



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

147th IPU Assembly

Luanda, Angola
23–27 October 2023



Convocation

A/147/C.1
19 June 2023

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

The 147th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and related meetings will be held at the National Assembly of Angola, Luanda, from Monday, 23 to Friday, 27 October 2023.

We are pleased to enclose detailed information on these meetings. We very much hope that your Parliament will be represented at the 147th 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

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#IPU147

INFORMATION ON THE ASSEMBLY

AGENDA OF THE ASSEMBLY

1. Election of the President of the 147th Assembly
2. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
3. General Debate on the theme *Parliamentary action for peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16)*
4. Special accountability segment on the implementation of IPU resolutions and other decisions
5. *Orphanage trafficking: The role of parliaments in reducing harm* (Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights)
6. Reports of the Standing Committees
7. Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 149th 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 **19:00 on Monday, 23 October 2023**.

The Governing Council will convene on 24 and 27 October and will consider and take decisions on a host of matters relating to the functioning and activities of the IPU, including the election of a new IPU President. The agenda of the 212th session of the IPU Governing Council, and those of the other statutory bodies meeting during the 147th Assembly, are available in **Annex 2**.

The Assembly will start its General Debate on 24 October with the high-level segment reserved for Speakers of Parliament. A concept note on the overall theme of the General Debate will be posted in due course on the Assembly webpage.

At its sittings on 26 and 27 October, the Assembly will adopt resolutions on the emergency item and on the subject item being considered by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights. A one-hour accountability segment will take place during the Assembly plenary on 26 October on follow-up actions by Member Parliaments on IPU resolutions and other decisions. The Assembly is expected to conclude with an outcome document on the theme of the General Debate and to complete its business by 18:00 on Friday, 27 October 2023.

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 Wednesday, 25 October 2023. 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 Thursday, 26 October 2023.

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 Monday, 23 October 2023. 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.

On 27 October 2023, the Governing Council will hold an election by secret ballot for a new IPU President. Candidatures, accompanied by a signed covering letter and a brief curriculum vitae, may be submitted to the IPU Secretariat up to Thursday, 26 October 2023, at 09:00. A Note on the election of the IPU President is available in [Annex 3](#).

During the Luanda Assembly, the IPU governing bodies will also initiate a general review of the [IPU Statutes and Rules](#). Member Parliaments are invited to share their views or proposals for possible amendments to the Statutes and Rules by 1 September 2023.

STANDING COMMITTEES

All the four Standing Committees will meet during the Luanda Assembly. The Standing Committees, among other things, organize debates on issues within their mandate, adopt resolutions and motions that express the collective position of the IPU and set out actions for follow-up by Member Parliaments.

In order to maximize their contribution to the implementation of the IPU 2022-2026 Strategy, the Standing Committees have decided to give priority to a specific set of "focus areas" ([Annex 4](#)). The focus areas will serve as guidance when setting the agenda and workplan for the Standing Committees.

The Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights will discuss and adopt a resolution on the subject item *Orphanage trafficking: The role of parliaments in reducing harm*.

The other three Standing Committees will hold hearings and panel discussions as approved at the 146th IPU Assembly.

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 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, Member Parliaments "...*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 22 October 2023, or at any time on 23 October 2023 which does not conflict with the sittings of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.

IPU Member Parliaments 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 Member Parliaments, 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. Depending on the actual attendance at the 147th Assembly, 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 and Governing Council.

VACANCIES TO BE FILLED DURING THE 147th 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 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. New Member Parliaments of the IPU and those Member Parliaments not currently holding IPU offices are particularly encouraged to submit candidatures.

As agreed previously by the geopolitical groups, a rotation of the presidencies and vice-presidencies of the Standing Committees is scheduled to take place on the occasion of the Luanda Assembly – more information can be found in **Annex 5**.

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 as follows:

30 June 2023	Deadline for the rapporteurs to submit the draft resolution and explanatory memorandum to the IPU Secretariat.
8 October 2023	Deadline for IPU Members to submit proposals for amendments to the draft resolution.
23-27 October 2023	147th IPU Assembly Finalization and adoption of the resolution

In accordance with the Standing Committees' Rules, proposals for subject items – in line with the IPU Strategy and the focus areas identified by the Standing Committee – can 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 next subject item to be taken up by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights by 25 October 2023 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 theme of the General Debate at the 147th Assembly will be ***Parliamentary action for peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16)***.

In keeping with the Assembly Rules, two representatives of each national parliamentary 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, Member Parliaments may register on the spot at the speakers' registration desk outside the Plenary Hall of the National Assembly. Member Parliaments may also register their speaker(s) in advance through the [online registration system](#), which will open on 22 August 2023.

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
List E	Permanent observers	3 minutes

The order of speakers will be determined by a public drawing of lots at 17:00 on Monday, 23 October 2023.

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 Tuesday, 24 October 2023.

ALLOCATION OF VOTES

A provisional table showing the votes allocated to delegations to the 147th Assembly will be made available on the Assembly webpage.

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. 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, and the Forums of Women MPs and Young Parliamentarians, interpretation will be provided remotely either via Zoom or Interpretfy. Therefore, parliaments wishing to have a channel in the main Standing Committee room (Sala Nobre) should ensure that their interpreters are fully trained on both cloud-based platforms.

The IPU conference services team (conf-services@ipu.org) will be pleased to provide more information, where needed.

Official statements delivered in the General Debate are published on the Assembly webpage and are 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 147th Assembly App will be available for download free of charge in early October 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

The Results of the 147th Assembly will be circulated to all Members and published on the IPU website within a month after the close of the Assembly, when a complete electronic version can be downloaded in PDF format. All delegations will also receive one printed copy of the Results brochure by post.

REGISTRATION

The IPU online registration system will be operational as of 10 July 2023. 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 2 October 2023.**

The Registration and Information Service will be open at the National Assembly as of Saturday, 21 October 2023 from 09:00 to 18:00 and from Sunday, 22 to Thursday, 26 October 2023 from 08:00 to 18:30, as well as on Friday, 27 October 2023 from 08:00 to 18:00.

DELEGATES' STAY IN LUANDA

For all logistical matters relating to delegates' stay in Luanda, delegations are invited to refer to the website set up by the National Assembly of Angola for the 147th Assembly, at <https://ipu147.ao>.

The General Information document, to be sent with the official Invitation from the Angolan National Assembly, contains details on delegates' stay in Luanda. 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 147th Assembly Secretariat of the National Assembly of Angola at:

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E-mail	:	147ipu@parlamento.ao
Website	:	https://ipu147.ao