

**PRELIMINARY VERSION SUBJECT TO CHANGE ACCORDING TO
PRINTED ORIGINAL**

(S-1229-08)

DRAFT STATEMENT

The Senate of the Nation,

DECLARES

1. Its support to efforts aimed at the creation and establishment of a Parliamentary Assembly of the United Nations (UN) in order to strengthen the effectiveness, transparency, representativeness, plurality and legitimacy of the resolutions of the institutions that compose the UN system.
2. Its absolute belief in the legitimacy of decisions taken as a product of participatory, pluralistic and democratic deliberation, a sine qua non condition of the effective implementation of policies that benefit our peoples.

Sonia Escudero.-

FUNDAMENTALS

Mr. President:

To ensure international cooperation, the acceptance and legitimacy of the United Nations, and to improve their capacity to act, the peoples must be directly and effectively integrated into the United Nations (UN) and its agencies. For this purpose, they should be permitted to take part in its activities, because their participation through a Parliamentary Assembly United Nations, encompassing democratic representation, ensures the cooperation of the international community.

A UN Parliamentary Assembly would not be simply another institution. As the voice of citizens, it would be the expression and the vehicle of a changed global consciousness and the understanding of international politics. Complex challenges such as global social inequality, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, the global problems of ecology and environment, will only be avoided if we all collaborate together.

A Parliamentary Assembly of the United Nations (UNPA, for its English initials) would consist of a growing global network of parliamentarians and non-governmental organizations that defend the representativeness of the citizens in the United Nations, encourage the creation of networks among local and national citizens, NGOs and establish a multi-stakeholder union between efforts of governments, parliamentarians and civil society.

Clearly, Mr. President, establishing such an institution would be a decisive step in the democratic consolidation of the UN system.

Without the need to change any of the 111 articles of the UN Charter, an Assembly of this range can create an important link between the United Nations, its agencies, national governments and parliaments, and civil society. It is therefore necessary to reconsider some of the purposes that are set out in Article 1 of the Charter, which deals with the common aims and objectives that are the *raison d'être* of the UN, in order to assess in advance the contributions that a Parliamentary Assembly would bring.

In addition to its concern about the maintenance of peace and security, the UN sets value in strengthening the friendly relations among nations, which must be based on sovereign equality and respect for the self-determination of peoples. It must also, according to Art. 1, achieve international cooperation in economic, social, cultural or humanitarian matters, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. And finally, it must turn the UN into a forum or centre for harmonizing the efforts of States for achieving the above purposes.

Therefore, it is fundamentally based on this last point that we propose the creation of a Parliamentary Assembly, facilitating contacts and discussions with allied governments and parliaments, and making public the political debates that arise from participation.

For these reasons, Mr. President, I ask my peers the approval of this project.

Sonia Escudero.-

*(translated from Spanish by Democracia Global /
Committee for a Democratic U.N.)*