



Parliamentarians for Global Action

<p>PGA Regional Seminars on Strengthening United Nations Peace Operations – International Parliamentary Input</p>

NEW DELHI DECLARATION

We members of seven national parliaments for Bangladesh, Canada, Ghana, India, Nepal, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom gathered in New Delhi, India, March 2 and 3, 2002:

- Recognizing the urgent need of establishing an effective regime of conflict prevention, resolution, and peace-building in order to reduce the impacts of violent conflict throughout the world;
- Confident in the integral role of national parliaments in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, as well as in post-conflict rebuilding;
- Cognizant of Security Council Resolution 1325 which urges an enhanced role for women in preventing conflict, promoting peace, assisting in post-conflict reconstruction and the incorporation of a gender perspective in peace operations;
- Cognizant of the efforts which began in Lusaka, Zambia; a series of three seminars was held in Accra, Ghana; Cairo, Egypt; and New Delhi, India, and will culminate in New York, USA to define the specific nature of the role of parliaments in peace operations;

Hereby resolve to comprehensively pursue the following in order to develop a coherent plan of action for parliamentary involvement in peace operations:

- Ensure the development of effective conflict prevention mechanisms backed by appropriate authority and resources at both the national and multinational levels;
- Ensure the development of effective peacekeeping institutions backed by appropriate authority and resources, especially in regard to multilateral institutions, particularly the UN;
- Ensure effective Parliamentary control of budgetary expenditures for any and all UN or other peace operations in order to ensure both credibility and appropriate levels of support;
- Ensure the protection of children affected by violent conflict;
- Ensure that the issues of concern to women, who face specific risks and presently have minimal access to decision making levels, are placed on the national and international agendas for peace operations;
- Increase representation and participation of women in all decision-making levels for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict and peace processes;

- Develop mechanisms that allow continual information sharing between parliaments and governments to ensure that the will of parliaments is properly voiced in international institutions concerned with peace operations;
- That the UN should explore with urgency avenues of establishing communication with democratically elected parliaments;
- Restructure the UN Security Council;
- Create public support for peace operations through public education campaigns;
- Develop the capacity of parliaments to meet the challenges of peace operations;
- Provide training guidelines and materials on rights and needs of women to member states and incorporate gender perspectives into national training programs;
- Develop regional strategies for national parliaments to serve as liaisons with neighboring countries and regional groupings in order to prevent cross border complexities;
- Strengthen inter-regional dialogue especially at the parliamentary level to ensure a continual discussion for the improvement of conflict prevention and peacekeeping mechanisms;
- Support and participate in peace operations through inter-parliamentary bodies and transnational parliaments such as a SAARC parliament.

Dated in New Delhi, India this 3rd Day of March 2002