



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# 143rd IPU Assembly

Madrid, Spain  
26-30 November 2021



## Convocation

A/143/C.1  
15 October 2021

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

The 143rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and related meetings will be held at the IFEMA Palacio Municipal, Madrid, Spain, from Friday, 26 to Tuesday, 30 November 2021.

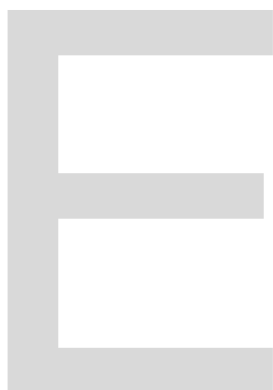
We are very grateful for all the safety measures put in place by the hosts, the Parliament of Spain, and we are sure we can count on your support and cooperation as we strive to ensure a COVID-free environment for our deliberations.

We are pleased to enclose detailed information on these meetings, including the agendas of the IPU statutory bodies. We very much hope that your Parliament will be represented at the 143rd Assembly and that the delegation, under your leadership, will take an active part in the proceedings.

Yours sincerely,

Duarte Pacheco  
President

Martin Chungong  
Secretary General



#IPU143

## INFORMATION ON THE ASSEMBLY

### AGENDA

1. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 143rd Assembly
2. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
3. General Debate
4. *Legislation worldwide to combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse* (Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights)
5. Reports of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security; Standing Committee on Sustainable Development; and Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs
6. Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 145th IPU Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs

### TIMETABLE

The Timetable of the Assembly and related meetings is set out in **Annex 1**. The Inaugural Ceremony will take place at 19:30 on Friday, 26 November.

The Governing Council will convene on 27 and 30 November and will consider and take decisions on a host of matters relating to the functioning and activities of the IPU. The agenda of the 208th session of the IPU Governing Council is attached.

The Assembly will start its General Debate on 27 November with the high-level segment reserved for Speakers of Parliament. A concept note on the overall theme of the General Debate, which will focus on parliamentary action to uphold and promote democracy, will be circulated shortly.

At its sittings on 29 and 30 November, the Assembly will adopt resolutions on the emergency item and on the subject item taken up by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights. The Assembly is expected to conclude with an outcome document on the theme of the General Debate and complete its business by 18:00 on Tuesday, 30 November 2021.

### EMERGENCY ITEM

According to Assembly Rule 11.1 and Article 14.2 of the Statutes, any Member of the IPU may request the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda. If the Assembly so decides, the emergency item will be debated by the Assembly in the morning of Sunday, 28 November. Provision has also been made for a drafting committee to meet in the afternoon that same day in order to prepare a draft resolution. The Assembly will then adopt a resolution on Monday, 29 November 2021.

All requests for inclusion of an emergency item must relate to a recent major situation of international concern, on which urgent action by the international community is required and on which it is appropriate for the IPU to express its opinion and mobilize a parliamentary response. In order to ensure translation and dissemination, all proposals for an emergency item should be submitted to the IPU Secretariat by 17:00 on Friday, 26 November. They should contain a brief explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution, which clearly define the scope of the subject covered by the request.

### GOVERNING COUNCIL

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 (Governing Council Rule 1.2).

In conformity with Governing Council Rule 13, members of the Council may request the inclusion of supplementary items in the agenda. Such items must fall within the mandate of the Council which, according to Article 20 of the Statutes, determines and guides the activities of the IPU and controls their implementation.

Any requests for the inclusion of supplementary items will immediately be transmitted by the Secretariat to all Council members. After hearing the opinion of the Executive Committee, the Council shall decide on such a request by a majority of votes cast if the request is received by the Secretariat at least 15 days before the opening of the session; or otherwise by a two-thirds majority.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

All four Standing Committees will meet during the 143rd IPU Assembly.

The Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights will discuss and adopt a resolution on the subject item *Legislation worldwide to combat online child sexual exploitation and abuse*.

The other three Standing Committees will hold hearings and panel discussions as approved at the 142nd IPU Assembly. The agendas of the four Standing Committees are attached.

Member Parliaments are kindly reminded that Bureau members and other IPU office-holders should be included in the national delegations to the Assembly. The list of current Bureau members is available on the IPU website at [www.ipu.org/about-ipu/structure-and-governance](http://www.ipu.org/about-ipu/structure-and-governance).

## PARTICIPATION

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the requisite social distancing measures, and further to consultations with the Executive Committee, it is strongly recommended that the size of delegations to the Madrid Assembly be reduced. IPU Member Parliaments are invited to appoint a maximum of five parliamentarians for countries with a population under 100 million inhabitants, or up to seven parliamentarians for parliaments of countries with a population of 100 million inhabitants or more. The number of advisers and accompanying persons should also be maintained within reasonable limits, in general not more than four persons.

In keeping with the decision taken by the IPU governing bodies in March 2018, 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.

Geopolitical groups are kindly requested to schedule their meetings on Thursday, 25 November, or at another time which does not conflict with the meeting of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians on 26 November.

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.

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.

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.

The Plenary Hall, where the meetings of the Assembly and Governing Council will take place, has limited seating capacity. If the actual attendance at the 143rd Assembly allows, the Secretariat will endeavour to allocate an adequate number of seats for all delegations. At a minimum, each national parliamentary delegation will be allocated a sufficient number of seats to allow a possible vote by the Assembly or Governing Council.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee of the Assembly is composed of the President of the Assembly, the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Vice-President of the Executive Committee. The Presidents of the Standing Committees may take part in the work of the Steering Committee in an advisory capacity.

The Steering Committee, assisted by the IPU Secretary General, is mandated to take all appropriate measures to ensure the effective organization and smooth running of the Assembly proceedings. The first sitting of the Steering Committee will take place in the early morning of Saturday, 27 November 2021.

## VACANCIES TO BE FILLED DURING THE 143rd ASSEMBLY

A provisional list of vacancies for IPU bodies will be circulated to Members and posted on the IPU website prior to the opening of the Assembly.

Member Parliaments are invited to consider submitting candidatures for the main committees and bodies of the IPU ([www.ipu.org/about-us/structure/assembly](http://www.ipu.org/about-us/structure/assembly)) bearing in mind the gender balance requirements of the bodies concerned, as provided for in the IPU Statutes and Rules. Candidates should have expertise, as far as possible, in the areas of work of the given bodies, and should be supported by their respective parliament in carrying out their functions as IPU office-holders. New Members of the IPU and Members not currently holding IPU offices are particularly encouraged to submit candidatures.

## PREPARATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND SELECTION OF AGENDA ITEMS

The deadlines pertaining to the preparation of the resolution for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights are the following:

15 September 2021	Deadline for the rapporteurs to submit the draft resolution and explanatory memorandum to the IPU Secretariat.
15 October 2021	IPU Secretariat distributes the draft resolution and explanatory memorandum to IPU Members.
14 November 2021	Deadline for IPU Members to submit proposals for amendments to the draft resolution.
27-30 November 2021	143rd IPU Assembly Finalization and adoption of the resolution.

All Members can contribute to the drafting of resolutions by submitting a brief written input (Standing Committee Rule 13.1). Members are encouraged to submit input for the draft resolutions to be adopted at the 144th IPU Assembly (March 2022) by the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security on *Rethinking and reframing the approach to peace processes with a view to fostering lasting peace*; and by the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development on *Leveraging Information and Communication Technology as an enabler for the education sector, including in times of pandemic*. Written input to these draft resolutions is welcome until 3 December 2021.

In accordance with the Standing Committees' Rules, proposals for subject items should be submitted up to one day prior to the meeting of the respective Standing Committee Bureau. As such, Members wishing to do so should submit to the IPU Secretariat their proposals for the subject item to be taken up by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights by 28 November 2021 at the latest.

These will serve as the basis for consultations by the respective Standing Committee Bureau before a final decision is taken by the Standing Committee.

## GENERAL DEBATE (Item 3 of the agenda)

The General Debate at the 143rd Assembly will focus on an overall theme relating to parliamentary action to strengthen democracy worldwide. A concept note on this theme will follow in due course.

In keeping with the Assembly Rules, two representatives of each delegation may speak during the General Debate, and they shall share the speaking time as they deem fit. An additional MP from each delegation may address the General Debate, provided he/she is a young parliamentarian.

As per usual practice, in order to take the floor in the General Debate, members may register on the spot at the dedicated desk at the Assembly venue. Members may also send the names of their speaker(s) in advance to the IPU Secretariat by email, using the Speakers pre-registration form (**Annex 2**). As per established practice, the order of speakers will be determined by a public drawing of lots at 17:00 on Friday, 26 November 2021.

## VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE ASSEMBLY

According to Assembly Rule 7.3, all delegations from Member Parliaments are entitled to designate one of their members as a Vice-President of the Assembly. Some of the Vice-Presidents may be called upon to replace the President of the Assembly during a sitting or part of a sitting.

Upon arrival at the IPU Registration Desk, delegations are invited to indicate the name of the parliamentarian nominated as a Vice-President of the Assembly. Alternatively, names may be communicated to the IPU Secretariat by 12:00 noon on Saturday, 27 November 2021.

## ALLOCATION OF VOTES

A provisional table showing the votes allocated to delegations to the 143rd Assembly is contained in **Annex 3**.

Member Parliaments are kindly requested to check the figures against their country name and, if necessary, inform the IPU Secretariat in writing of any modifications required, preferably ahead of the Assembly. The final table showing the allocation of votes at the Assembly will be distributed at the opening of the session.

## LANGUAGES, SPEECHES AND DOCUMENTATION

The IPU Secretariat will provide simultaneous interpretation in the IPU Assembly's working languages (Arabic, English, French and Spanish) at the meetings of all statutory bodies.

Four other interpretation channels have been reserved for Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese and Russian at sittings of the Assembly and the Governing Council, and for some sittings of the Standing Committees. These booths are provided free of charge and may be used by the interpretation teams for these languages.

The number of additional booths available in the Plenary Hall is limited. The related costs incurred must be borne by the requesting party. All such requests will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Delegations are informed that three meeting rooms (Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, ASGP and the main Informal meeting rooms) will not be equipped with booths, as the sessions there will be serviced by off-site interpreters.

Delegates may deliver their speech in another language provided that they arrange for it to be interpreted into one of the IPU's official languages (English or French) by a person designated by them, who will be given access to an interpretation booth. To allow for all necessary arrangements to be made in good time, delegations should contact well in advance the Conference Services team ([conf.services@ipu.org](mailto:conf.services@ipu.org)) or the English booth interpreters assigned to the meeting at which the speech will be delivered. Moreover, eight copies of a translation of the speech into one of the IPU's official languages should be given to the English booth for distribution to the other interpreters.

Official statements delivered in the General Debate are published on the Assembly webpage and form part of the official records of the Assembly. All delegations are therefore encouraged to send their statements to [speeches@ipu.org](mailto:speeches@ipu.org). Due to technical limitations, only speeches in English, French and Spanish will be posted.

Documentation pertaining to the Assembly will be available on the IPU website at: [www.ipu.org/event/143rd-assembly-and-related-meetings](http://www.ipu.org/event/143rd-assembly-and-related-meetings), as well as on the Assembly App.

In keeping with the decision by the IPU Governing Council to reduce the carbon footprint of the Organization and continue to curb paper waste, only a very limited number of documentation sets will be printed for the various sittings of the Assembly.

## ASSEMBLY APP

The 143rd Assembly App will be available for download free of charge in November 2021. The App is intended to allow the online consultation of official IPU documents as part of the IPU's paper smart policy and to facilitate delegates' participation in IPU Assemblies.

## MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES

The following IPU bodies will also meet during the Assembly:

- Executive Committee (24, 25 and 29 November, *in camera* – preceded by virtual sittings on 2, 9 and 17 November);
- Bureau of Women Parliamentarians (26 and 30 November, *in camera*);
- Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians (27 November, *in camera*);
- Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (25 to 29 November, *in camera*);
- Committee on Middle East Questions (29 November, *in camera*);
- Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) (27 November, *in camera*; and 29 November, *public sitting*);
- Group of Facilitators for Cyprus (27 November, *closed meeting*);
- High-level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (26 November, *in camera*);
- Working Group on Science and Technology (28 November, *in camera*);
- Advisory Group on Health (27 November, *in camera*).

The Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP) will also meet during the Assembly. It will be convened by its President.

## RESULTS OF THE ASSEMBLY

All delegations will receive one printed copy of the *Results* of the 143rd Assembly. In addition, the document will be published on the IPU website two weeks after the close of the Assembly, when a complete electronic version can be downloaded in PDF format.

## REGISTRATION

**All delegations are requested to respect the registration deadline of 12 November 2021. Please note that visa requests, where required, should be submitted at least three weeks in advance of the Assembly.**

**Annex 4** provides instructions on how to use the IPU online registration system, which will be operational as of 18 October 2021. It is recommended that only one person be designated as the delegation coordinator and have access to the system.

In the event of difficulties, delegations may contact the IPU Registration Service at [postbox@ipu.org](mailto:postbox@ipu.org). If for any reason a Parliament is unable to register online, the composition of its delegation may be transmitted either by email or fax (+41 22 919 41 60).

The Registration and Information Service will be open at the IFEMA Palacio Municipal as of Wednesday, 24 November from 12:30 to 18:00 and from Thursday, 25 to Monday, 29 November from 08:00 to 18:30, as well as on Tuesday, 30 November from 08:00 to 18:00.

Important:

As part of the online registration procedure, **delegates are requested to provide their individual email addresses and Committee assignments**. By doing so, they tacitly accept to be added to the IPU's mailing list and will receive regular updates on the work of the IPU. This information will also serve as the basis for an IPU database to facilitate networking among MPs. The IPU is committed to respecting the privacy of the people with whom it engages. More information about how the IPU uses its data here: [www.ipu.org/privacy-statement](http://www.ipu.org/privacy-statement).

### DELEGATES' STAY IN MADRID

For all logistical matters relating to delegates' stay in Madrid, delegations are invited to refer to the website set up by the Parliament of Spain for the 143rd Assembly, which will be available shortly at [www.madrid143ipu.es](http://www.madrid143ipu.es).

The General Information document, to be sent with the invitation by the Spanish Parliament, contains details on delegates' stay in Madrid. Requests for hotel reservations should be made as soon as possible. Delegations are reminded that, in keeping with IPU practice, the costs of international travel and hotel accommodation are to be borne by their respective institutions.

**All delegates should also have international health insurance when travelling abroad.**

Additional information and assistance can be readily obtained from the 143rd Assembly Secretariat of the Parliament of Spain at:

Telephone	:	+ 34 91 390 6352 + 34 91 390 7293
E-mail	:	ipu143@congreso.es ipu@viajeseci.es
Website	:	<a href="http://www.madrid143ipu.es">www.madrid143ipu.es</a>