

MILESTONES IN THE EFFORTS FOR A UNITED NATIONS PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

- **October 1992:** The World Federalist Movement publishes the brochure "The Case for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly" by Dieter Heinrich.
- **December 1992:** The Liberal International publishes the report "Strengthening of the United Nations" which states "*As a long term goal, consideration should be given to the establishment of a Second Chamber of the Assembly or a World Parliament, whose members would be directly elected by peoples of the member states*".
- **Spring 1993:** The Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade of the Canadian House of Commons endorses the UNPA proposal in its 8th Report: "*By way of building the public and political constituency for the United Nations, the Committee recommends that Canada support the development of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly*".
- **February 1994:** A resolution of the European Parliament on "the role of the United Nations within the UN and the problems of reforming the UN" contains a paragraph saying that it "*wishes consideration to be given to the possibility of setting up within the UN a parliamentary consultative assembly to enable the elected representatives of peoples to participate more fully in the work of UN bodies*".
- **March 1996:** In a speech delivered at the "Conference on The Fate of Democracy In The Era of Globalisation", Wellesley College, Massachusetts, the Secretary-General of the World Federation of United Nations Associations, Erskine Childers, states: "*We need a worldwide campaign to get our governments to establish, alongside the General Assembly of executive branches, a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly elected by the peoples*".
- **May 2000:** The "Millennium Forum" of over 1,000 non-governmental organizations gathered in New York includes a pro-UNPA statement in its final declaration: "*The Forum urges the United Nations ... To consider the creation of a UN parliamentary body related to the UN General Assembly. One proposal that should be considered is the creation of a consultative Parliamentary Assembly*".
- **September 2000:** The President of the Czech Republic, Vaclav Havel, speaks out for a UNPA in his speech at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations: "*Such a United Nations would probably have to rest on two pillars: one constituted by an assembly of equal executive representatives of individual countries, resembling the present plenary, and the other consisting of a group elected directly by the globe's population in which the number of delegates representing individual nations would, thus, roughly correspond to the size of the nations. These two bodies would create and guarantee global legislation*".
- **October 2003:** The XXII. Congress of the Socialist International adopts the report "Governance in a Global Society" which includes extensive deliberations on the parliamentary dimension at the UN and endorsement of the UNPA proposal. In particular it states: "*At some point, contemplation of a UN Parliamentary Assembly will be needed. ... In order to attain the goal of a UN Parliamentary Assembly, every effort needs to be made by the large party communities, and they need to strengthen their cooperation. The principal starting point could be in the assemblies of the Interparliamentary Union*".

- **January 2004:** The European Parliament reiterates its support for a UNPA by stating in a resolution on "the relations between the European Union and the United Nations" that it "*invites the UN Secretary-General and the UN's political bodies, its Agencies, Funds and Programmes ... jointly launching, in cooperation with regional or world Parliamentary Assemblies ... a network of parliamentarians, which should meet on a regular basis in a Consultative Parliamentary Assembly under the United Nations, to discuss major political issues related to the UN's activity and the challenges it faces*".
- **September 2004:** The Committee for a Democratic UN, established in February 2004, presents its strategy paper "Developing International Democracy – For a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations" by Andreas Bummel. In May 2005 it is published as paperback book.
- **February 2005:** On the initiative of the Committee for a Democratic UN and the Society for Threatened Peoples-Switzerland a majority of 108 members of the Swiss parliament write an open letter to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in support of the UNPA proposal, stating, among other things, that the UN Secretary General is requested to „*introduce the idea of a Parliamentary Assembly at the UN into the reform debate and to forward this suggestion to the governments of the UN member states for further discussion*“.
- **May 2005:** The 53rd Congress of the Liberal International passes a resolution calling for the establishment of a UNPA, in particular it "*calls on the member states of the United Nations to enter into deliberations on the establishment of a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations*".
- **June 2005:** In a resolution "on the reform of the United Nations" the European Parliament once again supports the establishment of a UNPA, stating in one paragraph that it "*Calls for the establishment of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA) within the UN system, which would increase the democratic profile and internal democratic process of the organisation and allow world civil society to be directly associated in the decisionmaking process; states that the Parliamentary Assembly should be vested with genuine rights of information, participation and control, and should be able to adopt recommendations directed at the UN General Assembly*".
- **January 2006:** The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopts a comprehensive resolution on the "Parliamentary dimension of the United Nations". While considering preliminary steps before, the assembly "*urges Council of Europe member and observer states ... to setting up a UN parliamentary assembly, based on national delegations, with consultative functions for the General Assembly*".
- **November 2006:** As an addendum to its strategy paper published in September 2004, the Committee for a Democratic UN releases the document "A United Nations Parliamentary Assembly - Frequently Asked Questions" by Andreas Bummel and Dr. Claudia Kissling.
- **November 2006:** The 38th Plenary Assembly of the World Federation of United Nations Associations adopts a resolution endorsing the UNPA proposal. The resolution states that WFUNA "*supports the establishment of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly as a consultative body within the United Nations system as a voice of the citizens, calls upon the governments of the United Nations member states, parliamentarians and civil society representatives to jointly examine possible steps and options to create a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly*".
- **November 2006:** At a public event organized by Friends of Europe in Brussels, former UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar stated support for the cause of a UN Parliamentary Assembly.

- **April 2007:** The international Campaign for the Establishment of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly is launched. The campaign's "Appeal for the Establishment of a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations" is endorsed by 550 initial signatories from 89 countries, among them 378 members of parliament, 20 acting and former national government ministers including two former prime ministers and six former foreign ministers, four Nobel laureates, 80 professors and a lot of distinguished civil society leaders. The appeal ends with the words: "*We appeal to the United Nations and the governments of its member states to establish a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations. We call for all organizations, decision-makers and citizens engaged with the international common interest to support this appeal*".
- **April and May 2007:** The Campaign for the Establishment of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly and its appeal are presented at press conferences and public events in Vancouver, Berlin, Madrid, Dar Es Salaam, London, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Berne, Ottawa and Mumbai with a total of 60 speakers participating, among them 28 members of parliament.
- **May 2007:** In a message addressed to the Campaign for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly former UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, one of its initial supporters, stressed the necessity to establish democratic participation of citizens at the global level. Boutros-Ghali states that "*The establishment of a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations has become an indispensable step to achieve democratic control of globalization*".
- **June 2007:** At a conference in Berlin attended by more than 700 participants Andreas Bummel, one of the leading activists for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly, was honoured with the "Vision Award" of the Global Economic Network. One of the other prize winners present at the conference to receive the award was Nobel Peace Laureate Muhammad Yunus, founder of the Grameen microcredit bank.
- **July 2007:** In a report approved by the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development of the Canadian House of Commons titled "Advancing Canada's Role in International Support for Democratic Development" one recommendation says: "*As part of the essential role of a reformed and strengthened United Nations in global democratic development, the Parliament of Canada should give favourable consideration to the establishment of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly*".
- **August 2007:** The XXV. World Congress of the World Federalist Movement reiterates the long-standing support of the movement for a UNPA. The resolution on "United Nations Reform and Global Governance; Federalism at the Global and Regional Levels" states: "*WFM reaffirms its support for the creation of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly, conceived as a step toward a world parliament directly elected and endowed with legislative powers. WFM endorses the campaign for the establishment of a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations. ... WFM supports efforts to establish the direct representation of the people of the world through a second or people's house at the UN*".
- **September 2007:** A statement issued by UBUNTU World Forum of Civil Society Networks and endorsed by numerous NGO representatives states: "*Not just the world's States but its citizens too should be, and feel themselves to be, directly represented in that institution, thus transforming it into the central instrument of this new democratic world governance. In this sense, a Parliamentary Assembly or a General Assembly not only formed by States ... could help recovering the main characteristic of the United Nations highlighted at the beginning of the Charter: We, the Peoples*".

- **September 2007:** Four Members of the European Parliament from the four main political groups - Piia Noora Kauppi, Jo Leinen, Graham Watson and Gérard Onesta - present the brochure "The Case for Global Democracy – Advocating a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly" which includes contributions from them on the UNPA proposal.
- **October 2007:** The 8th session of the Pan-African Parliament adopts a strong resolution in support of a UNPA. The resolution in particular "*recommends ... that the Pan-African Parliament takes the initiative to achieve the establishment of a consultative United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA) within the UN system according to Article 22 of the Charter of the United Nations which enables the UN General Assembly to establish subsidiary bodies*".
- **November 2007:** The first international meeting of the Campaign for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly takes place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva under the patronage of former UN Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali. 28 campaign participants from 17 countries, among them 6 members of parliament attended. The conference reiterated the policy laid down in the campaign's appeal and came up with some clarifying conclusions, in particular that "*the Campaign also advocates the participation of regional parliamentary assemblies in a UNPA, such as the European Parliament and the Pan-African Parliament, and consideration may be given for the inclusion of local authorities in the consultative UNPA*" and "*that already in the first step the UNPA's Statutes should allow the participating states to opt for direct elections of their delegates if they wish to do so*".
- **March 2008:** The establishment of a UN Parliamentary Assembly was discussed at a fringe meeting organized on the occasion of the 15th session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly of the Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the European Union (ACP-EU) in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The event was attended by over 40 elected representatives.

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