



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



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

146th IPU Assembly

Manama (11–15 March 2023)

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

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

Registration and Assembly badges

Delegations are encouraged to register online by Friday, 3 March 2023 at the latest through the registration link on the 146th Assembly webpage: <https://www.ipu.org/event/146th-assembly-and-related-meetings>.

On-site registration will be open on:

- Thursday, 9 March from 09:00 to 18:00;
- Friday, 10 March to Tuesday, 14 March from 08:00 to 18:30; and
- Wednesday, 15 March from 08:00 to 18:00.

Press and media accreditation

Only confirmed members of the press and media will receive media accreditation. A letter from your media outlet and a copy of your press card should be submitted to press@ipu.org in support of your online registration.

A Press Centre will be operational from Friday, 10 March to Wednesday, 15 March 2023. For all requests, please contact the Communications Team at: press@ipu.org.

The IPU is deeply committed to respecting the privacy of its Members and partners. For more information about how the IPU uses its data consult our [Privacy Statement](#).

Accommodation

Participants are required to arrange their own accommodation for their stay in Manama. The Host Parliament has selected several hotels close to the Assembly venue as official hotels. The list of official Assembly hotels and a link to the booking form are available on the website <https://ipu.bh>. For additional information, please contact: iputrael@bahrain.com.

Participants are required to cover their own accommodation and travel expenses, as well as the cost of international health/travel insurance and other incidentals.

To facilitate the booking process, please send confirmation of attendance and the composition of your delegation, including arrival dates and the name of the hotel of your choice, **no later than 15 February 2023** to: iputrael@bahrain.com.

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Visa formalities

Visas will be issued free of charge to all official delegates registered to attend the 146th Assembly in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain. All delegates should complete the visa form, which can be downloaded from <https://ipu.bh>, and on completion forward it to ipuvisa@bahrain.com. For further information please phone: +973 17888444.

Once the form has been sent, delegates will receive a reply from the visa team confirming receipt. A further update will follow once the visa has been issued or if any further details are required.

Once the visa has been issued, an email will be sent to delegates informing them that their visa has been granted. They will be provided with a link to the Kingdom of Bahrain's e-visa service, along with a reference number. Using this information, they will be able to download their visa from the website.

Security

The Host Parliament will take the necessary measures to ensure the security and safety of all participants and their belongings during the 146th IPU Assembly in the Kingdom of Bahrain. In this connection, delegates are requested to wear their 146th IPU Assembly badges AT ALL TIMES, both at the Assembly venue and at all official events to which they are invited.

As part of the security arrangements, all persons and personal items (bags / luggage) will be screened at the entrance to the Assembly venue.

ID badges will be colour-coded to assist security personnel. All lost badges must be reported immediately to the registration and information desk. Delegates are kindly requested to make their badges available for security checks at the entrance to EWB.

TRANSPORTATION

Flights – Gulf Air

Gulf Air, the national airline of the Kingdom of Bahrain, is providing "IPU preferred rates" for flights to and from any of the sectors they serve. A Gulf Air booking form is available on <https://ipu.bh> for booking requests. For additional information, please contact jputravel@bahrain.com.

Arrival and departure

All delegations are requested to provide accurate arrival and departure information (date and time of arrival and departure, as well as flight details) for their delegates to jputravel@bahrain.com.

There will be a welcome desk for all participants at Bahrain International Airport. The Host Parliament will provide transport for all delegates upon arrival to their official hotels and for their departure.

Shuttle services will be available from the Assembly hotels to EWB as well as to all official events for the duration of the Assembly. The schedule will be displayed at the information desk in the Assembly hotels. If your delegation wishes to rent a vehicle, please send your request for a vehicle accredited by the host authorities by email to jputravel@bahrain.com.

ON-SITE AND OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Insurance

It is recommended that participants take out their own insurance policies against risks. **All delegates should also have international health insurance when traveling to the Kingdom of Bahrain.**

Bilateral meetings

A limited number of rooms will be dedicated to bilateral meetings / closed meetings. Bilateral meeting rooms will be available from 10 to 15 March 2023, and can be reserved for 30-minute slots, according to availability of rooms, on a “first-come, first-served” basis. Reservation of bilateral meeting rooms will be opened from 1 February and can be addressed to IPU Conference Services at conf-services@ipu.org, with the subject line “146 bilateral meeting request”.

Internet

Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the venue.

Medical services

First-aid services and medical staff will be available at the respective hotels and the Assembly venue. All medical services will be at the participants’ own expense. Please ensure that you have international health insurance. Persons under special medical treatment are advised to bring sufficient medication. The Secretariat of the Host Parliament must be informed of specific medical or other indications (dietary needs, allergy, limited mobility) as soon as possible (this information may be included during online registration) so that the necessary precautions or measures can be taken.

There are five IPU referral hospitals in Bahrain: Bahrain Defence Force Hospital, Salmaniya Medical Complex, King Hamad University Hospital, Awali Hospital and Royal Bahrain Hospital. These five hospitals will provide medical services in case of need during the event.

Additional services at the Assembly venue:

- ATM / currency exchange
- Print on demand service
- Restaurants and cafés
- Travel desk
- PCR / antigen testing on request – Medical Centre

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Climate and weather

Temperatures in March are on average 18 to 25 °C.

Time

The time in Bahrain is GMT+3.

Electricity supply

The power supply in Bahrain is 230V AC, 50Hz. Electrical sockets are 3-pin square (UK). Most hotels provide adaptors on request.

Telecommunications

The following Bahraini mobile telecommunication service providers are available:

- Batelco
- Zain
- STC

Mobile telephone service companies provide internet via GPRS, 3G, 4G and 5G. Cell phone SIM cards are widely available. However, every SIM card user/buyer in Bahrain is expected by law to be registered for activation on presentation of an identification document (ID card or passport). The SIM card can be registered at the point of purchase.

Banking services and currency

The local currency is the Bahraini Dinar (BHD). Exchange rates are pegged to the US dollar. Normal banking hours are from 07:30 to 14:00 from Sunday to Thursday. Banking services are available at all commercial banks. Most banks have cash dispensing machines accepting Visa and MasterCard. Foreign exchange facilities are available in all parts of Manama city.

Most internationally recognized currencies can be exchanged at commercial banks, hotels and at Bahrain International Airport. Major credit cards are accepted in most hotels, restaurants and shops.

Business and shopping hours

Public offices open from 07:00 to 14:15 from Sunday to Thursday. The usual business opening hours are from 08:00 to 18:00, Sunday to Thursday and range between 10:00 to 22:00 on weekends. Most shopping malls are open from 10:00 to 22:00 daily.

Smoking

Smoking, including electronic cigarettes, is not permitted inside any venue in Bahrain. Details of designated smoking areas at the meeting venues will be communicated.

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

Any delegate that wishes to bring specialist electronic equipment into Bahrain should complete a Customs Form that can be downloaded from website <https://ipu.bh>. For further information or clarification, please contact ipuinfo@bahrain.com or phone: +973 17888444.

NEED MORE INFO ABOUT BAHRAIN?

Additional information and assistance can be readily obtained from the 146th Assembly Secretariat of the Parliament of Bahrain at:

Telephone : +97317888444
Email : ipuinfo@bahrain.com
Website : <https://ipu.bh>

OFFICIAL EVENTS AND RECEPTIONS

Thursday, 9 March

Reception for the IPU Executive Committee

Venue : to be confirmed
Time : 19:00 – 20:30

Saturday, 11 March

Inaugural Ceremony

Venue : Plenary Hall (EWB)
Time : 19:00 – 20:00

Reception for Heads of Delegations

Venue : EWB
Time : 20:30 – 22:00

Sunday, 12 March

Luncheon for Speakers of Parliament (only)

Venue : EWB
Time : 13:15 – 14:30

Reception offered by the President of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians

Venue : to be confirmed

Time : 19:00 – 21:00

Monday, 13 March

Evening reserved for Embassy receptions

Tuesday, 14 March

Cultural Evening

Venue : Bahrain Museum

Time : 19:30 – 22:00