



## Translating the International Commitments in the Field of Human Rights at the National Level: the Contribution of Parliaments' in the Proceedings of in the United Nations Human Rights Council

A seminar intended for African Parliaments, co-organized by the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco and the International Parliamentary Union, in partnership with the Ministerial Delegation in charge of Human Rights and the National Human Rights Council, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  
September 29 – 30, 2014, the Parliament, Rabat

### The Rabat Declaration

Under the high patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco, the International Parliamentary Union, in partnership with the Ministerial Commission in Charge of Human Rights and the National Human Rights Council in Morocco, and in collaboration with the United Nations High commissioner for Human Rights organized, in Rabat September 29 – 30, 2014, a regional seminar on «The Parliaments' Contribution in the Proceedings of the **United Nations Human Rights Council** ». This regional seminar takes part in the promotion process of the parliaments' contribution into the proceedings the Human Right Council (HRC) and its mechanisms of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on the basis of the outputs of the panel organized by the HRC in 2013 on the «the parliaments' contribution to the Human Right Council and to it Universal Periodic Review» and to the A/HRC/26/L.21 HCR resolution of June 13, 2014 relating to the same topic and the preceding regional seminars.

The participants to this seminar expressed their tanks to the Kingdom of Morocco, the host country, for this event, for the preparation and organization of the said seminar and for the country's hospitality.

To the proceeding of this regional seminar did participate representatives speakers, deputy speakers, and members of 30 African parliaments, experts, officials from the OHCHR representatives of national human rights institutions, national human rights NGOs, as well as national media and academia experts.

*Recalling* the normative and institutional evolution witnessed in the field of human rights, particularly the international Human Rights Conventions and UN mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights, including in particular the HRC and its UPR, the Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies;

*Considering* the correlation and the centrality of human rights in international relations, in the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, a,d the promotion of strategies that would favor the post 2015 development Agenda;

*Recalling* the crucial role which parliaments must play in the promotion and the protection of human rights pursuant to the attributions conferred upon them by the national Constitutions in terms of legislation, harmonization of domestic laws with human right related international standards, and the monitoring of public policies on human rights;

*Also recalling* resolution 60/251 of the March 15, 2006 General Assembly, instituting the Human Rights Council which stipulates that the Council shall « proceed to the universal periodical review of objective

and reliable information, of the way in which each state fulfills its obligations and commitments in human rights matters; in a way that shall guarantee the universality of its action and the equal treatment of all states [...]», and Resolution 5/1 of the June 18, 2007 Human Rights Council which sets in place the main mechanisms of UPE;

*Appreciating* the efforts made by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to contribute to the proceedings of the United Nations Organization, particularly its contribution to the proceedings of the Human Rights Council and the UN bodies established by virtue of international instruments relating to human rights;

*Considering* Resolutions 65/123 of December 13, 2010, and 66/261 of May 29, 2012, by virtue of which the General Assembly had recognized the importance of the support provided by the parliaments for the Human Rights Council and to its Universal Periodical Examination;

*Further considering* Resolution A/HRC/RES/26/29 of 27 June 2014 on the **Contribution of parliaments to the proceedings of the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review** which dedicate their commitment to the said proceedings, especially their crucial roles in the promotion of human rights, the participants recommend:

- that the competent national authorities make further efforts in order to translate their international commitments relating to human rights through the setting and implementation of policies, action plans and programs in accordance with their needs, national realities, while taking into account the international standards observed in this field;
- *that parliaments* include human rights among their agenda priorities, and take the adequate measures, namely through the setting of specific parliamentary structures in order to effectively implement them, while considering the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelation of human rights, while paying particular attention to economic, social and cultural rights including the right to education, health, to food, water and basic sanitation, in addition to civil and political rights, particularly to political participation to the freedom of expression and association;
- *that parliaments* take, without further delay, the required dispositions with a view to guarantee their effective contribution to the Human Rights Council's proceedings and to its UPR, as well as to the other UN human rights mechanisms. These dispositions shall have to result in harmonious parliamentary strategies that shall have to articulate their contribution to the different UPR phases, including their participation in the process of elaboration and presentation of national and mid-term reports, in addition to the implementation monitoring of the Council's recommendation.
- that the OHCHR, the HRC and the other concerned mechanisms set involvement and participation modalities for parliaments in the proceedings of all UN mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights, particularly the HRC and its UPR;
- that the HCHR, the HRC and the UPR as well as the other concerned mechanisms secure a technical assistance in aid of the African parliaments in order to further consolidate their capacities in matters related to the protection and promotion of human rights;
- *that all* stake holders favor and promote cooperation between national parliaments and national human rights institutions in accordance with the Belgrade Principles, in order to allow the parliaments to fully take part in the national, regional, and international networks for the protection and promotion of human rights, while favoring effective and sustainable and effective interaction with human rights NGOs;
- that IPU monitor the implementation of the aforementioned recommendations in close collaboration with the parliaments that have participated in this seminar;
- that IPU coordinate with the Moroccan Parliament to disseminate the synthesis report of the seminar proceedings and the present Declaration among the other IPU parliament members, and submit them to the World Human Rights Forum which will be organized in Marrakesh from November 27 thru 30<sup>th</sup> 2014, in order to enrich them during the events which will be organized by the Moroccan Parliament and its partners, including IPU.