



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

Information Seminar on the Structure and Functioning of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for the Parliaments in the Americas

7-9 June 2021, Online Event

Draft Concept Note

Context

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is the global organization of national parliaments, promoting democratic governance, institutions and values. The IPU is working for peace, democracy, human rights, gender equality, youth empowerment and sustainable development through political dialogue, cooperation and parliamentary action.

In order to increase awareness of the IPU, every year the IPU Secretariat organizes an Information Seminar for parliamentary staff who serve as Secretaries of IPU Groups or are responsible for the relationship of their respective parliaments with the IPU. The seminar provides them with opportunities to acquire in-depth knowledge of the IPU and hence facilitate their work in advising and assisting parliament and its members on all matters relating to the IPU. Information seminars for French and English-speaking participants were held in virtual format, in 2020 and 2021 respectively. The IPU also held an Information Seminar for Spanish-speaking participants in 2019 in Costa Rica, in collaboration with the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica.

Objectives

The Information Seminar for the parliaments in the Americas follows on from the 2019 Information Seminar in Costa Rica. It is an activity designed for the parliaments in Latin America and the Caribbean and takes into account the particularities of the region and the specific challenges faced by countries in their interaction with the IPU. The overarching goal is to facilitate enhanced engagement in the IPU by the parliaments in Latin America and the Caribbean. The event will further serve as a platform for non-Member Parliaments to make their voices heard, foster links with existing Members from the region on IPU-related matters, and increase overall awareness of the Organization. This seminar will touch upon universality as a central goal of the IPU and provide a greater understanding of the role and the value that non-Member Parliaments can add in that regard.

The Information Seminar is open to Secretaries General and parliamentary staff from IPU Members and non-Members alike, the GRULAC Secretariat and relevant organizations in the region, such as PARLATINO, PARLACEN and CARICOM. It is envisaged as an online interactive event, with presentations on the IPU and its mission and thematic discussions involving guest speakers and participants.

This virtual seminar will focus, *inter alia*, on the following key themes:

- IPU governance and working modalities of IPU bodies.
- Universal membership of the IPU.
- Inter-parliamentary cooperation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- IPU work in the areas of peace, democracy and human rights, gender equality and youth participation, and sustainable development.
- Cooperation between the IPU, GRULAC and national parliaments.
- Regional organizations and their role in enhancing cooperation across Latin America and the Caribbean.

Language

The seminar will be held in Spanish and English, with interpretation provided for both languages.

Platform

The meeting will be held on the Zoom platform. Upon receipt of nominations from the respective parliament/organization, the IPU Secretariat will send a link inviting participants to confirm their registrations in order to generate their personalized access links and passwords for the Zoom platform, which will then be sent to them by email.