I would like to note the progress made in preparation for the

Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments which is to be held at UN Headquarters from the 30 August to 1 September 2000, in conjunction with the Millennium Assembly. This Conference could be a major milestone in efforts made to enhance the peoples' understanding of and support to the UN through their elected representatives and in identifying ways of relaying UN decisions and recommendations more efficiently at the national political level for their effective follow-up. It is noteworthy that the Secretary-General has agreed to open a Conference of this nature and that the President of the General Assembly will also participate in the debate. This Conference is a welcome initiative that will enable an examination of the relationship between the IPU and the UN and hopefully proffer suggestions for the strengthening of the same.

Now, in regards to particular areas of cooperation the Secretary-General has mentioned the promotion of peace and security, as a domain in which the IPU had strengthened and reaffirmed the work of the UN. One of his top priorities also remains disarmament issues, (specifically encouragement of the signature and ratification of the CTBT), and the application of international humanitarian law, (specifically normative action to promote respect for the Geneva Conventions and support to the Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), and institution building . On another note in regards to disarmament, as the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, I cannot but express my deep satisfaction at the recent ratification of the START II by the

Russian Duma. This will undoubtedly have far-reaching effects both in the bi-lateral and multilateral negotiation processes in the field.

In terms of Human Rights, the above-mentioned Memorandum of Understanding is intended to enhance the impact of the respective activities of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the IPU. Areas of cooperation include ratification of the main human rights instruments; adoption of national plans of action; establishment and strengthening of independent institutions designed to promote and protect human rights; technical cooperation and preparation for the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance scheduled for 2001.

Promoting gender partnership is yet another area of common interest and increased cooperation. In close cooperation with the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and with the Division for the Advancement of Women of the UN Secretariat, IPU has conducted with its member parliaments a survey of the measures they have taken to give effect to the Beijing Platform For Action. Action has also been taken with a view to the holding of a tripartite meeting of representatives of Parliaments, Governments and international organizations on the occasion of the June 2000 Special Session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the 21st century" (Beijing plus 5), to generate increased synergy in

following up the commitments made by the States in Beijing.

One more area is the development of priority financing for development

In addition, IPU has contributed to the preparation of the UN Survey The World's Women 2000: Trends and Statistics, which will be presented to the General Assembly in June 2000, with a chapter on Women in Politics. IPU has also been particularly active in advocating the universal ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Much appreciation regarding a parliamentary dimension to the work of the UN was echoed last month, in the Secretary-General's Millennium Report entitled: "We the Peoples: The Role of the United Nations In the 21st Century". In it, he outlined his vision of a 21st century agenda, which presupposes the crucial participation of parliamentarians and civil society in general. His view is that better governance in the future must entail greater participation coupled with accountability. : "Therefore, the international public domain- including the United Nations- must be opened up further to the participation of the many actors whose contributions are essential to managing the path of globalization. Depending on the issues at hand, this may include civil society organizations, the private sector, parliamentarians, local authorities, scientific associations, educational institutions and many others."

strengthened and enhanced in the third millennium." We very much look forward to and support this prospect.

last but not least the accomplishment can improve
without the people helped a journey

Thank you very much for your attention.

on the horizon of 2000

He went on to state that: "We also need to adapt our deliberative work so that it can benefit fully from the contributions of civil society. Already, civil society organizations have made an important contribution to articulating and defending global norms. It is clear that the United Nations and the world's people have much to gain from opening the Organization further to this vital source of energy and expertise- just as we have gained from closer institutional links and practical cooperation with national parliaments."

Along these same lines, the Secretary-General has been consulting with an array of other actors in the international system- such as business leaders in his "global compact" for private sector partnerships. As in his words, "While our own resources as an Organization are tightly constrained, those of the communities we serve are much greater. We must strive, not to usurp the role of other actors on the world stage, but to become a more effective catalyst for change and coordination among them. Our most vital role will be to stimulate collective action at the global level."

sum up
To conclude, ~~it is evident that~~ we, at the United Nations, are extremely heartened by the direction that the relationship between our two organizations has taken. As the Resolution adopted by the General Assembly last November put it: we "welcome the support provided to the UN by national parliaments through their world Organization, the IPU, and express the wish that the cooperation between the two organizations be further