



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



146TH IPU ASSEMBLY
المنامة، البحرين
MANAMA, BAHRAIN
11-15 MARCH 2023 - ١١-١٥ مارس ٢٠٢٣

146th IPU Assembly

Manama (11–15 March 2023)

Convocation

A/146/C.1
30 November 2022

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

The 146th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and related meetings will be held at Exhibition World Bahrain (EWB), in Manama, Bahrain, from Saturday, 11 to Wednesday, 15 March 2023.

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 146th Assembly and that the delegation, under your leadership, will take an active part in the proceedings. We would like to draw your attention to the requirement that those members of your Parliament who hold office in the various bodies of the IPU be included in the delegation.

Yours sincerely,

Duarte Pacheco
President

Martin Chungong
Secretary General

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INFORMATION ON THE ASSEMBLY

AGENDA

1. Election of the President of the 146th Assembly
2. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
3. General Debate on the theme *Promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies: Fighting intolerance*
4. Special accountability segment on the implementation of IPU resolutions and other decisions
5. *Cyberattacks and cybercrimes: The new risks to global security*
(Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)
6. *Parliamentary efforts in achieving negative carbon balances of forests*
(Standing Committee on Sustainable Development)
7. Reports of the Standing Committees
8. Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and for the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development for the 148th Assembly and appointment of the co-Rapporteurs

TIMETABLE

The Timetable of the Assembly and related meetings is set out in **Annex 1**. The Inaugural Ceremony will take place at 19:00 on Saturday, 11 March 2023.

The Governing Council will convene on 12 and 15 March and will consider and take decisions on a host of matters relating to the functioning and activities of the IPU. The agenda of the 211th session of the IPU Governing Council is attached.

The General Debate of the Assembly will start on 12 March with the high-level segment reserved for Speakers of Parliament. At its sittings on 14 and 15 March, the Assembly will adopt resolutions on the emergency item and on the subject items taken up by the Standing Committees. The Assembly is expected to conclude with an outcome document on the theme of the General Debate, *Promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies: Fighting intolerance*, and complete its business by 18:30 on 15 March.

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 13 March. 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 14 March.

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 11 March. The proposals 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 Governing 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 146th IPU Assembly.

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security will discuss and adopt a resolution on the subject item *Cyberattacks and cybercrimes: The new risks to global security*.

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development will discuss and adopt a resolution on the subject item *Parliamentary efforts in achieving negative carbon balances of forests*.

The other two Standing Committees will hold hearings and panel discussions as approved at the 145th IPU Assembly. The agendas of the four Standing Committees are attached.

PARTICIPATION

IPU Member Parliaments may appoint a maximum of eight delegates, or 10 for parliaments of countries with a population of 100 million inhabitants or more (Article 10.2 of the Statutes). The number of additional MPs accompanying delegations as Advisers must not exceed two.

Member Parliaments are kindly reminded that IPU office-holders should be included in national delegations to the Assembly. The list of current office-holders is available on the IPU website at www.ipu.org/about-ipu/structure-and-governance. Confirmation of registration may be delayed for those delegations that fail to include office-holders.

In keeping with Article 10.3 of the Statutes, 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*". Needless to say, Member Parliaments are welcome to include more than one young parliamentarian in their delegation.

All Member Parliaments are also encouraged to strive for **gender parity** and **political balance** in the **composition of their delegations**. In accordance with Article 10.4 of the Statutes, any delegation which, for two consecutive sessions of the Assembly, is composed exclusively of parliamentarians of the same sex shall automatically be reduced by one person.

Geopolitical groups are kindly requested to schedule their meetings on 10 March, or at any time on 11 March which does not conflict with the sittings of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.

IPU Members whose arrears equal or exceed the amount of the contributions due from them for the preceding two full years shall not be represented by more than two delegates at meetings of the IPU (Article 5.2 of the Statutes), nor shall 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 shall be 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 146th 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 on 12 March at 08:00.

VACANCIES TO BE FILLED DURING THE 146th 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 committees and other bodies of the IPU (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. **Member Parliaments not currently holding IPU offices are particularly encouraged to submit candidatures.**

Elections to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians will be held to renew half of the Bureau's membership, those whose four-year term has come to an end. The seats of two representatives for each geopolitical group will therefore be renewed. The Bureau will then elect a President and a first and a second Vice-President.

Elections will also be held to renew the whole Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians. The newly elected Board will then elect its new President.

PREPARATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND SELECTION OF AGENDA ITEMS

The deadlines pertaining to the preparation of resolutions for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development are as follows:

16 December 2022	Deadline for the co-Rapporteurs to submit the draft resolutions and explanatory memorandums to the IPU Secretariat.
24 February 2023	Deadline for IPU Members to submit proposals for amendments to the draft resolutions.
11 – 15 March 2023	146th IPU Assembly Finalization and adoption of the resolutions.

All Member Parliaments can contribute to the drafting of resolutions by submitting a brief written input (Standing Committee Rule 13.1). They are also encouraged to submit input for the draft resolution to be adopted at the 147th IPU Assembly (October 2023) by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights on *Orphanage trafficking: The role of parliaments in reducing harm*. Written input to this draft resolution is welcome until 3 April 2023.

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 items to be taken up by the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development by 13 March 2023.

These will serve as the basis for consultations by the respective Standing Committee Bureaux before a final decision is taken by the above-mentioned Standing Committees.

GENERAL DEBATE (Item 3 of the agenda)

The General Debate at the 146th Assembly will focus on the overall theme of **Promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies: Fighting intolerance**. A concept note on this theme is enclosed in Annex 2.

In keeping with the Assembly Rules (Rule 22.1), 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.

In order to take the floor in the General Debate, members may register on the spot at the speakers' registration desk outside the Plenary Hall (Grand Hall B-C-D, EWB). Members may also register their speaker(s) in advance through the [online registration system](#), which will open on 12 December 2022.

Speaking time will be determined based on the number of registered speakers and the following general guidelines:

List A	High-level segment (Presiding Officers)	7 minutes
List B	First speakers from delegations	6 minutes
List C	Second speakers from delegations	Time remaining (up to a total of 7 minutes for two speakers)
List D	Young parliamentarians	2 minutes.

The order of speakers will be determined by a public drawing of lots at 17:00 on 11 March.

The Steering Committee may decide, in view of the number of registered speakers, to reduce the allotted speaking time.

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 (documents@ipu.org) by 12:00 noon on 12 March.

ALLOCATION OF VOTES

A provisional table showing the votes allocated to delegations to the 146th 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, 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 booths have been reserved for Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese and Russian at sittings of the Assembly and the Governing Council. 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.

For the meetings of the Standing Committees, the Forums of Women MPs and Young Parliamentarians, the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, and the ASGP session, interpretation will be provided remotely. Therefore, parliaments wishing to have a channel in these meetings should ensure that their interpreters are fully trained on the Interprefy platform.

In case of need, contact IPU conference services for more information (conf-services@ipu.org).

Official statements delivered in the General Debate shall be 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. Due to technical limitations, only speeches in English, French and Spanish will be posted.

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 146th Assembly App will be available for download free of charge in February 2023. 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.

RESULTS OF THE ASSEMBLY

All delegations will receive one printed copy of the *Results* of the 146th Assembly. In addition, the document will be published on the IPU website after the close of the Assembly, when a complete electronic version can be downloaded in PDF format.

REGISTRATION

The IPU online registration system will be operational as of 12 December 2022. An information note on how to use the registration system will be made available on the Assembly webpage. **All delegations are requested to respect the registration deadline of 3 March 2023.**

The Registration and Information Service will be open at EWB as of 9 March from 09:00 to 18:00 and from 10 to 14 March from 08:00 to 18:30, as well as on 15 March 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 can be found here: www.ipu.org/privacy-statement.

DELEGATES' STAY IN MANAMA

For all logistical matters relating to delegates' stay in Manama, delegations are invited to refer to the website set up by the Parliament of Bahrain for the 146th Assembly, which will be available shortly at <https://ipu.bh>

The General Information document, to be sent with the invitation by the Parliament of Bahrain, contains details on delegates' stay in Manama. Requests for hotel reservations should be made as soon as possible. Delegations are reminded that 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 obtained from the 146th Assembly Secretariat of the Parliament of Bahrain at:

Telephone : +973 17888444
E-mail : lpuserinfo@bahrain.com
Website : <https://ipu.bh> (available soon)