



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# 142nd IPU ASSEMBLY

## Virtual session, 24-28 May 2021

### 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.