



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

149th IPU Assembly

Geneva
13–17 October 2024



Assembly
Item 8

A/149/8-P.1-rev
12 October 2024

Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

In 2023, a broad consultation was carried out on possible amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules, further to which proposals were gathered from Member Parliaments, the geopolitical groups, the IPU's specialized bodies, and the IPU Secretariat. The proposals were studied extensively by a Working Group established by the Executive Committee in March 2024 (three meetings of the Working Group were held between March and May 2024). Subsequently, at its meeting in Zanzibar in June 2024, the Executive Committee agreed on a series of proposed amendments ([A/149/8-P.1](#)) for submission to the membership (three months prior to the 149th Assembly, as per Article 30 of the Statutes).

By the deadlines of 2 September 2024 (amendments to the Statutes) and 14 September 2024 (amendments to the Rules), several Member Parliaments had availed themselves of the opportunity to provide feedback and propose sub-amendments. The admissible sub-amendments and clarifications from the Secretariat on several related points were sent to the membership on 26 September 2024 ([A/149/8-P.1-Am](#)).

At its meeting on 11 October 2024, the Executive Committee endorsed the sub-amendments proposed by France and Switzerland and referred the proposed amendment to Article 10.1 of the Statutes (along with sub-amendments proposed by Thailand and Türkiye) back to the Working Group for further consideration. The Working Group will resume its work later in 2024 to consider this matter along with other pending requests.

This document contains the final proposed amendments to the Statutes and the Rules of the Assembly. The Assembly is invited to adopt these amendments.

A separate document (CL/214/9-P.1-rev) has been submitted to the Governing Council with the final proposed amendments to the Rules of the Governing Council, the Rules of the Executive Committee, the Rules of the Standing Committees, the Rules of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, and the Rules and Working Modalities of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians.

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#IPU149

Amendments to the Statutes

Throughout the Statutes, where applicable, change "Member" to "Member Parliament" (Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 15, 18, 19, 21, 25, 27, 28 and 30)

Article 10 (composition of the Assembly)

Amend the footnote to sub-paragraph 3 as follows:

3. In these Statutes, whenever the words "young parliamentarians" are used, they should be construed as referring to parliamentarians who are below the age of ~~45~~ **40** years.

Article 11 (Vice-Presidents of the Assembly)

Amend sub-paragraph 1 as follows:

1. The Assembly shall be opened by the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union or, in his/her absence, by the Vice-President of the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Inter-Parliamentary Union** designated in conformity with Rule 5.2 of the Rules of the Executive Committee.

Amend sub-paragraph 3 as follows:

3. ~~The number of Vice-Presidents shall be equal to that of the Members of the IPU represented at the Assembly.~~ **Every Member Parliament of the IPU attending an Assembly is entitled to designate a Vice-President of the Assembly. In the event that the President of the Assembly is unavailable to chair a sitting, a replacement shall be invited to chair from among the designated Vice-Presidents, and efforts shall be made to ensure geopolitical and gender balance among those serving in this capacity during a given Assembly.**

Article 18

Delete sub-paragraph 3:

~~3. In case of the death or resignation of a representative, or a representative's inability to attend, the IPU Member concerned shall appoint a substitute.~~

Article 19 (Governing Council –IPU President)

Amend sub-paragraph 2:

2. The retiring President shall not be eligible for re-election ~~for three years~~ and shall be replaced by a person belonging to another Parliament. An endeavour will be made to ensure a regular rotation between the different geopolitical groups, **as well as between men and women parliamentarians.**

Amend sub-paragraph 4 as follows:

4. In case of the resignation, loss of parliamentary mandate or death of the President, the functions of the President shall be exercised by the Vice-President ~~of the Executive Committee appointed by the latter~~ **of the Inter-Parliamentary Union designated in conformity with Rule 5.2 of the Rules of the Executive Committee**, until such time as the Governing Council elects a new President. The same provision shall apply in the case of the suspension of the rights or affiliation of the Member of the IPU to which the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union belongs.

Amend sub-paragraph 5 as follows:

5. The President shall also be assisted in his/her work between the statutory sessions by a group of six ~~vice-presidents~~ **Vice-Presidents of the Executive Committee** representing each of the geopolitical groups and appointed from among the members of the Executive Committee for a renewable term of one year **(cf. Rule 5.2bis of the Rules of the Executive Committee)**.

Add a new sub-paragraph 5bis:

5bis. The President shall report at each ordinary session of the Governing Council on his/her activities since the previous session, in conjunction with the report on the activities of the Executive Committee (cf. Article 26.2g).

Article 21 (functions of the Governing Council)

Add a new sub-paragraph (g)bis:

g)bis. Adopt the IPU Strategy and oversee its implementation;

Article 24 (of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians)

Amend Article 24 as follows:

24. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU shall meet on the occasion of both annual sessions of the Assembly and shall report on its work to the Governing Council. The Forum shall establish its own Rules, which shall be approved by the Governing Council. **The Forum is assisted by a Bureau, which shall meet during both annual sessions of the Assembly.**

Article 25

Change all instances of “Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians” to “Bureau of Young Parliamentarians”

Article 28.2 (functions of the IPU Secretariat)

Add a new sub-paragraph (f)bis as follows:

f)bis. Ensure the implementation of the IPU Strategy, as adopted by the Governing Council;

Articles 27-30

Reorder the sub-sections of the Statutes as follows:

VI. IPU Secretariat (formerly VII)

VII. Oversight and Ethics Committee (new – see below)

VIII. Geopolitical Groups (formerly VI)

IX. Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (formerly VIII)

X. Amendments to the Statutes (formerly IX)

New sub-section VII

Add a new sub-section (“Oversight and Ethics Committee”), with one Article as follows:

An Oversight and Ethics Committee shall be established with a view to ensuring compliance with the *Code of Conduct for IPU Governance Officials* and the *Policy to prevent and address harassment, including sexual harassment, at IPU Assemblies and other IPU events* (cf. Rules of the Oversight and Ethics Committee [link]).

Amendments to the Rules of the Assembly

Throughout the Rules, where applicable, change “Member” to “Member Parliament” (Rules 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 29, 36, 39 and 40, and Special Rules for virtual sessions 1, 2 and 6)

Rule 7

Amend sub-paragraph 1 as follows:

1. The Assembly shall be opened by the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union or, in his/her absence, by the Vice-President of the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Inter-Parliamentary Union** designated in conformity with Rule 5.2 of the Rules of the Executive Committee.

Amend sub-paragraph 3 as follows:

3. ~~The number of Vice-Presidents shall be equal to that of the Members of the IPU represented at the Assembly.~~ **Every Member Parliament of the IPU attending an Assembly is entitled to designate a Vice-President of the Assembly. In the event that the President of the Assembly is unavailable to chair a sitting, a replacement shall be invited to chair from among the designated Vice-Presidents, and efforts shall be made to ensure geopolitical and gender balance among those serving in this capacity during a given Assembly.**

Rule 9

Amend sub-paragraph 1 as follows:

1. The Steering Committee of the Assembly shall be composed of the President of the Assembly, the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, ~~and the Vice-President of the Executive Committee~~ **Inter-Parliamentary Union** designated in conformity with Rule 5.2 of the Rules of the Executive Committee, ~~the Presidents of the Standing Committees may take part in its work in an advisory capacity,~~ **the President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, and the President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians, or their representatives.**

Add a new sub-paragraph 2bis as follows:

2bis. With a view to ensuring a smooth and cohesive functioning of the IPU and the effective implementation of its decisions, at each Assembly the IPU President, assisted by the Secretary General, shall hold a joint meeting with the Chairs of the geopolitical groups and the Presidents of the Standing Committees. The Presidents of the subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council, the President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and the President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians may also be invited to take part in this meeting.

Rule 9

Amend sub-paragraph 1 as follows:

1. The Steering Committee of the Assembly shall be composed of the President of the Assembly, the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Vice-President of the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Inter-Parliamentary Union** designated in conformity with Rule 5.2 of the Rules of the Executive Committee. The Presidents of Standing Committees may take part in its work in an advisory capacity.

Rule 11

Modify sub-paragraph 1 as follows:

1. Any Member of the IPU may request the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda. Such a request must be accompanied by a brief explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution, which clearly define the scope of the subject covered by the request, **and indicate how it is in line with the principles and values of the IPU and its Strategy.** The IPU Secretariat shall communicate the request and any such documents immediately to all Members.

Rule 13

Modify Rule 13 as follows:

13. As a rule, the Assembly will appoint two rapporteurs for each subject item proposed by a Standing Committee. These rapporteurs will prepare a succinct, action-oriented draft resolution and an accompanying explanatory memorandum. Members of the IPU may contribute to the drafting process by submitting their brief written inputs in one of the official languages of the IPU (cf. Assembly, Rule 37.1). The arrangements for the submission of such written inputs shall be indicated in the convocation of the Assembly (cf. Standing Committees, Rule 13.1). **Throughout the process, a human rights-based approach and gender mainstreaming shall be duly applied.**

Rule 17

Amend sub-paragraph 1 as follows:

1. Any delegate may submit amendments relating to the draft resolutions prepared by the 7rapporteurs on the subject item included in the agenda approved by the Assembly. They shall be deposited with the IPU Secretariat no later than ~~45~~ **21** days before the opening of the Assembly. However, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians shall be permitted to submit amendments incorporating a gender perspective at any time prior to the closure of the first sitting of the respective Standing Committee (cf. Standing Committees, Rule 13.2).

Rule 22

Amend the footnote related to Rule 22, as follows:

In these Statutes, whenever the words "young parliamentarians" are used, they should be construed as referring to parliamentarians who are below the age of ~~45~~ **40** years.