



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
114th Assembly and related meetings
Nairobi, 4 to 12 May 2006



A/114/Inf.2
4 April 2006

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF PARLIAMENTARIANS

The following information is intended to assist IPU Members and geopolitical groups in identifying appropriate candidates for a post on the Committee and ensuring that candidates are aware of the specific requirements and the workload which membership in the Committee entails. It also aims to make parliaments aware of the financial implications.

1. Mandate of the Committee and frequency of meetings

- The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians is the body entrusted by the IPU with the task of examining communications concerning alleged human rights violations of members of parliament. The Committee, therefore, deals with individual cases, which it examines in the light of national and applicable regional and international human rights law. At present, the Committee is examining 56 cases involving more than 200 parliamentarians in 30 countries.
- The Committee meets four times a year for a period of usually four days each. Two meetings are held at the IPU headquarters in Geneva (generally in January and in June/July) and the other two meetings are held during IPU Assemblies. All members of the Committee are expected to attend these meetings.
- On occasion, Committee members may also have to carry out fact-finding missions to countries to look into circumstances surrounding individual cases under examination by the Committee.

2. Profile of Committee members

- The members of the Committee are elected in their personal capacity for a five-year term.
- Candidates for a post on the Committee should have experience in the field of human rights, for example as members of parliamentary committees dealing with human rights issues. They need to have a clear commitment to human rights. Knowledge of parliamentary law and practice is also important.

- The Committee's documents (reports, correspondence, decisions, draft resolutions) are translated only into the official languages of the IPU, namely English and French. Members are therefore required to be able to read and understand either English or French, and preferably also to be able to express themselves in either of both languages. However, if needed, interpretation into Arabic and Spanish is also provided for the Committee's proceedings.

3. Obligations incumbent upon the parliament to which a Committee member belongs

- While the IPU covers travel expenses and pays a per diem to members at the sessions held at IPU headquarters in Geneva, parliaments are expected to meet the cost of their participation in Committee meetings taking place during the IPU Assemblies. For this reason, the parliaments concerned should either include in or add to their delegation the member in question. Members are not taken into account in the calculation of the number of members to which the relevant delegation is entitled, since they spend almost all their time in the Committee's meetings and are, therefore, not able to participate in the work of the Assembly.