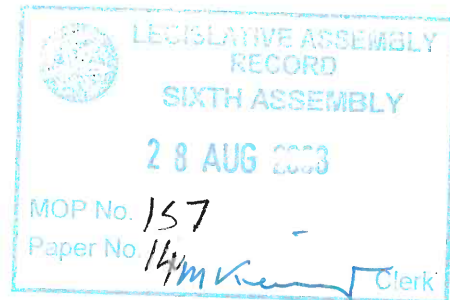




AUSTRALIAN
CAPITAL
TERRITORY
BRANCH



**REPORT ON THE TWINNING ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN
THE ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY BRANCH AND THE
PARLIAMENT OF KIRIBATI BRANCH**

AND

**ON THE VISIT TO KIRIBATI BY THE SPEAKER, DEPUTY
SPEAKER AND CLERK OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
21-25 JULY 2008**

28 AUGUST 2008

Introduction

On 5 June 2007 the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) wrote to all CPA Officer Holders and Branch secretaries to inform them that the CPA Executive Committee had approved a programme of twinning of CPA Branches. A copy of the letter is attached at Appendix 1.

The aims of the twinning programme were to promote cooperation and support between developing and developed Branches of the Association by creating links across regions and continents, as well as assisting developing Branches wishing to forge sustained relationships with developed Branches in another part of the Commonwealth, working towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). These goals are shown at Appendix 2.

Following this letter, at a meeting of the Australian Region Management Committee of the CPA held in the Cook Islands in July 2007 it was agreed that the Australian Branches would give in principle support to the twinning arrangements proposal.

In agreeing to the proposal, the Australian Region Management Committee saw the proposal as being in effect a “sister parliament” type arrangement in a similar way that cities have sister city relationships. Twinning would provide an opportunity for exchanges of parliamentary information and advice through direct contact between the twinned parliaments, visits for workshops, seminars and study tours and an avenue for the CPA Education Trust Fund to seek presenters and attachments relevant to annual training requests.

At that meeting an indicative list of possible twinned parliaments was discussed, and Branches were asked to consider the proposed Parliaments to be twinned.

The proposed twinning arrangements for Australian Branches were as follows:

- Australian Capital Territory with Kiribati
- New South Wales with Bougainville and Solomon Islands
- Northern Territory with Niue
- Queensland with Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu
- South Australia with Tonga
- Victoria with Fiji, Nauru and Tuvalu
- Tasmania with Samoa
- Western Australia with Cook Islands

It was agreed that the Commonwealth of Australia Branch and the New Zealand Branch would not directly twin with Pacific Branches, but instead provide a co-ordination role through their function as Regional Secretaries.

In September 2007 the proposal to twin with Kiribati was circulated to all Members of the Branch seeking comments on the proposal. No comments were received.

In March 2008, the Branch met and considered a proposal from the Secretary/Treasurer to send a high level delegation consisting of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the Clerk to Kiribati to have discussions with that Parliament as to how to advance the twinning proposal, and for representatives of the ACT Assembly to see and learn about how the Parliament of Kiribati operates. The meeting of the Branch endorsed the proposal.

Initial Activities in Relation to Twinning

Briefing from the Australian High Commissioner to Kiribati

In order to better understand Kiribati, the opportunity was taken to receive a briefing from the Australian High Commissioner to Kiribati whilst she was in Canberra for discussions with the Department of Foreign Affairs. Her Excellency Ms Anne Quinnane briefed the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and the Clerk on Monday, 19 May 2008.

Attachment of Deputy Clerk of Parliament of Kiribati

In May 2008 the Deputy Clerk of the Parliament of Kiribati, Mr Eni Tekanene undertook a two day attachment to the Legislative Assembly as part of an Education Trust Fund Visit. In addition, Mr Tekanene undertook a Dreamweaver training course to assist in the development of a website for the Parliament of Kiribati.

Speaker, Chief Minister and Clerk meet the President of Kiribati

On Friday, 20 June 2008 the Speaker, Chief Minister and Clerk of the Assembly met with the President of Kiribati, His Excellency Te Beretitenti Anote Tong whilst he was in Canberra on an official visit. At the meeting the Chief Minister and the Speaker were able to hear the concerns of the President in relation to climate change and rising sea levels on the nation of Kiribati. At that meeting the possibility of having some training opportunities between ACT public servants and Kiribati public servants were discussed, and it was agreed that the matter be further discussed when the Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Clerk visited Kiribati in July 2008.

Reports from the United Nations Development Program visits to Kiribati in November 2007 and May 2008

The delegation was grateful to be able to read the reports of Peter Loney, who was a consultant engaged by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and who undertook two visits to Kiribati in November 2007 and May 2008. Mr Loney is the Adjunct Professor and Executive Director of the Public Sector Governance and Accountability Research Centre, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia. The reports provided an excellent briefing on the issues confronting (and the possible solutions) the Kiribati Parliament.

Role of the CPA Education Trust Fund

Following both the 1988 and the 2001 CPA Annual Conferences which were held in Canberra, the various Branches of the Commonwealth, States and Territories (who had each contributed to the cost of the conference) found that they had surplus monies. The decision was taken by the Branches that this money could be used to assist other Parliaments in the Pacific Region in training and development. Accordingly, a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Education Fund was established. The interest from this Fund is used to provide training assistance and equipment each financial year, with applications being sought from the various Pacific Parliaments for amounts of up to \$20,000 per annum.

The Trustees of the Education Fund are the Presidents and (or in some cases the Joint Presidents) and Secretaries of each of the CPA Branches in the Australian Region. The Trustees meet at each year's Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference and approve applications made, based on advice from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Relations Office, who, in turn, seek the advice from Ausaid on each application.

Attached at Appendix 3 is a list of assistance provided from 1993-2009.

Visit to the Kiribati Parliament 22-24 July 2008

Tuesday 22 July 2008

The delegation was met upon its arrival in Tarawa at 3pm by the Deputy Clerk of the Kiribati Parliament, who accompanied the delegation from the airport to the Parliament Building. There we were met by the Speaker of the Parliament of Kiribati, the Honourable Taomati Luta.

The Speaker welcomed the delegation to the Parliament, and gave a quick briefing on the Parliament Building. He informed the delegation that the Parliament had been built in 2000 with assistance from the Japanese Government. The building had functioned quite well, and in addition to the Chamber, had meeting rooms, library, a separate wing for the Executive and a dining area. The building backed on to reserve which, in turn backed onto the ocean.

The Speaker then took the delegation on a tour of the Parliament, including the Chamber. The Speaker told the delegation that there was no Deputy Speaker, so that, by necessity, there was each afternoon a break for afternoon tea for all Members. This often proved to be a circuit breaker when there had been an acrimonious debate that was assisted by a quiet chat over a beverage.



The Parliament Maneaba of Kiribati

Welcome reception

After arriving at the High Commissioner of Australia's Official Residence (where the delegation was staying for the visit), the delegation then proceeded to a Welcome Reception hosted by the Speaker of the Kiribati Parliament. Also present were his Excellency the President of Kiribati, the Leader of the Opposition, various Ministers, Her Excellency the High Commissioner for Australia and other members of the Diplomatic Corps, representatives of the United Nations Development Plan and the World Trade Organisation (who were in Kiribati for meetings) and a number of Members of the Kiribati Parliament.

In his welcoming speech to the delegation, the Speaker indicated his gratitude that the delegation had made the effort to travel to Kiribati to see first hand the operation of the Kiribati Parliament, and he welcomed the fact that Kiribati had been twinned with the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory. He identified two issues that he hoped could be addressed with the arrangement, namely professional development for new and inexperienced members, and training for parliamentary staff.

In response, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly thanked the Speaker for his words of welcome, and for hosting the welcome reception.

The delegation was then present for a demonstration of traditional Kiribati dancing, including a presentation by the current Miss Kiribati.

Wednesday 23 July 2008

Meeting with His Excellency the President of Kiribati

After a discussion over breakfast with the Australian High Commissioner of current issues facing Kiribati, the delegation then went on to meet with His Excellency the President of Kiribati at his office near his Official Residence.

In a discussion lasting almost an hour, the meeting with the President covered a wide range of topics, including:

- the President was convening a public service summit from 4-6 August 2008 in order to discuss issues around governance, audit, and delivery of government programs. Whilst there was some initial discussion as to whether a high ranking officer from the ACT public service might be able to attend, the timeframe was considered too short to allow this to occur;
- the lack of a party system in political life in Kiribati, with no clear ideological divide;
- there was no opposition Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, but that the President thought that it would be desirable in the long term to do so;
- there was not currently a leadership code for Ministers, although there had been recent attempts to get one adopted by the Parliament;
- the desire to send senior Kiribati public servants to Canberra for short three month attachments so that they could have hands on experience in delivering outcomes, and understand the attitude and pressure that is entailed in delivering government programs to the residents of Kiribati;
- the President was of the view that the financial management and public sector management processes were deficient and needed stronger legislation to enforce these within the Kiribati public service;

The delegation agreed that it would raise these issues with the Executive of the ACT Government when it returned to the ACT.

Meeting with Clerk and senior staff of the Parliament

The Delegation then proceeded to Parliament House, where it met with the Clerk of the Assembly, Ioataake Timeon, and his senior staff which included:

- the Head of the Hansard Area;
- Parliamentary Counsel;
- Senior Committee Manager; and
- Deputy Clerk.

The Clerk gave the delegation a briefing on the way that the Parliament operated. Amongst the matters discussed were:

- The Parliament meets for three blocks of sittings a year, so as to enable sufficient time to enable members to get to and from the outlying electorates.

- The sitting pattern used to be 2 sitting periods a year, but this was found to be not satisfactory as it did not enable sufficient time to discuss matters.
- Each sitting period is for 2 sitting weeks, with the Parliament sitting for 5 days each week.
- There is a four year term for the Parliament, with the last election being held in August 2007.
- The parliament has 46 members, of which 12 are Cabinet Ministers. There are 2 ex officio members – the Attorney-General and a representative of the Rumbi Council.
- There are 4 political parties although they are not like political parties in the Australian sense in that they do not have platforms and constitutions.
- There is a total of 21 staff servicing the Parliament. These staff are as indicated in the diagram shown at Appendix 3:

The Clerk and his staff identified three main issues that faced the administration of the Parliament that they considered needed addressing:

1. Appointments of Parliamentary Staff

It was noted that the appointment process is controlled by the Public Service Commissioner, an officer of the Executive arm of government. As a consequence, there are often long delays in the appointment of staff (sometimes taking as long as 2 or 3 months). It was noted that the Chief Justice was able to appoint his staff without reference to the Public Service Commissioner.

2. Transcription of proceedings

It was noted that there are currently long delays in the transcription of proceedings of the Parliament. The consensus amongst staff was that new technology was required to enable this process to be speeded up. The question of whether there could be some collaboration with the courts was discussed.

3. Operation of committees

The issue of the small number of committees (currently the Parliament only has 3 committees, with the main one operating being a 3 person Public Accounts Committee) was also raised, with the need for a separate Scrutiny of Bills Committee. It was also seen as desirable for the Parliament to be able to attend conferences such as the Scrutiny of Bills Conference which are held every two years.

It was also noted that there was a lack of enforcement and follow up on committee reports.

Meeting with Chair and Members of the Public Accounts Committee, as well as the Auditor-General and Deputy Auditor-General

The Delegation with the Chair and one Member of the Public Accounts Committee, as well as the Auditor-General and Deputy Auditor-General. The Public Accounts Committee contains 2 government members and one independent member.

Amongst the matters discussed included:

- The Auditor-General can self refer matters;
- The Auditor-General had recently attended the Commonwealth Auditor-General's Conference in Bermuda.

The Chair of the Public Accounts Committee identified four main issues that faced the Committee that they considered needed addressing:

1. Training for committee secretary – it was suggested that the Secretary of the Public Accounts Committee would benefit with an attachment to the Legislative Assembly.
2. There would be great benefit in the Committee being a member of the Australian Council of Public Accounts Committees, which is scheduled to next meet in Wellington, NZ.
3. Training for staff generally– attendance at the Centre for Democratic Institutions course that is regularly run each year in Canberra in October/November would be beneficial for Kiribati Parliament staff.
4. Capacity building and information exchange- the committee felt that there would be immense benefit in establishing some sort of system to assist in information exchange to aid this goal.

Meeting with Leader of the Opposition

The delegation met with the Leader of the Opposition and 3 other members of the opposition party. One of the members had been a member for 21 years, and had previously been the President of Kiribati for 8 years.

The Opposition indicated that it had raised several issues since the last election, including whether laws were being adhered to, concerns about electoral finance, and whether the proposed leadership code was sufficiently robust.

The Opposition considered that there were very few resources available to the Opposition, and that often they felt that they had to have recourse to the courts to resolve issues with the government, which, understandably, required legal resources that were often quite costly.

Meeting with major party representative

The delegation then met with a member of the governing party. The member raised a number of issues, including:

- Global warming is a very real issue for the Kiribati Parliament;
- The increase in prices of food and commodities had had a severe impact on the Kiribati economy;
- Population management is also an issue, with an increasing birth rate and there already being 40,000 people on what is a small island in Tarawa;
- Whaling was a point of difference with the Australian Government, with Kiribati's mostly not supporting a ban;

- Licence fees for tuna fishing , which was a mainstay of the Kiribati economy, was somewhat difficult to renegotiate, and the various companies undertaking the fishing were in a strong position;
- There was only one patrol boat to police illegal fishing over a huge area of water.

Meeting with Maurin te Maaneaba

The delegation met with the Leader and other Members of one of the minor parties, who currently hold six seats in the Parliament.

Issues discussed with the members canvassed the lack of a party structure in the Kiribati political environment and the issue of transparency in electoral funding and the need for robust and sound electoral laws to ensure that the electoral system was beyond reproach. The members also suggested that information on how parties operate would be beneficial in Kiribati, as well as exchanges of members to understand how the party/political activities operate in the ACT.

The delegation was informed that candidates running for election typically do not identify themselves with any one grouping or party, but rather wait until after the election to form themselves in groups or party like structure.

Meeting with Te Tabomoa Party

The delegation met with 2 members of the Te Tabomoa Party who currently hold 5 seats in the Kiribati Parliament. They indicated that, since the election, they had voted fifty per cent of the time with the government and approximately 50 per cent of the time with the opposition.

The members raised the difficulty the party had with raising matters in the court to challenge certain government actions, and the large cost of lodging such challenges.

Meeting with the President of the Kiribati Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The final meeting for the day was with the Speaker in his capacity as President of the Kiribati Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. In a wide ranging discussion, the Speaker informed the delegation of what it was like to be a member of the Kiribati Parliament, pointing out that:

- Some members have to travel for 3 days on a boat to get to Tarawa to attend the sittings of the Parliament;
- Most members are invited to every wedding, christening and other celebration in their electorate and are expected to provide a suitable gift;
- Members of the Public Accounts Committee, due to the large number of meetings they hold in the capital, earn substantially more than other Members and even Ministers;
- The average income per annum on Kiribati is \$A1500;
- There is no compulsory voting in Kiribati, and the voter turnout was declining;

- The Branch is able to participate in the various CPA activities, and derive great benefit in doing so;
- The Branch had started celebrating Commonwealth Day for the first time this year, with the Speaker and other Members visiting schools two weeks before the day and encouraging students to compete for the privilege of reading the Queen's Message on two local radio stations;
- On Commonwealth day various flags from the Commonwealth were flown at Parliament, with the Speaker reading the Queen's message in Kiribati and a junior secondary school student reading the message on radio in English;
- Ideally the Branch would like to have an outreach program to visit schools on the outer islands and also to run a Youth Parliament.

Recommendations for the Branch

1. That the Branch continues to support the twinning arrangement and consider whether a formal document be drawn up to be signed by the respective Presidents of the two Branches. The document could cover what the aims of the twinning arrangement might be, how it would operate, and what level of financial resources should be devoted to it.

2. That the Branch agree to regular visits between the two Branches at least once every Assembly by Members and officers of the respective Parliaments. Such visits would enhance the relationship and:

- provide a greater understanding of how the two parliaments operate and
- allow for an information exchange between Members and Officials.

3. That, as part of the Education Trust Fund programme, a staff member from the Hansard and Communications Office and the Deputy Clerk and Serjeant-at-Arms provide training in Kiribati on all aspects of the IT system operating in the Kiribati parliament, with a view to see (a) whether transcription services can be improved, as well as the operation of the chamber support office, (b) what assistance can be given in the organisation of a Youth Parliament and (c) what assistance can be given in establishing a Scrutiny of Bills committee.

4. That, as part of the CPA Education Trust fund, the Secretary of the Public Accounts Committee have a placement in the Committee Office in the Legislative Assembly Secretariat, that coincides with that officer's attendance at the Centre for Democratic Institutions Seminar being held in September 2008.

5. That the Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts of the Seventh Assembly approach the hosts of next year's Australasian Council of Public Accounts Conference with a view of seeking that groups agreement for the admission of the Kiribati Public Accounts Committee.

6. That the Chair of the Standing Committee on the Scrutiny of Bills and Subordinate Legislation of the Seventh Assembly approach the hosts of the next

biennial Scrutiny of Bills Conference to ascertain whether representatives of the Kiribati Parliament can attend as observers.

7. That the Clerks of the two twinned parliaments investigate the best method of information exchange (apart from visits) that will enable the Kiribati Parliament to have access to the ACT Assembly's documentation and processes.

Recommendations for the Executive

1. That the Executive consider sending an officer from both the Chief Minister's Department and from the Department of the Territory and Municipal Services to Kiribati to liaise with the Office of the President to make an initial assessment of what training could be given in the areas of corporate governance and maintenance of urban services, including building services inspections.

2. That, after recommendation one has been completed, secondments of suitable officers from the Kiribati public service to the ACT public service occur with the aim of assisting the operation of the Kiribati Government.

Thanks and Acknowledgments

The delegation thanks the Speaker of the Kiribati Parliament and his staff for the kind hospitality during the visit.

The delegation wishes to give special thanks to Her Excellency Anne Quinnane, the Australian High Commissioner for her assistance before and during the visit. The delegation especially appreciated being able to stay at her private residence.



**Wayne Berry, MLA
Speaker and President of the
Australian Capital Branch of the
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association**



**Steve Pratt, MLA
Deputy Speaker**

**Correspondence from the Secretary-General of the
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
to all Office Holders and Branch secretaries
on Twinning of CPA Branches**



5 June 2007

**TO: CPA OFFICERS
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES
CWP CHAIRPERSON
BRANCH SECRETARIES**

**CC: REGIONAL SECRETARIES
CWP STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**



Dear Officers and Colleagues,

Twinning of CPA Branches

I am writing to inform you of a programme of 'Twinning of CPA Branches' approved by the CPA Executive Committee at their Mid-year Meeting held in Cyprus in April 2007.

'Twinning of CPA Branches' aims to promote cooperation and support between developing and developed Branches of the Association by creating links across regions and continents. The programme will assist developing Branches wishing to forge sustained relationships with developed Branches in another part of the Commonwealth, working towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Through this programme Branches are encouraged to work towards bringing together Parliamentarians in two jurisdictions to develop a partnership of skills and expertise that will help fight extreme poverty.

There are already a number of examples of bilateral Branch relationships within the CPA which are characterized by active engagement through partnership which is reciprocal and based upon sharing experiences and skills. Often it is considered an opportunity to learn from each other and to recognize the needs of both jurisdictions.

The 'Twinning of CPA Branches' programme encourages Branches to establish contact with other Branches in other regions building upon the existing Commonwealth link between countries, and other possible historical links, whilst recognising the benefits of learning and sharing from one another.

By way of example, bi-lateral agreements could cover such areas as Good Governance, Sustainable Economic Development, Education and Environment, and resemble twinning arrangements which often exist between towns and regions. An action plan can be developed between the two concerned Branches in discussion with key partners outlining specific actions and commitments for each agreed theme for the period concerned.

...pto

Please address All Correspondence to the Secretary-General

Patron: HM Queen Elizabeth II

Secretary-General: Dr William F. Shija

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It is hoped that the CPA Secretariat can act as the main conduit, putting developing and developed Branches across the CPA in contact with each other. It is envisaged that Parliaments will be able to exchange expertise, skills and knowledge to generate innovative and sustainable solutions to a particular problem, challenge or issue that is being faced by the developing Branch.

Please do let me or my staff (Ms Meenakshi Dhar) know if your Branch would be interested in participating in the 'Twinning of CPA Branches' programme.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Shija', written over a horizontal line.

Dr William F. Shija
Secretary-General

United Nations Millennium Declaration
Resolution adopted by the General Assembly



General Assembly

Distr.: General
18 September 2000

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 60 (b)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.2)]

55/2. United Nations Millennium Declaration

The General Assembly

Adopts the following Declaration:

United Nations Millennium Declaration

I. Values and principles

1. We, heads of State and Government, have gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 6 to 8 September 2000, at the dawn of a new millennium, to reaffirm our faith in the Organization and its Charter as indispensable foundations of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world.
2. We recognize that, in addition to our separate responsibilities to our individual societies, we have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level. As leaders we have a duty therefore to all the world's people, especially the most vulnerable and, in particular, the children of the world, to whom the future belongs.
3. We reaffirm our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which have proved timeless and universal. Indeed, their relevance and capacity to inspire have increased, as nations and peoples have become increasingly interconnected and interdependent.
4. We are determined to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter. We rededicate ourselves to support all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, respect for their territorial integrity and political independence, resolution of disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination and foreign occupation, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion and international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character.

5. We believe that the central challenge we face today is to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people. For while globalization offers great opportunities, at present its benefits are very unevenly shared, while its costs are unevenly distributed. We recognize that developing countries and countries with economies in transition face special difficulties in responding to this central challenge. Thus, only through broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future, based upon our common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable. These efforts must include policies and measures, at the global level, which correspond to the needs of developing countries and economies in transition and are formulated and implemented with their effective participation.
6. We consider certain fundamental values to be essential to international relations in the twenty-first century. These include:
 - **Freedom.** Men and women have the right to live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression or injustice. Democratic and participatory governance based on the will of the people best assures these rights.
 - **Equality.** No individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development. The equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured.
 - **Solidarity.** Global challenges must be managed in a way that distributes the costs and burdens fairly in accordance with basic principles of equity and social justice. Those who suffer or who benefit least deserve help from those who benefit most.
 - **Tolerance.** Human beings must respect one other, in all their diversity of belief, culture and language. Differences within and between societies should be neither feared nor repressed, but cherished as a precious asset of humanity. A culture of peace and dialogue among all civilizations should be actively promoted.
 - **Respect for nature.** Prudence must be shown in the management of all living species and natural resources, in accordance with the precepts of sustainable development. Only in this way can the immeasurable riches provided to us by nature be preserved and passed on to our descendants. The current unsustainable patterns of production and consumption must be changed in the interest of our future welfare and that of our descendants.
 - **Shared responsibility.** Responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally. As the most universal and most representative organization in the world, the United Nations must play the central role.
7. In order to translate these shared values into actions, we have identified key objectives to which we assign special significance.

II. Peace, security and disarmament

8. We will spare no effort to free our peoples from the scourge of war, whether within or between States, which has claimed more than 5 million lives in the

past decade. We will also seek to eliminate the dangers posed by weapons of mass destruction.

9. We resolve therefore:

- To strengthen respect for the rule of law in international as in national affairs and, in particular, to ensure compliance by Member States with the decisions of the International Court of Justice, in compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, in cases to which they are parties.
- To make the United Nations more effective in maintaining peace and security by giving it the resources and tools it needs for conflict prevention, peaceful resolution of disputes, peacekeeping, post-conflict peace-building and reconstruction. In this context, we take note of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations¹ and request the General Assembly to consider its recommendations expeditiously.
- To strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter.
- To ensure the implementation, by States Parties, of treaties in areas such as arms control and disarmament and of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and call upon all States to consider signing and ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.²
- To take concerted action against international terrorism, and to accede as soon as possible to all the relevant international conventions.
- To redouble our efforts to implement our commitment to counter the world drug problem.
- To intensify our efforts to fight transnational crime in all its dimensions, including trafficking as well as smuggling in human beings and money laundering.
- To minimize the adverse effects of United Nations economic sanctions on innocent populations, to subject such sanctions regimes to regular reviews and to eliminate the adverse effects of sanctions on third parties.
- To strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibility of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers.
- To take concerted action to end illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons, especially by making arms transfers more transparent and supporting regional disarmament measures, taking account of all the recommendations of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons.
- To call on all States to consider acceding to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and

¹ A/55/305-S/2000/809; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-fifth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 2000*, document S/2000/809.

² A/CONF.183/9.

on Their Destruction,³ as well as the amended mines protocol to the Convention on conventional weapons.⁴

10. We urge Member States to observe the Olympic Truce, individually and collectively, now and in the future, and to support the International Olympic Committee in its efforts to promote peace and human understanding through sport and the Olympic Ideal.

III. Development and poverty eradication

11. We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty, to which more than a billion of them are currently subjected. We are committed to making the right to development a reality for everyone and to freeing the entire human race from want.
12. We resolve therefore to create an environment – at the national and global levels alike – which is conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty.
13. Success in meeting these objectives depends, *inter alia*, on good governance within each country. It also depends on good governance at the international level and on transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems. We are committed to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system.
14. We are concerned about the obstacles developing countries face in mobilizing the resources needed to finance their sustained development. We will therefore make every effort to ensure the success of the High-level International and Intergovernmental Event on Financing for Development, to be held in 2001.
15. We also undertake to address the special needs of the least developed countries. In this context, we welcome the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in May 2001 and will endeavour to ensure its success. We call on the industrialized countries:
 - To adopt, preferably by the time of that Conference, a policy of duty- and quota-free access for essentially all exports from the least developed countries;
 - To implement the enhanced programme of debt relief for the heavily indebted poor countries without further delay and to agree to cancel all official bilateral debts of those countries in return for their making demonstrable commitments to poverty reduction; and
 - To grant more generous development assistance, especially to countries that are genuinely making an effort to apply their resources to poverty reduction.
16. We are also determined to deal comprehensively and effectively with the debt problems of low- and middle-income developing countries, through various national and international measures designed to make their debt sustainable in the long term.

³ See CD/1478.

⁴ Amended protocol on prohibitions or restrictions on the use of mines, booby-traps and other devices (CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I), annex B).

17. We also resolve to address the special needs of small island developing States, by implementing the Barbados Programme of Action⁵ and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly rapidly and in full. We urge the international community to ensure that, in the development of a vulnerability index, the special needs of small island developing States are taken into account.
18. We recognize the special needs and problems of the landlocked developing countries, and urge both bilateral and multilateral donors to increase financial and technical assistance to this group of countries to meet their special development needs and to help them overcome the impediments of geography by improving their transit transport systems.
19. We resolve further:
 - To halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger and, by the same date, to halve the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water.
 - To ensure that, by the same date, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys will have equal access to all levels of education.
 - By the same date, to have reduced maternal mortality by three quarters, and under-five child mortality by two thirds, of their current rates.
 - To have, by then, halted, and begun to reverse, the spread of HIV/AIDS, the scourge of malaria and other major diseases that afflict humanity.
 - To provide special assistance to children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.
 - By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers as proposed in the "Cities Without Slums" initiative.
20. We also resolve:
 - To promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable.
 - To develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work.
 - To encourage the pharmaceutical industry to make essential drugs more widely available and affordable by all who need them in developing countries.
 - To develop strong partnerships with the private sector and with civil society organizations in pursuit of development and poverty eradication.

⁵ Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution I, annex II).

- To ensure that the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies, in conformity with recommendations contained in the ECOSOC 2000 Ministerial Declaration,⁶ are available to all.

IV. Protecting our common environment

21. We must spare no effort to free all of humanity, and above all our children and grandchildren, from the threat of living on a planet irredeemably spoilt by human activities, and whose resources would no longer be sufficient for their needs.
22. We reaffirm our support for the principles of sustainable development, including those set out in Agenda 21,⁷ agreed upon at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.
23. We resolve therefore to adopt in all our environmental actions a new ethic of conservation and stewardship and, as first steps, we resolve:
 - To make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases.
 - To intensify our collective efforts for the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.
 - To press for the full implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity⁸ and the Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa.⁹
 - To stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing water management strategies at the regional, national and local levels, which promote both equitable access and adequate supplies.
 - To intensify cooperation to reduce the number and effects of natural and man-made disasters.
 - To ensure free access to information on the human genome sequence.

V. Human rights, democracy and good governance

24. We will spare no effort to promote democracy and strengthen the rule of law, as well as respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development.
25. We resolve therefore:

⁶ E/2000/L.9.

⁷ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

⁸ See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

⁹ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

- To respect fully and uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.¹⁰
- To strive for the full protection and promotion in all our countries of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for all.
- To strengthen the capacity of all our countries to implement the principles and practices of democracy and respect for human rights, including minority rights.
- To combat all forms of violence against women and to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.¹¹
- To take measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of migrants, migrant workers and their families, to eliminate the increasing acts of racism and xenophobia in many societies and to promote greater harmony and tolerance in all societies.
- To work collectively for more inclusive political processes, allowing genuine participation by all citizens in all our countries.
- To ensure the freedom of the media to perform their essential role and the right of the public to have access to information.

VI. Protecting the vulnerable

26. We will spare no effort to ensure that children and all civilian populations that suffer disproportionately the consequences of natural disasters, genocide, armed conflicts and other humanitarian emergencies are given every assistance and protection so that they can resume normal life as soon as possible.

We resolve therefore:

- To expand and strengthen the protection of civilians in complex emergencies, in conformity with international humanitarian law.
- To strengthen international cooperation, including burden sharing in, and the coordination of humanitarian assistance to, countries hosting refugees and to help all refugees and displaced persons to return voluntarily to their homes, in safety and dignity and to be smoothly reintegrated into their societies.
- To encourage the ratification and full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child¹² and its optional protocols on the involvement of children in armed conflict and, on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.¹³

VII. Meeting the special needs of Africa

27. We will support the consolidation of democracy in Africa and assist Africans in their struggle for lasting peace, poverty eradication and sustainable development, thereby bringing Africa into the mainstream of the world economy.

¹⁰ Resolution 217 A (III).

¹¹ Resolution 34/180, annex.

¹² Resolution 44/25, annex.

¹³ Resolution 54/263, annexes I and II.

28. We resolve therefore:

- To give full support to the political and institutional structures of emerging democracies in Africa.
- To encourage and sustain regional and subregional mechanisms for preventing conflict and promoting political stability, and to ensure a reliable flow of resources for peacekeeping operations on the continent.
- To take special measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, including debt cancellation, improved market access, enhanced Official Development Assistance and increased flows of Foreign Direct Investment, as well as transfers of technology.
- To help Africa build up its capacity to tackle the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other infectious diseases.

VIII. Strengthening the United Nations

29. We will spare no effort to make the United Nations a more effective instrument for pursuing all of these priorities: the fight for development for all the peoples of the world, the fight against poverty, ignorance and disease; the fight against injustice; the fight against violence, terror and crime; and the fight against the degradation and destruction of our common home.

30. We resolve therefore:

- To reaffirm the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations, and to enable it to play that role effectively.
- To intensify our efforts to achieve a comprehensive reform of the Security Council in all its aspects.
- To strengthen further the Economic and Social Council, building on its recent achievements, to help it fulfil the role ascribed to it in the Charter.
- To strengthen the International Court of Justice, in order to ensure justice and the rule of law in international affairs.
- To encourage regular consultations and coordination among the principal organs of the United Nations in pursuit of their functions.
- To ensure that the Organization is provided on a timely and predictable basis with the resources it needs to carry out its mandates.
- To urge the Secretariat to make the best use of those resources, in accordance with clear rules and procedures agreed by the General Assembly, in the interests of all Member States, by adopting the best management practices and technologies available and by concentrating on those tasks that reflect the agreed priorities of Member States.
- To promote adherence to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.¹⁴

¹⁴ Resolution 49/59, annex.

- To ensure greater policy coherence and better cooperation between the United Nations, its agencies, the Bretton Woods Institutions and the World Trade Organization, as well as other multilateral bodies, with a view to achieving a fully coordinated approach to the problems of peace and development.
 - To strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in various fields, including peace and security, economic and social development, international law and human rights and democracy and gender issues.
 - To give greater opportunities to the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society, in general, to contribute to the realization of the Organization's goals and programmes.
31. We request the General Assembly to review on a regular basis the progress made in implementing the provisions of this Declaration, and ask the Secretary-General to issue periodic reports for consideration by the General Assembly and as a basis for further action.
32. We solemnly reaffirm, on this historic occasion, that the United Nations is the indispensable common house of the entire human family, through which we will seek to realize our universal aspirations for peace, cooperation and development. We therefore pledge our unstinting support for these common objectives and our determination to achieve them.

*8th plenary meeting
8 September 2000*

Parliament of Kiribati
Organisational Chart

KIRIBATI PARLIAMENT

