

Finally, Mr. Laniel stated that the Canadian delegation was aware of the considerable importance of the draft currently before the Conference. There was another question the delegation hoped could be examined in the future, which was informing governments and assemblies about the work of parliamentary associations and in particular those of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

At the conclusion of this debate, the draft resolution and amendments (including those put forward by Canada) were sent to the Committee on Political, Juridical and Human Rights Questions for study and recommendations.

5. The state of the world environment ten years after the UN Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm. Steps to be taken, including in the area of national and international legislation (Item 5 on the agenda)

The debate on this question occurred on Thursday, September 16 in the afternoon. As no fewer than 51 speakers were already registered, the President announced to the Conference that the Steering Committee had decided to limit the speaking time allotted to each delegation to 6 minutes for a single speaker and 3 minutes per speaker if two were to speak. Thus, Mr. D. Orlikow, who was to speak together with Mrs. Y. Rousseau, kindly gave up his speaking time to her.

Senator Rousseau first invited delegates to reflect on the state of the environment and then invited her colleagues to adopt a resolution which would allow the Union to achieve concrete results. Below is a summary of Mrs. Rousseau's intervention.

Mrs. Y. Rousseau was pleased to have the opportunity to address the Conference on such an important matter as environment and to present some suggestions for amendment and comment in support of the proposed resolution. It was important that parliamentarians should prepare guidelines to facilitate the task in their respective countries.

The Senator recalled that the Conference's discussions were a continuation of preparatory meetings such as those at Lagos and Nairobi. IPU's major concern should be to determine objectives which were compatible with those of other organisations, since parliamentarians represented individuals but also acted as intermediaries.

It was above all important to reflect on the state of the world's environment ten years after the Stockholm Conference. In May 1982, the United Nations had organised a meeting to assess what progress had been achieved and to establish priorities and objectives for the next decade. Delegates should study those documents and become acquainted with the new objectives which were being proposed in order to promote them in their respective countries. It would already be an achievement if the Conference led to better knowledge of environmental problems.

Real progress had been achieved and the national and international organisations set up at the time had played a decisive role. However, much