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

146th IPU Assembly

Manama (11–15 March 2023)

Standing Committee on
United Nations Affairs

C-IV/146/A.1-rev
23 February 2023

Provisional agenda

First sitting: 09:00 – 11:00

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held during the 145th IPU Assembly (October 2022)**
- 3. Proposed new modalities and methods of work for the Committee**

Prompted by a review of the IPU Political Project at the United Nations and the corresponding implementation roadmap, the Bureau will propose a revised mandate for the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs.

Among other things, the new mandate aims to sharpen the Committee's focus on a select few key UN reform issues and use Committee sessions as opportunities to mobilize parliamentarians to bring about change at the UN. This item will include a presentation of the proposed modalities and working methods of the Committee followed by a discussion with participants.

- 4. Bringing gender equality to the UN General Assembly**

Representation in the UN General Assembly is far from gender equal. Unlike parliaments around the world, where there is discussion and awareness of the need for greater representation of women, there is no concerted effort among UN member states to ensure that more women ambassadors (Permanent Representatives) sit in the General Assembly. This is despite the fact that many resolutions of the General Assembly call for more women to be engaged as decision-makers in peace-building and development processes at both national and global levels.

This item will review the data on women's representation in the General Assembly and consider the ways in which the appointment of ambassadors to the UN could be improved to achieve equality. Borrowing from the IPU's experience of supporting more women in politics, and best practices from other relevant institutions, participants will discuss the ways in which parliaments can help the General Assembly and other multilateral bodies become more gender equal.

The discussion will draw on a survey of Committee members, which the IPU will conduct prior to the Assembly.

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Second sitting: 16:00 – 18:00

5. 2023 Voluntary National Reviews for the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), which meets in July each year in New York, is the UN's main accountability mechanism to take stock of progress towards implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Each session of the HLPF sees around 40 countries presenting their national progress reports, known as Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). Governments seek input from a variety of stakeholders, including parliaments, when preparing these reports. Each year, the IPU surveys the parliaments of the countries presenting VNRs to assess the depth of their engagement.

This item will feature a brief presentation of the results of the 2022 IPU survey of some 40 parliaments' engagement in the VNRs, and a presentation of the 2023 survey, which will involve 42 parliaments.

6. Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee

The Committee will fill the current vacancies on the Bureau based on proposals received from the geopolitical groups.

7. Any other business