

APROBAT

În ședința Biroului permanent al
Camerei Deputaților

din data de

12.12.2011

1360



NR. REF. M. 201
55a/3306/5.12.2011

Parlamentul României
Camera Deputaților

B.P. Nr. 1360 din 8.12.2011

Parlamentul României

Camera Deputaților

**DIRECȚIA PENTRU COOPERARE PARLAMENTARĂ INTERNAȚIONALĂ
MULTILATERALĂ**

În perioada 28-29 noiembrie a.c. s-au desfășurat la sediul ONU din New York Audierile parlamentare cu tema "Intărirea responsabilității politice pentru o lume mai pașnică și prosperă", la care au participat din partea Camerei Deputaților deputații Carmen Axenie și Kerekes Karoly. Au fost prezente delegații parlamentare din peste 47 de țări, precum și ale principalelor organizații parlamentare internaționale între care Adunarea Parlamentară a Consiliului Europei reprezentată prin președintele Mevlut Cavusoglu.

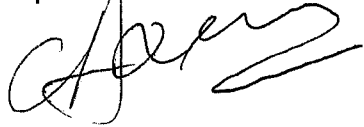
Reuniunea a debutat în prezența președintelui Adunării generale a ONU, Nassir Abdulaziz Al Nasser, a Secretarului general adjunct al ONU Dr. Asha Rose Migiro, a vicepreședintelui Uniunii Interparlamentare, Alonso Diaz-Caneja, secretarului general al Uniunii Interparlamentare, a altor personalități politice și diplomați.

În intervențiile din cadrul dezbaterilor înalții demnitari prezenți au subliniat necesitatea întăririi rolului și contribuției parlamentarilor la identificarea unor soluții corespunzătoare, general acceptabile pentru problemele dificile ce confruntă comunitatea internațională în prezent: criza economică și financiară, schimbările climatice, focarele locale de tensiune cum ar fi situația din Siria. A fost subliniată importanța implicării active a parlamentarilor, reprezentanți autentici ai democrației participative și ai voinței cetățenilor din țările lor în depășirea obstacolelor de ordin politic, economic, instituțional, ce împiedică găsirea unor formule care să

raspundă așteptărilor comunității internaționale și, în acest context, a fost evidențiat rolul diplomației parlamentare în plan multilateral și potențialul pe care aceasta îl poate pune în slujba proceselor de reformă. A doua temă a Audierilor parlamentare desfășurate la sediul ONU din New York a fost "Responsabilitatea în managementul fondurilor publice". În prima parte a lucrărilor a luat cuvântul președintele Adunării Parlamentare a Consiliului Europei, Mevlut Cavusoglu, care a opinat că "responsabilitatea și transparența sunt stâlpii bunei guvernante și parlamentelor le revine un rol cheie în asigurarea implementării acestor principii". Reprezentantul APCE a continuat evocând dezbaterile, rapoartele și rezoluțiile APCE privind aceasta temă. O altă intervenție de substanță a aparținut Angelei Kane, subsecretar general ONU pentru management, care s-a referit la finanțarea misiunilor de menținere a păcii, la operațiunile Căștilor Albastre și la rigurozitatea cu care guvernele țărilor membre monitorizează modul în care sunt utilizate resursele financiare din ce în ce mai limitate ale organizației. Vorbitoarea a subliniat că pentru o eficiență sporită a utilizării fondurilor este necesară o viziune strategică focalizată pe obiective și rezultate, renunțându-se la proiectele "mici" cu implicații nesemnificative pentru rolul și scopul organizației.

Alți intervenienți în dezbateri, evocând situația generată de criza economică și financiară internațională, s-au pronunțat pentru o transparență cât mai mare în ce privește construcția și execuția bugetară, eliminându-se risipa și cheltuielile inutile, astfel încât bugetele adoptate de parlamente să răspundă nevoilor reale de progres ale cetățenilor.

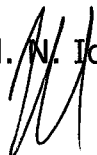
Deputat Carmen Axenie



Deputat Kerekes Karoly



Red. N. Ionescu





INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

**Statement by Mr. Alonso Diaz-Caneja,
Vice-President of the IPU Executive Committee**

**Opening of the Annual Parliamentary Hearing
at the United Nations**

New York, 28 November 2011

Mr. President of the General Assembly,
Madam Under-Secretary-General,
Fellow Parliamentarians,

I am honored to be here today in such distinguished company, to help open the proceedings of the 2011 Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations. I bring you the greetings of Speaker Abdelwahad Radi, the recently-elected President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Morocco held parliamentary elections just three days ago, and Mr. Radi was comfortably re-elected. I take this opportunity to warmly congratulate him. Urgent tasks in the aftermath of the elections have prevented President Radi from travelling to New York, and he has asked me to address opening remarks on his behalf.

We are privileged to have with us today the President of the UN General Assembly, His Excellency Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, and the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro. I would like to thank them both for their engagement and strong support. We are particularly grateful to President Al-Nasser and his office for their close cooperation in the preparations of this joint event.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Year after year, we have been meeting here in New York for an exchange of views with United Nations officials, ambassadors and leading academics, and to learn from each others' experiences. The annual Hearing is a cornerstone of our evolving partnership with the United Nations. The United Nations' mission to make the world more stable, free of war and poverty, cannot be achieved without the active input of parliaments and parliamentarians

For many years now, we have been working together to develop and strengthen the relationship between the United Nations and the world of parliaments. You may recall

that one year ago, in December 2010, the General Assembly formally decided to engage more systematically with the IPU to ensure a more effective parliamentary contribution to major United Nations processes and in the review of international commitments. Consultations with Member States will soon begin to pave the way for a forthcoming debate of the General Assembly on *"interaction between the UN, national parliaments and the IPU"*. We trust that this process will help to define further the concrete ways in which we can support each other in our common objectives of peace, democracy and development.

I am also confident that the Parliamentary Hearing this week will show once again the benefit of this interaction. The summary of our discussion will become available next January and will be circulated in the General Assembly. I would like to encourage you to see to it that the report is widely circulated and discussed in your parliaments as well.

Colleagues and Friends,

Whether it's in Tahrir Square and the broader Arab region, or just a few blocks away on Wall Street, people around the world are telling us, loud and clear, that they are not satisfied. People want social justice and economic opportunity. They want governments and institutions that are transparent and accountable for their decisions.

The task of reconciling the different and often contradictory perspectives of our constituents through effective public policies represents an enormous challenge. Doing so at a time of profound changes in society, in the political landscape and in the institutions of governance, is even harder. Yet, that is the obligation that is placed upon every one of us by virtue of our parliamentary mandate.

The discussion today and tomorrow on engaging youth and civil society in the democratic process, and on making the management of public funds more transparent and fair, will illustrate the challenges that virtually every politician in the world is facing at the moment.

It will also illustrate some of the solutions and opportunities available to us to bring about change. Are we doing all we can to meet the aspirations of our youths? How do we improve on our interaction with civil society organizations? Can we not do better at fighting corruption, tax evasion, and other misuses of public funds which are undermining the trust in government almost everywhere? There is no escaping the urgency of these questions.

On the global level, the General Assembly offers a unique platform for all Member States to address issues of concern. However, many of the decisions of the General Assembly and indeed of many other international bodies are never implemented. Very few of these decisions are shared with national parliaments, and there is hardly any prior consultation in parliaments on issues and positions that governments intend to promote at the United Nations. One might ask therefore: who is accountable for the decisions of the General Assembly?

As we discussed last year, there can be no substitute for the General Assembly. Less representative bodies, such as the G20, must respect that fact. However, if the General Assembly is to maintain its leadership role, it must become more transparent, more effective and more accountable. We believe that the IPU and our member parliaments, though our growing cooperation with the United Nations, can be part of the solution.

Demand for greater political accountability does not come a minute too soon. With the gap between the rich and poor widening every day, and with so many people feeling disenfranchised in every corner of the world, the whole global community is at serious risk of further instability and unrest. As a recent slogan put it, "only democracy is too big to fail." Let this Hearing and its follow up be an opportunity for us to come together and move in the right direction.

Thank you.



**His Excellency Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser
President of the General Assembly**

**Remarks on the occasion of the
Inter-parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations**

New York, 28 November 2011

Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations,

Mr. Alonso Diaz-Caneja, Vice President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Mr. Anders B. Johnsson, Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Her Excellency Mrs. Anda Filip, Permanent Observer of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the United Nations,

Honorable Members of Parliament,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to open today's joint hearing with national parliamentarians and the General Assembly.

I would start by congratulating President Theo-Ben Guirirab for his successful presidency.

I would also like to recognise the newly elected president of the IPU, His Excellency Mr. Abdelwahed Radi of Morocco.

I understand that Mr. Radi is not able to join us today because of important political events in Morocco, so I welcome IPU's Vice President, Mr. Alonso Diaz-Caneja of Mexico, as today's Chair.

We have in this room today a most distinguished group of parliamentarians. Your passion, foresight and genuine leadership play a central role in ensuring that international policies in the areas of democracy, peace, and development are reflected in national debates.

With the help of IPU, parliaments provide direct input to the work of the United Nations, helping to translate global commitments into national legislation and policies. I commend the IPU Network's hard work, innovation and international partnerships, and its contribution particularly to environmental protection and to improving living standards.

Cooperation between IPU and the UN is mutually beneficial.

Parliamentarians bring to the UN their collective knowledge and expertise. The UN provides a forum to share ideas and lessons learned, which can be brought home and applied in policy-making and the development of legislation.

Turning to the main theme of this year's hearing: political accountability. This is indeed a pertinent theme for our time. All over the world, populations are calling for more responsive government that works for the good of society as a whole.

Globally, the issue of accountability is best seen in the workings of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Assembly is the most legitimate world body. It is the only place in the world where all countries come together as equals, regardless of their power and wealth - one member, one vote!

However, in recent years the General Assembly has struggled to adapt to changing global realities.

As part of my work as President of the General Assembly, I place great emphasis on the reform and revitalization of the General Assembly, so that it retains the necessary political power and remains efficient, effective and representative.

To do so, there must be strong political will to realize the resolutions and decisions of the Assembly.

Turning to your agenda over the next two days, the first session of this hearing will consider a resolution that was adopted just this past spring, for the first time, on "Strengthening the role of mediation in peaceful settlement of disputes and conflict prevention and resolution".

The theme of mediation is one of my key focus areas this session. In September at the IPU Parliamentary Briefing, mediation was raised with distinguished parliamentarians from different countries. It was a useful meeting for us. As we have seen in some countries, Parliaments and their members can make meaningful contributions to mediation efforts.

I hope that by considering this particular resolution as you discuss the question of accountability, you will also have an opportunity to become familiar with the issue and – perhaps - once home will promote and encourage its implementation.

In addition to this issue, over the next two days you have on your agenda questions relating to the situation of youth, the role of civil society, and the management of public funds.

These issues are also on the agenda of the General Assembly, in one way or another.

So before us all are key questions:

What can the UN and parliaments do together to help ensure a bright future for young people?

What lessons can the UN and parliaments share on how to include civil society in decision-making?

At a time of enormous stress on public funds, and with important events like the High Level Dialogue of the General Assembly on financing for development around the corner, what can be done to make sure that budgets – of governments, but also of international organizations - are administered transparently and in the best interest of all?

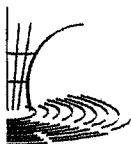
By asking these and other questions I hope that this Hearing will contribute to re-defining current notions of “accountability”, and strengthen the ways in which accountability is effected.

Before concluding I would like to highlight one important upcoming event: the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development – Rio + 20. As forums for public consultations and decision-making, parliaments all over the world can play an active role in the Conference preparations. This will enrich and strengthen our global debate on how to address our increasingly unsustainable world.

Distinguished colleagues,

Every parliamentarian present here has experiences and innovations to share. Importantly, you also have at your finger tips the practical tools to realize our common goals. Each of you therefore has a critical role, and a responsibility, to play in building global prosperity.

I wish you a fruitful Hearing. Thank you.



Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

<http://assembly.coe.int>



COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**KEY NOTE SPEECH BY BY MR MEVLÜT ÇAVUŞOĞLU,
PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AT THE
IPU HEARING ON "STRENGTHENING POLITICAL
ACCOUNTABILITY FOR A MORE PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS
WORLD"**

Tuesday, 29 November 2011, 10 a.m.

Accountability in the management of public funds - good practices and
model legislation for budget transparency

Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

The Council of Europe and the Parliamentary Assembly which I
represent have addressed the issue of accountability in the
management of public funds in several of our reports over the last
couple of years.

Accountability and transparency are the pillars of good governance
and parliaments play a key role in ensuring that these principles are
implemented. Nowadays, parliamentary scrutiny over public finances

is even more pertinent against the background of widespread socio-political turbulences and the loss of confidence by the public in institutions and politicians.

Let me therefore start by outlining concrete problems we have to face today.

In our recent report on "Over-indebtedness of states: a danger for democracy and human rights", we concluded that shortcomings in transparency and accountability had far reaching negative consequences on the overall management of public funds in some European states. I do not need to name them, we all know the examples. In this context, the Assembly called for closer interaction and information exchange between parliaments, governments and relevant international organisations.

Moreover, in countries where public debt had swollen out of healthy proportions, governments are obliged to implement painful but

necessary austerity measures which have a devastating effect on the living standards of the population. The financial markets, too, keep ringing alarm bells by sanctioning national governments which fail to exert financial discipline.

Many developed countries have now entered a vicious circle whereby years of imprudent spending and living beyond one's means erode the national capacity to uphold the quality of life and to invest into better future. Worse still, this vicious circle is also eroding national sovereignty in a number of countries as foreign creditors aggressively claim their dues and the spectrum of state bankruptcy cannot be ruled out.

How has the situation span out of control and how could we, parliamentarians, help find a solution? Let me now suggest some concrete ideas in order to focus our discussion.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In fact, despite the difficulties we are facing, overall, the picture is not all bleak: examples of sound management of public funds abound, including in Europe. The Netherlands and Germany are the most obvious examples and we should stress these countries' commitment to balanced budgets, which is anchored in their constitutions. Most of you will have heard of this approach as a "golden rule". And clearly, in these economically turbulent times, more and more countries move in this direction.

Therefore, parliaments must demonstrate a sense of leadership, political will and national unity around the public interest, notably in voting for the adoption of "golden rule" principles. The Parliament of Spain, for instance, has recently shown such a resolve by taking an exemplary decision in that direction. Other parliaments, such as in Italy and France, are looking into ways to make this happen too.

Moreover, parliamentary committees can play a very positive role in scrutinising government expenditure within their sectoral areas of

responsibility. Here again, our research points at the German and Dutch practices which can be a source of inspiration for other Parliaments too.

Furthermore, external independent audits of national accounts play a highly valuable role in securing financial accountability, especially if their findings and recommendations are duly channelled to parliaments. I therefore plead for strengthening the links between parliaments and independent auditors so that the two could work hand in hand. Where independent audits of state accounts do not exist or have only marginal function, parliaments should put in place the necessary legal framework for their normal operation.

At the same time, parliamentary efforts are greatly needed to enhance transparency in public procurement and, as the case may be, privatisation processes. This can be done by the adoption of legislation on conflicts of interests and fight against corruption, as well as by putting in place various codes of conduct.

I should stress, in this context, the need to regulate lobbying activities properly, so that vested interest groups (notably from the private sector) would not distort legislative and budgetary processes, especially as regards the benchmarking of national strategic priorities and the earmarking of public funds for their implementation. In this respect, the Assembly report on “Lobbying in a democratic society (European Code of conduct on lobbying)” offers a wealth of useful recommendations and guidelines.

Finally, let me stress that, while in-country action is essential to address specific situations, international co-operation is crucial to prevent the spreading of bad financial management practices. In this respect, the work of international organisations is very important: they provide national legislators with concrete examples of good practices as well as models to follow. The 2000 OECD Best Practices for Budget Transparency and the 2007 IMF Code on Fiscal Transparency are very valuable guidelines for governments and parliaments.

Dear colleagues,

I am sure you too have a lot of concrete examples from the practice of your parliaments to share with us. Therefore, I look forward to a very interesting discussion. Thank you very much for your attention.