



COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

**SUB-COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
TO HELP PREPARE A REVISED COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED NATIONS**

The IPU entered into a simple Cooperation Agreement with the United Nations in July 1996. The Agreement is general in nature and contains a commitment to work together according to modalities that will be established.

Over the years, the UN General Assembly has conferred observer status and additional rights onto the IPU. It has called for closer cooperation with the IPU in several resolutions, including the Millennium Declaration adopted by Heads of State and Government in 2000. In May 2012, the General Assembly recommended that a new cooperation agreement be drawn up to reflect progress and developments over the past 16 years.

On 5 October 2013, the Executive Committee examined a legal opinion that had been commissioned by the Secretary General on the options that are available to the IPU to place the cooperation with the United Nations on a stronger and more equal footing. The opinion considered how best the new developments that had occurred in the cooperation between the United Nations and the IPU could be reflected in a new cooperation agreement, the opinion also sought to clarify if the new agreement could be used to address and perhaps also resolve some of the difficulties experienced by the IPU in implementing the current agreement, including by clarifying the issue of the Organization's international status.

After an initial exchange, the Executive Committee agreed that a more in-depth analysis of this matter was required. It decided to establish a sub-committee made up of one representative from each one of the geopolitical groups as follows:

- ü Mr. R.M.K. Al Shariqi (United Arab Emirates)
- ü Ms. R. Kadaga (Uganda)
- ü A representative of the Asia-Pacific Group
- ü Ms. I. Passada (Uruguay)
- ü Mr. V. Senko (Belarus)
- ü A representative of the Twelve Plus Group.

The President of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs will participate in the work of the Sub-Committee in an advisory capacity. The Secretary General will assist the Sub-Committee in its work and act as its Secretary.

The Sub-Committee will examine the different options set forth in the legal opinion, their implications and the modalities through which they could be implemented. The Sub-Committee would also be free to identify and examine other options not contained in the legal opinion. The members of the Sub-Committee are encouraged to seek legal advice from experts within their own countries.

The Sub-Committee will report back to the Executive Committee on the outcome of its deliberations in March 2014.