



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

142nd IPU ASSEMBLY

Virtual session, 24-28 May 2021

A/142/C.1
26 March 2021

Convocation of the 142nd IPU Assembly (24-28 May 2021) and related meetings

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

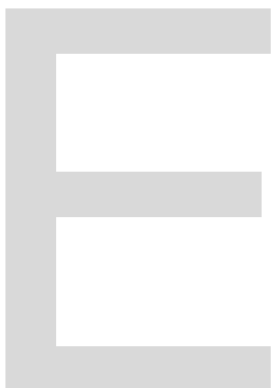
As you are aware, the IPU Executive Committee has decided that, in view of the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic and its impact, the 142nd IPU Assembly will be held during the **week of 24 May 2021** in virtual format (Governing Council on 24, 25 and possibly 28 May if required, and Assembly on 26 and 27 May). The Standing Committees, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, and the other subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council will meet in the weeks leading up to the Assembly.

The current Rules of the Assembly, designed for physical meetings held under normal circumstances, are not suitable for this unprecedented virtual format. As such, the Executive Committee has prepared **special rules of procedure** that would apply to virtual sessions of the Assembly and Standing Committees, and which are enclosed in Annex 1. These special rules are inspired by similar rules adopted by a number of international organizations in response to the COVID-19 crisis. They are also consistent with the already agreed special rules of procedure for virtual sessions of the Governing Council – <https://www.ipu.org/about-ipu/statutes-and-rules-ipu>. These rules will be brought to the consideration of the Governing Council at the opening of its virtual session on 24 May, when the Governing Council will be called upon to formally adopt them. However, in view of the exceptional circumstances, Members will be required to provide their support and views in advance of the session.

Furthermore, as mentioned above, because of the time constraints inherent in the virtual format of the Assembly, the Standing Committees and the subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council must meet in the weeks leading up to the Assembly. The **draft timetable** of the virtual 142nd IPU Assembly and related meetings is enclosed in Annex 2. The **draft agendas of the Assembly and of the Governing Council** are enclosed in Annex 3.

The overall theme of the Assembly will be *Overcoming the pandemic today and building a better tomorrow: the role of parliaments*. The Executive Committee proposes the following scenario:

- An interactive debate with prominent personalities will be held on the first day of the Assembly (26 May).
- All Heads of Delegations will be invited to send video messages around the overall theme to be posted on a dedicated webpage and promoted through social media.
- The four Standing Committees, as well as the two Forums (Women and Young Parliamentarians), meeting in the weeks preceding the Assembly, will address the overall theme from their respective perspectives (peace and security, sustainable development, democracy and human rights, the United Nations approach to post-COVID recovery, gender and youth).



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- Input from these deliberations will be incorporated in an outcome document to be finalized by the Executive Committee and adopted at the close of the Assembly.
- The two draft resolutions currently on the respective agendas of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security (impact of climate disasters on peace and security) and of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development (mainstreaming digitalization and the circular economy) will be adopted through ad-hoc procedures as outlined in [Annex 4](#).

Although the related meetings of the Assembly will be spread out over several weeks between mid-April and late May, every effort has been made to avoid undue pressure on the time of delegates. Many of the meetings are those of the specialized IPU bodies, which will be held in camera and involve a limited number of participants. The plenary sessions of the Standing Committees are scheduled in such a way as to allow the finalization of decisions (resolutions and the outcome of the debate on the overall theme of the Assembly), in keeping with the deadlines established by the Special Rules of Procedure. The sittings of the Governing Council and the Assembly itself are concentrated during the week of 24 May.

The IPU President and the Executive Committee have furthermore stressed the importance of ensuring that the various IPU bodies can function to the fullest extent possible, and that every effort should be made to fill the vacancies as noted in [Annex 5](#). The IPU President and Secretary General have already held consultations with the Chairs and Coordinators of the Geopolitical Groups, and the Secretariat stands ready to provide support as appropriate so that the Groups may meet and designate their representatives on the various bodies. Based on the successful experience of the virtual session of the Governing Council in November 2020, the IPU will use the services of a professional company for remote voting for those positions where MPs may put forward candidatures in their personal capacity, as is primarily the case for the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and the Committee on Middle East Questions.

The Executive Committee has also examined the revised terms of reference and modalities of the newly established IPU Working Group on Science and Technology, and decided that they should be formally submitted for approval by the Governing Council (see attachment). The geopolitical groups will then be invited to submit their nominations for this new IPU body.

In view of the above, and in order to allow for the timely and orderly preparation of the 142nd Assembly and related meetings, a number of procedural changes will be introduced before the opening of the session with regard to the deadlines for the registration of delegations and for the submission of candidatures.

The Executive Committee has decided to seek the concurrence of the Governing Council on these proposals, including the special rules of the Assembly. Members are requested to notify the Secretary General in writing – including by email – by 12 April 2021 only if they object to the proposals. Unless one third or more of the Members submit an objection by that date, the proposals will be considered adopted as decisions of the Governing Council. They will be recalled for the record at the opening of the Governing Council session.

We thank you for your kind understanding and support during these challenging times, and very much hope that you will lead the delegation of your Parliament at the 142nd Assembly and related meetings. Information on online registration and other organizational matters is included in [Annex 6](#).

Yours sincerely,



Duarte Pacheco
President



Martin Chungong
Secretary General



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142nd IPU ASSEMBLY

Virtual session, 24-28 May 2021

Annex 1

Governing Council
Item 2

CL/207/2-P.1
22 March 2021

Adoption of the Special Rules of Procedure for the virtual sessions of the Assembly and Standing Committees

Special Rules of Procedure to regulate the conduct of virtual sessions of the Assembly and Standing Committees

At its sitting of 18 January 2021, the Executive Committee took a number of decisions regarding the format and structure of the 142nd IPU Assembly, to be held virtually during the week of 24 May 2021.

A Working Group was established to examine possible special/simplified Rules of Procedure to regulate the conduct of virtual sessions of the Assembly and Standing Committees (142nd Assembly but also possible future Assemblies held in virtual format).

The Working Group, chaired by Mr. J.F.N. Mudenda (Zimbabwe) and composed of the Executive Committee representatives from Egypt, Pakistan, Switzerland, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe, as well as the President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, the President of the Board of the Forum of Young MPs and the IPU Secretary General, met on 26 February. The Working Group examined and amended the draft special rules of procedure prepared by the Secretariat with the support of the independent Legal Counsel. These were approved by the Executive Committee at its sitting on 22 March 2021.

The Governing Council is now invited to endorse this document in advance of the 142nd IPU Assembly (virtual session), through the written silence procedure. These Special Rules of Procedure would then be formally adopted by the Governing Council at its first sitting on 24 May.

I. Special Rules of Procedure for the Assembly (meeting in virtual format)

The Rules of the Assembly shall continue to apply in full, except to the extent that they are inconsistent with these Special Rules of Procedure, in which case the decision of the Assembly to adopt these Special Rules of Procedure shall constitute a decision to suspend the relevant Rules of the Assembly to the extent necessary.

The Rules of the Assembly that shall be suspended are the following:

- Rule 4 to 6 with regard to the venue and duration of a physical Assembly
- Rule 9 with regard to the Steering Committee
- Rules 11,12 and 15.3 with regard to emergency items
- Rules 17 to 20 with regard to amendments and sub-amendments
- Rules 28 to 32 with regard to voting
- Rule 33 with regard to quorum
- Rule 34 with regard to majorities

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1. ATTENDANCE

1.1 Attendance by Members, Associate Members and Observers shall be through secured access to videoconference or other electronic means allowing representatives to hear other participants and to address the meeting remotely as appropriate.

1.2 For the purpose of attendance, and voting, the gender inclusiveness of delegations of Members under Articles 10 and 15(c) of the Statutes will be assessed on the basis of the list submitted by each Member for the purpose of registration by the deadline indicated below.

2. REGISTRATION

2.1 Registration shall take place through an online system in accordance with established practice. Each IPU Member participating in the session shall communicate the name, gender, age and contact details of its delegates as well as the scan of an official letter from the Speaker of parliament or the President of the IPU Group concerned.

2.2 The deadline for registration shall be 15 days before the opening of the session. No further changes to the composition of delegations will be possible after that date except in case of force majeure preventing a registered member from attending the session. The existence of such a situation must be certified by the Speaker of the Parliament or the President of the IPU Group concerned through a written communication to the Secretary General.

3. QUORUM

The number of registered delegations at the registration deadline indicated in Rule 2.2 of these Special Rules of Procedure shall be used to establish the quorum.

4. ADDRESSING THE ASSEMBLY

4.1 During the virtual session, statements by delegates shall be limited to two minutes.

4.2 Delegates may also submit written statements in either English or French (the official languages of the Organization) with an indication of the agenda item to which they refer, in advance of the opening of the session of the Assembly. Written statements shall be in lieu of live interventions. These shall be posted on a dedicated web page and shall form part of the official records of the session.

4.3 Delegates may also submit pre-recorded video statements with an indication of the agenda item to which they refer, in advance of the opening of the session. Pre-recorded video statements shall be in lieu of live interventions.

4.4 Any delegate wishing to take the floor should signal their wish to speak. A delegate wishing to raise a point of order in relation to a statement made during the session should signal their intention to do so. The President will rule on the point of order in accordance with Rule 23 of the Rules of the Assembly.

4.5 Observers are invited to submit written statements in either English or French (the official languages of the Organization) with an indication of the agenda item to which they refer, in advance of the opening of the session of the Assembly. Such statements shall be posted on a dedicated web page.

5. DECISION-MAKING

All decisions of the Assembly taken in a virtual session shall be, as far as possible, adopted by consensus. In view of the virtual nature of the session and of technical limitations, resolutions prepared by the Standing Committees and outcomes of the General Debate endorsed by the Executive Committee shall be submitted for adoption by the Assembly through the written silence procedure as outlined in Rule 6 below.

6. WRITTEN SILENCE PROCEDURE

6.1 The following written silence procedure shall apply in respect of any proposal that the IPU President determines, following informal consultations, is suitable for adoption without further discussion by the Assembly.

6.2 At the request of the President, the Secretary General shall transmit to Members any such proposal for consideration under this written silence procedure.

6.3 The communication shall contain the text of the proposal(s) to be considered under this written silence procedure. Any such objection shall be conveyed in writing, including by email, and addressed to the Secretary General. The objection must have been received within 15 days of the date of the dispatch of the communication.

6.4 In the absence of the receipt by the stipulated deadline of written objections from one third or more of Members, the proposal concerned shall be considered as having been validly adopted by the Assembly. Objections shall be reproduced in footnotes appended to the text of the resolution or decision once adopted.

6.5 The Secretary General shall communicate the outcome of the written silence procedure to all Members as soon as possible after the set deadline referred to above. In the case of a proposal that is adopted pursuant to the written silence procedure, the date of the Secretary General's communication to that effect shall be the date of adoption of the proposal.

6.6 Without prejudice to the above, a Member may explain their position in respect of a proposal that is subject to the written silence procedure by submitting a written statement relating thereto, for posting on the IPU website. Written statements should be received by the Secretary General by the date set for receipt of objections. Written statements shall be made available on the IPU website for information purposes only. They shall appear as submitted and in the language(s) of submission. Submission of a written statement in accordance with this paragraph shall not be considered as an objection.

II. Special Rules of Procedure for the Standing Committees (meeting in virtual format)

The Rules of the Standing Committees shall continue to apply in full, except to the extent that they are inconsistent with these Special Rules of Procedure, in which case the decision of the Governing Council to adopt these Special Rules of Procedure shall constitute a decision to suspend the relevant Rules of the Standing Committees to the extent necessary.

The Rules of the Standing Committees that shall be suspended are the following:

- Rule 7 paragraph 6 with regard to the election of Bureau members by secret ballot
- Rule 13 paragraph 2 with regard to the deadline for submission of amendments
- Rule 18 with regard to the deadline for the submission of proposals for subject items
- Rules 24 to 26 with regard to the treatment of amendments and sub-amendments
- Rule 32 with regard to procedural motions.
- Rule 33 with regard to public meetings
- Rule 35 and 36 with regard to the method of voting
- Rule 37 with regard to division of proposals
- Rule 38 with regard to interruption and explanation of the vote
- Rule 39 with regard to quorum
- Rule 40 with regard to the decisions of the Standing Committees and their Bureaux

1. ATTENDANCE

Attendance by Members, Associate Members and Observers shall be through secured access to videoconference or other electronic means allowing representatives to hear other participants and to address the meeting remotely as appropriate.

2. QUORUM

A Standing Committee may meet and deliberate irrespective of the number of members present.

3. ADDRESSING THE STANDING COMMITTEES

- 3.1 During the virtual session, statements by members shall be limited to two minutes.
- 3.2 Members may submit written statements in either English or French (the official languages of the Organization) with an indication of the agenda item to which they refer, in advance of the opening of the session of the Standing Committee concerned. Written statements shall be in lieu of live interventions. These shall be posted on a dedicated web page and shall form part of the official records of the session.
- 3.3 Any member wishing to take the floor should signal their wish to speak. A member wishing to raise a point of order in relation to a statement made during the session should signal their intention to do so. The President will rule on the point of order in accordance with Rule 28 of the Rules of Standing Committees.
- 3.4 Observers may submit written statements in either English or French (the official languages of the Organization) with an indication of the agenda item to which they refer, in advance of the opening of the session of the Standing Committee concerned. Such statements shall be posted on a dedicated web page.

4. DECISION-MAKING

All decisions of Standing Committees taken in a virtual session shall be, as far as possible, adopted by consensus. Ad-hoc rules shall be established for the adoption of resolutions and subject items, through a transparent and inclusive process.

5. WRITTEN SILENCE PROCEDURE

- 5.1 The following written silence procedure shall apply in respect of any proposal that the IPU President determines, following informal consultations, is suitable for adoption without further discussion.
- 5.2 At the request of the President, the Secretary General shall transmit to Members any such proposal for consideration under this written silence procedure.
- 5.3 The communication shall contain the text of the proposal(s) to be considered under this written silence procedure. Any such objection shall be conveyed in writing, including by email, and addressed to the Secretary General. The objection must have been received within 15 days of the date of the dispatch of the communication.
- 5.4 In the absence of the receipt by the stipulated deadline of written objections from one third or more of Members, the proposal concerned shall be considered as having been validly adopted. Objections shall be reproduced in footnotes appended to the text of the resolution or decision once adopted.
- 5.5 The Secretary General shall communicate the outcome of the written silence procedure to all Members as soon as possible after the set deadline referred to above. In the case of a proposal that is adopted pursuant to the written silence procedure, the date of the Secretary General's communication to that effect shall be the date of adoption of the proposal.
- 5.6 Without prejudice to the above, a Member may explain their position in respect of a proposal that is subject to the written silence procedure by submitting a written statement relating thereto, for posting on the IPU website. Written statements should be received by the Secretary General by the date set for receipt of objections. Written statements shall be made available on the IPU website for information purposes only. They shall appear as submitted and in the language(s) of submission. Submission of a written statement in accordance with this paragraph shall not be considered as an objection.

GENERAL TIMETABLE OF THE 142nd ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Virtual session

Pre-Assembly meetings

Tuesday, 13 April 2021

- 14.00 – 16.30 Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security*
Zoom
- 14.00 – 16.30 Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development*
Zoom

Wednesday, 14 April 2021

- 14.00 – 17.00 Committee on Middle East Questions*
Zoom

Friday 16 April 2021

- Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law*
Zoom

Thursday, 22 April 2021

- 14.00 – 16.30 Standing Committee on Peace and International Security*
Drafting Committee on the draft resolution on *Parliamentary strategies to strengthen peace and security against threats and conflicts resulting from climate-related disasters and their consequences*
Zoom
- 14.00 – 16.30 Standing Committee on Sustainable Development*
Drafting Committee on the draft resolution on *Mainstreaming digitalization and the circular economy to achieve the SDGs, particularly responsible consumption and production*
Zoom

Monday, 26 April 2021

- 14.00 – 16.30 **Standing Committee on Peace and International Security**
Debate on overall theme: *Overcoming the pandemic today and building a better tomorrow: the role of parliaments*

Tuesday, 27 April 2021

- 14.00 – 16.30 **Joint meeting of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development and of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs**
Debate on overall theme

Wednesday, 28 April 2021

- 14.00 – 16.30 **Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights**
Debate on overall theme
- 14.00 – 16.30 Advisory Group on Health*
Zoom

* *closed session*

Thursday, 29 April 2021

14.00 – 16.30

Standing Committee on UN Affairs
Discussion on UN75 follow-up

Thursday, 6 May 2021

14.00 – 16.00

Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians*

6- 11 May 2021

14.00 – 17.00

Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians*
Zoom

Monday, 10 May 2021

14.00 – 17.00

Forum of Women MPs
Advancing gender equality: Covid's impact and priorities for recovery
- Briefings on inter-parliamentary e-dialogues held in March-April
- Towards a gender-responsive post-Covid recovery
Contributing to the work of the Assembly from a gender perspective
Elections to the Bureau of Women MPs

Tuesday, 11 May 2021

14.00 – 15.30

Bureau of Women Parliamentarians*

14.00 – 16.00

Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy
and Human Rights*
Zoom

Wednesday, 12 May 2021

14.00 – 16.00

Forum of Women Parliamentarians
Panel discussion: *Generation equality in and through parliaments*
Elections of the Bureau's presiding officers

14.00 – 17.00

Committee on Middle East Questions*
Zoom

Thursday, 13 May 2021

14.00 – 16.00

Forum of Young Parliamentarians
Contributing to the work of the 142nd Assembly from a youth perspective
Parliaments, youth and COVID-19
- Briefings on intergenerational e-dialogues held in April
- Prioritizing youth empowerment in post-Covid recovery
Elections to the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians

14.00 – 16.00

Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs*
Zoom

Friday, 14 May 2021

14.00 – 16.00 Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians*

Monday, 17 May 2021

14.00 – 17.00 **Forum of Young Parliamentarians**
Panel discussions:
- A new decade of action for the IPU and parliaments on youth participation
- Launch of the Campaign
- Elections of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians (election of the President of the Board)

14.00 – 16.30 **Standing Committee on Peace and International Security**
Adoption of resolution on *Parliamentary strategies to strengthen peace and security against threats and conflicts resulting from climate-related disasters and their consequences*

14.00 – 16.30 High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism*
Zoom

Tuesday, 18 May 2021

14.00 – 16.30 **Standing Committee on Sustainable Development**
Adoption of resolution on *Mainstreaming digitalization and the circular economy to achieve the SDGs, particularly responsible consumption and production*

14.00 – 16.30 **Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights**
Debate on *Legislation worldwide to combat online sexual child exploitation*

* *closed session*

Assembly meetings

Tuesday, 18 May 2021

14.00 – 17.00

Sub-Committee on Finance*
Zoom

Wednesday, 19 May 2021

14.00 – 17.00

Executive Committee*
Zoom

Thursday, 20 May 2021

14.00 – 17.00

Executive Committee*
Zoom

Monday, 24 May 2021

14.00 – 17.00

Governing Council

Tuesday, 25 May 2021

14.00 – 17.00

Governing Council

Wednesday, 26 May 2021

10.00 – 13.00

ASGP Meeting - *The role and organization of parliaments in a time of pandemic*

14.00 – 17.00

Assembly
Interactive debate on overall theme *Overcoming the pandemic today and building a better tomorrow: the role of parliaments*
Video messages

Thursday, 27 May 2021

10.00 – 13.00

ASGP Meeting - *The role and organization of parliaments in a time of pandemic*

14.00 – 17.00

Assembly
Adoption of Resolutions
Reports by Standing Committees
Adoption of outcome document

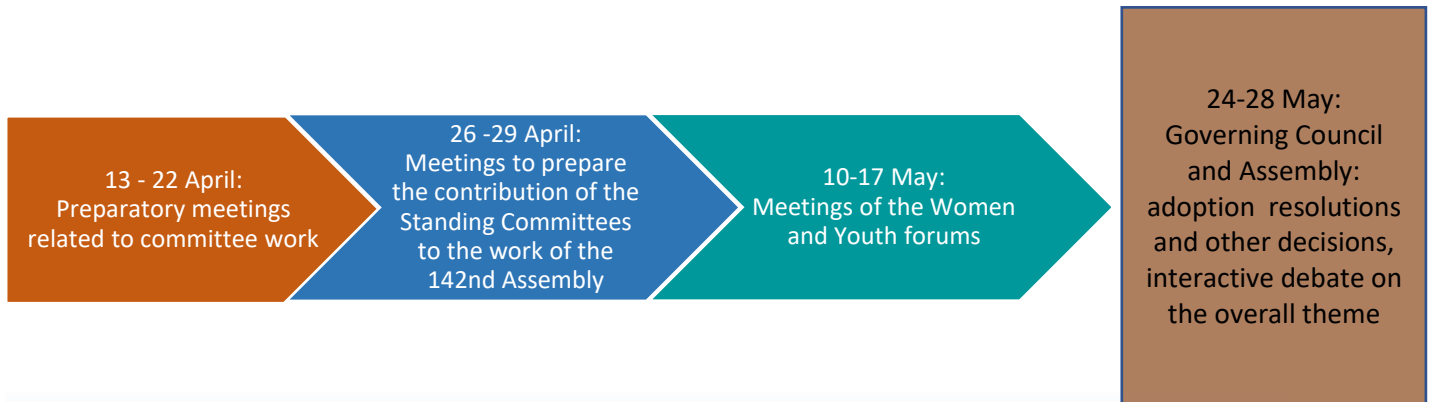
Friday, 28 May 2021

14.00 – 17.00

Governing Council (if required)

* *closed session*

MAIN TIMELINES FOR THE ADOPTION OF DECISIONS AT THE 142ND IPU ASSEMBLY



Timeline for the preparation of the resolutions

12 March 2021	Revised resolutions posted on the IPU website / request for amendments sent
2 April 2021	Deadline for Member Parliaments to submit written amendments to the draft resolutions
12 April 2021	Amendments posted on the IPU website and provided to the Drafting Committee members
22 April 2021	Meetings of the Drafting Committees
23 April 2021	Revised draft resolution sent to IPU Member Parliaments Start of the 15-day silence procedure
17 May 2021	Meeting of the Standing Committee on Peace and Security to formally announce the result of the silence procedure
18 May 2021	Meeting of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development to formally announce the result of the silence procedure

Timeline for the choice of a subject item

12 March 2021	Request for subject items sent
2 April 2021	Deadline for Member Parliaments to submit subject items
13 April 2021	Meetings of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and Security and the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development
23 April 2021	Subject item proposals sent to IPU Member Parliaments Start of the 15-day silence procedure
17 May 2021	Meeting of the Standing Committee on Peace and Security to formally announce the result of the silence procedure
18 May 2021	Meeting of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development to formally announce the result of the silence procedure



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142nd IPU ASSEMBLY

Virtual session, 24-28 May 2021

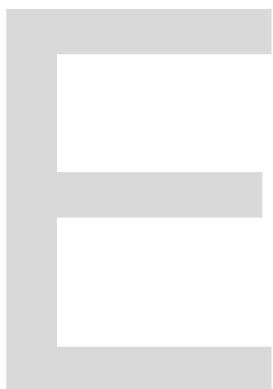
Annex 3

Assembly

A/142/A.1
26 March 2021

Agenda of the 142nd Assembly

1. General Debate on the theme *Overcoming the pandemic today and building a better tomorrow: the role of parliaments*
2. *Parliamentary strategies to strengthen peace and security against threats and conflicts resulting from climate-related disasters and their consequences*
(Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)
3. *Mainstreaming digitalization and the circular economy to achieve the SDGs, particularly responsible consumption and production*
(Standing Committee on Sustainable Development)
4. Reports of the Standing Committees
5. Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and for the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development for the 144th Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs



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142nd IPU ASSEMBLY

Virtual session, 24-28 May 2021

Governing Council
Item 1

CL/207/A.1
22 March 2021

Provisional agenda of the 207th session of the Governing Council

May 2021

1. **Adoption of the agenda**
2. **Adoption of the Special Rules of Procedure for the virtual sessions of the Assembly and Standing Committees**

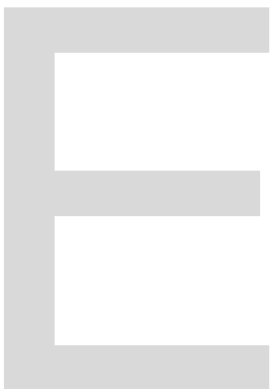
The Special Rules of Procedure have been prepared by the Working Group tasked with preparing the virtual session of the Assembly, with the support of the IPU Secretariat and the independent Legal Counsel, and endorsed by the Executive Committee. They are designed to adapt certain existing Rules, which will be temporarily suspended, to the specificities of a virtual session. The Special Rules of Procedure are being circulated well in advance to the full membership of the IPU and will be formally adopted at the first sitting of the virtual session.
3. **Approval of the summary records of the 206th session of the Governing Council (CL/206/SR)**

The summary records were sent to all Members on 18 January 2021 and are available on the IPU website at www.ipu.org/event/extraordinary-session-ipu-governing-council#event-sub-page-documents
4. **Vision of the IPU President and report on his activities since the 206th session of the Governing Council**

The President will share his vision for the IPU. He will report on his activities and on the activities of the Executive Committee since the last session of the Governing Council.
5. **Annual IPU Impact Report by the Secretary General on the activities of the IPU in 2020**

The Governing Council will receive an update on the implementation of the Strategy for 2017-2021. It will also receive an overview of the status of the strategic partnership between the IPU and the United Nations.
6. **Elections to the Executive Committee and other IPU bodies**

The Governing Council will elect one member to replace Mr. A. Abdel Aal (Egypt), whose term is due to end at the 207th session of the Governing Council – the vacancy is to be filled by a man or a woman from the Arab Group.



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The Governing Council will also be called upon to elect six members of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and two members of the Committee on Middle East Questions. The members of these two Committees are elected in their individual capacity, on the basis of their knowledge and experience in these respective areas.

The Governing Council will be invited to endorse the nominations received from the Geopolitical Groups of MPs to fill vacancies on the various subsidiary bodies of the Council.

7. Financial results for 2020

The Governing Council will be informed of the financial results for 2020.

8. Questions relating to IPU membership

(a) Achieving universal membership

The Governing Council will be updated on the current membership situation and be informed of initiatives undertaken with a view to achieving universal membership.

(b) Situation of certain parliaments

9. Future Inter-Parliamentary meetings

10. Activities of committees and other bodies

(a) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

(b) Forum of Women Parliamentarians

(c) Committee on Middle East Questions

(d) Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

(e) Gender Partnership Group

(f) Advisory Group on Health

(g) Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU

(h) High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG)

11. Other business



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142nd IPU ASSEMBLY

Virtual session, 24-28 May 2021

Annex 4

NOTE FOR MEMBERS

Adoption of resolutions and selection of subject items by the Standing Committees

In light of the current pandemic, it has been decided that the 142nd IPU Assembly will be held during the week of 24 May 2021, in virtual format. The Standing Committees and the subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council will meet virtually in the weeks leading up to the Assembly, and report to the full membership during the Assembly.

The IPU President and Secretary General have held consultations with the Presidents of the Standing Committees and the Chairs of the Geopolitical Groups, and it has been decided that all the IPU bodies should meet, deliberate and adopt decisions, despite the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and the temporary replacement of in-person meetings with virtual sessions.

The Executive Committee will meet on 22 March to examine and decide on a number of Assembly-related aspects, including the Assembly timetable and programme, Special Rules of Procedure to govern the deliberations of virtual sessions of the Assembly and Standing Committees, the agenda of the Governing Council, and the modalities for filling the various vacancies on the IPU statutory bodies.

Work of the Standing Committees

The Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights and the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs are expected to hold two virtual meetings in the weeks leading up to the Assembly, deliberate on topical issues on their agenda and report to the Assembly.

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security (First Standing Committee) and the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development (Second Standing Committee), in turn, are expected to **adopt resolutions** on the subject items that have been on their agenda since the 140th Assembly, namely:

- *Parliamentary strategies to strengthen peace and security against threats and conflicts resulting from climate-related disasters and their consequences* (First Standing Committee), and
- *Mainstreaming digitalization and the circular economy to achieve the SDGs, particularly responsible consumption and production* (Second Standing Committee)

The draft resolutions, based on the text prepared by the co-rapporteurs and circulated to the full membership in early 2020, have been revised by the co-rapporteurs in light of the pandemic and other relevant recent developments. These will be distributed to all Members and posted on the IPU website by 12 March.

Amendments

Members will be invited to submit any possible amendments to the draft resolutions by 2 April. Members who already submitted amendments in March 2020 will have the opportunity to resubmit these again, should they still be valid in light of the recent changes made by the co-rapporteurs.

Drafting Committees

Amendments will be considered by Drafting Committees on 22 April.

In line with the current Rules of the Standing Committees, the geopolitical groups will be invited to designate representatives to serve on these Committees.

Each Drafting Committee (corresponding to the first and second Standing Committees) will have up to two members nominated by each geopolitical group. The Drafting Committees will also include representatives of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, as well as the co-rapporteurs of the resolutions.

Adoption of the resolution

After the Drafting Committees have met, the revised texts of the resolutions will be circulated to the full membership. Following the model used in the Governing Council, the Standing Committees will endorse the resolutions through the written silence procedure. In the absence of the receipt of written objections from one third or more of the Members within 15 days of the dispatch of the revised resolutions, these will be considered as adopted by the Standing Committees.

The Standing Committees will hold a sitting to formally approve the resolution. During this sitting, members will have the opportunity to formulate reservations and explain their position – these will be duly noted for the record.

Selection of subject items for future resolutions

The First and Second Standing Committees will also be called upon to select **new subject items** that will lead to new resolutions to be examined over the following one-year cycle and adopted on the occasion of the 144th IPU Assembly in 2022.

As per usual practice, Members will be invited to submit proposals for subject items, which will be examined by the Standing Committee Bureaux meeting in advance of the Assembly with a view to making a proposal for a decision by the respective Standing Committees. Members will be invited to submit proposals for subject items by 2 April.



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142nd IPU ASSEMBLY

Virtual session, 24-28 May 2021

Annex 5

Assembly

A/142/Inf.1-rev
22 March 2021

Vacancies to be filled during the 142nd Assembly

*All candidatures need to be accompanied by a signed covering letter, a brief curriculum vitae (maximum one page) and a completed contact information form. Candidatures for the Executive Committee, the Committee on Middle East Questions and the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians must be received by 18:00 (Geneva time) on **9 May 2021**. Nominations by the Geopolitical Groups for the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians must be received by 18:00 (Geneva time) on **26 April 2021**. All other nominations by the Geopolitical Groups must be received by 18:00 (Geneva time) on **16 May 2021**. Candidatures should be submitted to documents@ipu.org.*

Executive Committee

At its next session, the Governing Council will elect **one member**, as follows:

Arab Group : One vacancy, to be filled by a man or a woman, to replace Mr. A. Abdel Aal (Egypt), whose Executive Committee term ends at the 207th session of the Governing Council.

Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

The Governing Council will elect **six members** to replace Mr. D. Carter (New Zealand), Ms. A. Jerkov (Serbia) and Mr. J. Kim (Republic of Korea), who are no longer members of parliament; Ms. J.M. Zabwe (Uganda), whose parliamentary mandate ends in mid-May 2021; and Ms. D. Solórzano (Venezuela) and Mr. A.A. Alaradi (Bahrain), whose membership of the Committee expires at the 207th session of the Governing Council.

In light of the Committee's rule on the promotion of gender equality and of its current composition, those interested in submitting their candidatures should bear in mind that ideally, in order to have full parity, three of the new members should be male parliamentarians and three of the new members should be female parliamentarians.

Please note that although the composition of this Committee should reflect an equitable geopolitical distribution of seats, members of this Committee are elected in their individual capacity, not as representatives of their parliament or geopolitical group.

Parliamentarians wishing to become members of this Committee are required to meet a set of distinct criteria. Candidates are therefore requested to complete the form available on the IPU website: <https://www.ipu.org/file/10417/download>

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Committee on Middle East Questions

The Governing Council will elect **two members** to replace Mr. M. Al Mehrzi (United Arab Emirates), who is no longer a member of parliament, and Ms. S. Ataullahjan (Canada), whose membership of the Committee expires at the 207th session of the Governing Council.

In light of the Committee's rule on gender balance, those interested in submitting their candidatures should bear in mind that in order to have full parity, one new member should be a male parliamentarian, and one new member should be a female parliamentarian.

Please note that, although the composition of this Committee should reflect a diverse geopolitical representation, members of this Committee are elected in their individual capacity, not as representatives of their parliament or geopolitical group.

Nominations to be received from the Geopolitical Groups

Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

At the next statutory Assembly, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians will be required to renew half of the membership of its Bureau.

Two regional representatives are to be elected from each geopolitical group, for a four-year term, to replace those regional representatives whose term expired in April 2020.

According to the Rules of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, a retiring member of the Bureau shall not be eligible for re-election for two years.

The Forum of Women Parliamentarians will also replace **five members**, from the African Group, Arab Group, Asia-Pacific Group, and the Twelve Plus Group respectively, who are no longer members of parliament, and from the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (parliamentary mandate ends as of April 2021), and whose terms of office end in April 2022.

In light of the Forum's rule on the promotion of gender equality and of its current composition, only female parliamentarians may submit their candidatures for these four vacancies.

Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU

At its next meeting, the Forum will elect its Board.

According to Rule 5.3 of the Forum's Rules and working modalities: "The Board shall be composed of two representatives from each of the IPU geopolitical groups, a man and a woman", below the age of 45 years.

Each geopolitical group is therefore invited to nominate two young parliamentarians, one of each sex, as their representatives on the Board.

Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

The Governing Council will elect **five members**, as follows:

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| African Group | : | One vacancy to be filled by a man |
| Arab Group | : | One vacancy to be filled by a man |
| Asia-Pacific Group | : | One vacancy to be filled by a woman |
| Group of Latin America and the Caribbean | : | One vacancy to be filled by a man |
| Twelve Plus Group | : | One vacancy to be filled by a woman. |

High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism

The Governing Council will elect **seven members**, as follows:

- African Group** : Two vacancies, at least one of which is to be filled by a woman
- Arab Group** : One vacancy to be filled by a woman
- Asia-Pacific Group** : One vacancy to be filled by a man
- Group of Latin America and the Caribbean** : Two vacancies, at least one of which is to be filled by a woman
- Twelve Plus Group** : One vacancy to be filled by a woman.

Working Group on Science and Technology

At the 141st IPU Assembly, the governing bodies endorsed the establishment of the Working Group on Science and Technology. The modalities for the Working Group are expected to be approved on the occasion of the 142nd Assembly, and the geopolitical groups are therefore invited to submit the candidatures of members of parliament based on their proven expertise and experience in the science and technology sector.

The Governing Council will elect **21 members**, according to the following formula (Executive Committee geopolitical group quota plus one per group). The composition shall therefore be:

- African Group** : Five members, which will include at least two men and two women
- Arab Group** : Two members, which will include an equal number of men and women
- Asia-Pacific Group** : Four members, which will include an equal number of men and women
- Eurasia Group** : Two members, which will include an equal number of men and women
- Group of Latin America and the Caribbean** : Three members, which will include at least one man and one woman
- Twelve Plus Group** : Five members, which will include at least two men and two women

In addition, one representative of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and one representative of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians shall be ex officio members.

STANDING COMMITTEE BUREAUX

The Standing Committees will hold the following elections:

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

There are **seven vacancies** to be filled by the following geopolitical groups:

- African Group** : One vacancy, to be filled by a man or a woman
- Arab Group** : One vacancy, to be filled by a man or a woman
- Asia-Pacific Group** : Three vacancies, at least one of which is to be filled by a woman
- Group of Latin America and the Caribbean** : Two vacancies, at least one of which is to be filled by a woman

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development

There are **ten vacancies** to be filled by the following geopolitical groups:

- African Group** : Three vacancies, at least one of which is to be filled by a woman
- Arab Group** : One vacancy, to be filled by a man or a woman
- Asia-Pacific Group** : One vacancy, to be filled by a man or a woman
- Eurasia Group** : One vacancy, to be filled by a woman
- GRULAC** : Two vacancies, at least one of which is to be filled by a man
- Twelve Plus Group** : Two vacancies, at least one of which is to be filled by a man.

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

There are **seven vacancies** to be filled by the following geopolitical groups:

- African Group** : Two vacancies, at least one of which is to be filled by a woman
- Asia-Pacific Group** : Two vacancies, at least one of which is to be filled by a man
- Eurasia Group** : One vacancy, to be filled by a man or a woman
- GRULAC** : One vacancy, to be filled by a man or a woman
- Twelve Plus Group** : One vacancy, to be filled by a man or a woman.

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

There are **eight vacancies** to be filled by the following geopolitical groups:

- African Group** : One vacancy, to be filled by a woman
- Arab Group** : Three vacancies, at least one of which is to be filled by a woman
- Asia-Pacific Group** : One vacancy, to be filled by a woman
- Eurasia Group** : One vacancy, to be filled by a man or a woman
- GRULAC** : Two vacancies, at least one of which is to be filled by a woman.



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Annex 6

Registration and other practical information

Composition of delegations

The Members of the IPU are invited to register their delegations to the 142nd IPU Assembly. The delegations should include delegates to the Assembly, office-holders and members of the Standing Committees, as well as the **three members** of the **Governing Council** with voting rights.

As per the IPU Statutes and Rules, delegations to the **Assembly** are composed of a **maximum of eight delegates, or ten** for parliaments of countries with a population of 100 million inhabitants or more (Article 10.2 of the Statutes).

Moreover, Members "*...may register **one additional delegate** if at least one young parliamentarian (below 45 years of age) is part of the delegation on condition that the delegation is composed of both sexes and the Member is not in arrears in the payment of its assessed contributions*" (Article 10.3 of the Statutes).

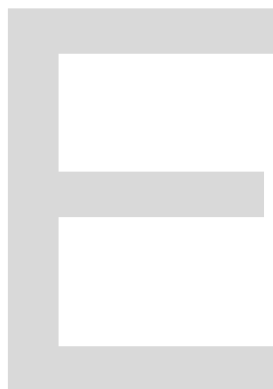
All Member Parliaments are encouraged to strive for gender parity and political balance in the composition of their delegations. Any delegation which, for three consecutive sessions of the Assembly, is composed exclusively of parliamentarians of the same sex will automatically be reduced by one person.

IPU Members whose arrears equal or exceed the amount of the contributions due from them for the preceding two full years will not be represented by more than two delegates at meetings of the IPU (Article 5.2 of the Statutes), nor will they be entitled to vote.

The **Governing Council** is composed of **three members** from each parliament represented in the IPU. Each parliament's representation on the Governing Council must include both men and women. Single-gender delegations will be limited to one member (Rule 1.2 of the Rules of the Governing Council).

Each IPU Member shall provide an electronic copy of an **official letter** from the Speaker of parliament or the President of the IPU Group concerned, designating the delegates to the IPU Assembly, including the three members with voting rights in the Governing Council (maximum of three votes).

Associate Members may participate in the Assembly and its Standing Committees with the same rights as Members, with the exception of the right to vote and to present candidates for elective office. Time constraints may limit the possibility of Associate Members to address the Assembly – they will however be invited to submit written statements and video messages. International organizations and other bodies invited by the Governing Council to be represented at the Assembly as permanent Observers are reminded that they are entitled to register a maximum of two delegates.



#IPU142

Overall theme of the Assembly

The Assembly will be held under the overall theme of ***Overcoming the pandemic today and building a better tomorrow: the role of parliaments***. The Standing Committees, as well as the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, will examine the overall theme of the Assembly from their respective perspectives. Their input will be incorporated into an outcome document to be adopted at the close of the Assembly.

An interactive debate will also be held on 26 May on the overall theme, with the participation of prominent international personalities. Delegates will have the opportunity to ask questions and make brief comments in the context of the debate.

Standing Committees

The four Standing Committees (*Peace and International Security; Sustainable Development; Democracy and Human Rights; United Nations Affairs*) will hold their sessions prior to the IPU Assembly in accordance with the Assembly Timetable (Annex 1).

The Standing Committee on UN Affairs will hold a discussion on *UN75 follow-up* and the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights will hold a debate on *Legislation worldwide to combat online sexual child exploitation* (theme of a resolution at the 143rd Assembly).

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security will discuss and adopt a resolution on *Parliamentary strategies to strengthen peace and security against threats and conflicts resulting from climate-related disasters and their consequences*.

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development will discuss and adopt a resolution on *Mainstreaming digitalization and the circular economy to achieve the SDGs, particularly responsible consumption and production*.

The texts of the draft resolutions, as well as a note on the proposed process for the adoption of resolutions, are available at <https://www.ipu.org/event/142nd-ipu-assembly#event-sub-page-23341/>.

Interventions

Statements by delegates shall be limited to **two minutes**.

Delegates are invited to submit **written statements** in either English or French (the official languages of the Organization) with an indication of the agenda item to which they refer, in advance of the opening of the session of the Assembly. Written statements shall be in lieu of live interventions. These may be sent in advance to the IPU Secretariat (speeches@ipu.org), so that they may be posted on the Assembly website and reflected in the official records of the session.

Delegates may also submit **pre-recorded video statements** with an indication of the agenda item to which they refer, in advance of the opening of the session. Pre-recorded video statements shall be in lieu of live interventions.

Social media video campaign

In order to amplify the theme of the Assembly in the IPU's communications, delegates may submit a micro-video of **under one minute** in which they answer the following question:
"What are you doing to build a better tomorrow?"

Micro-videos should be sent to the IPU Communications team (press@ipu.org) by Monday, 17 May at the latest. Only videos that are **under one minute** will be promoted.

Videos should comply with the following specifications:

- MP4 format
- Recorded in one of the Assembly working languages: Arabic, English, French or Spanish
- Subtitled in English and/or French where possible
- Recommended format is 16:9 ratio with 1920 x 1080 resolution
- For best results, film headshots with a neutral or unfocused background

Interpretation

The IPU will provide interpretation in the IPU Assembly's working languages (Arabic, English, French and Spanish) at the meetings of all statutory bodies. As is customary at IPU Assemblies, channels have also been reserved for Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese and Russian, for the Assembly, Governing Council and Standing Committee plenary sessions (not Bureau or Drafting Committee meetings).

Interprefy has been chosen as the accessible simultaneous interpreting delivery platform (SIDP). Through the platform, speakers may deliver their remarks in another language provided that they arrange for it to be interpreted simultaneously into one of the IPU's official languages (English and French) by a person designated by them. To allow for all necessary arrangements (including interpreter platform certification; related expenses to be borne by the parliament recruiting the team of interpreters) to be made in good time, delegations should contact the IPU Secretariat (sas@ipu.org) well in advance (by 10 May 2021 at the latest).

Registration and list of participants

Registration shall take place through the IPU event registration system (ERS) accessed through the 142nd Assembly webpage, simply by clicking on the Registration button. Registration opens on 29 March and the deadline for registering delegations is **9 May 2021**.

Each Member Parliament may register to the Assembly a total of eight or ten MPs, depending on their national population, plus one additional MP if s/he is below the age of 45 years (see "composition of delegations" above, for more details).

From among its delegation, the IPU Member shall be represented on the **Governing Council by three parliamentarians, including both men and women**. Single-gender delegations will be limited to one member.

Each IPU Member shall provide an electronic copy (postbox@ipu.org) of the **official letter** from the Speaker of parliament or the President of the IPU Group concerned, designating the delegates to the Assembly, including the members **with voting rights** in the Governing Council (maximum of three votes).

There should only be one coordinator per delegation. S/he will be the sole user of the online registration system and will choose a password.

The registration process is as follows:

1. Sign up for an account and enter the requested details.
(If you registered successfully for a recent Assembly, your identification information is still valid and may be used.)
2. Once you have successfully created an account, sign in using your username and password.
3. Click on "Register for this event" to register for the 142nd Assembly.

4. Carefully enter the information requested on the first page. Please note that this information cannot be edited at a later stage. In your capacity as delegation coordinator, do not forget to include yourself if you plan to attend the event.
5. Provide an individual email address for each delegate¹ (this is mandatory, as it is part of the delegate's registration identity).
6. Fill out the date of birth for each delegate.
The Secretariat uses this information in the preparation of the Assembly statistics (monitoring of youth participation in the political process).
7. Due to the virtual nature of the 142nd Assembly and the requirement for careful recording of members of the Governing Council for electronic voting purposes, a personal mobile phone number and personal email address for each member of the Governing Council are to be provided on page 3 of the ERS (registration questions). This data will be destroyed after the completion of the elections.

Important:

No further changes to the composition of delegations will be possible after **9 May 2021** except in case of *force majeure* preventing a registered member from attending the session. The existence of such a situation must be certified by the Speaker of the Parliament or the President of the Group through a written communication to the Secretary General.

Some fields are mandatory (*), i.e. details pertaining to a national parliament (committee membership, titles, etc.). Please **do not** use all capital letters when completing the different fields.

The registration process includes a **validation phase**, during which system administrators will examine your registration. Once your registration has been validated, you will be sent a confirmation email. Otherwise, one of our administrators will contact you for any action that requires follow-up.

Should you have any questions on registration, please send them to Ms. Sally-Anne Sader, Conference Services Officer, at sas@ipu.org, with copies to the generic IPU email addresses: postbox@ipu.org and registration@ipu.org.

A preliminary List of Participants will be shared with all registered delegations one week before the opening of the 142nd Assembly (17 May 2021). Corrections should be addressed to registration@ipu.org. A final list will be published on the IPU website, immediately after the close of the virtual Assembly.

¹ The IPU is committed to respecting the privacy of the people it engages with. More information about our privacy practices is available at this link <https://www.ipu.org/privacy-statement>