



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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150th IPU Assembly

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (5–9 April 2025)

Assembly
Item 9
Governing Council
Item 7

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6 January 2025

Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

The IPU Working Group on amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules held two online meetings on 20 and 27 November 2024 to continue consideration of proposals received from the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and the group of SADC parliaments, as well as outstanding issues from the previous round of proposals received in 2024. On 12 December 2024, the Executive Committee held an online meeting to review the submissions received from the Working Group, and made a series of adjustments.

*The following proposals for amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules are now submitted for consideration by the IPU Member Parliaments in view of adoption at the 150th IPU Assembly. Members are invited to submit to the Secretariat any sub-amendments by the deadlines of **22 February 2025** (Statutes) and **8 March 2025** (Rules) respectively.*

(1) Vice-President – gender and geopolitical rotation

Rules of the Executive Committee

Rule 5

2. A Vice-President of the IPU shall be appointed **elected** by the Executive Committee each year **from among its members**, at its ~~last~~ **first** session **following the election of a new President or whenever a vacancy arises**, to replace the President of the IPU in case of the latter's absence, or to exercise the latter's functions until such time as a new President is elected by the Governing Council in case of resignation, loss of parliamentary mandate, death, or of the suspension of the rights or affiliation of the Member Parliament of the IPU to which the President belongs. **An endeavour shall be made to ensure that the Vice-President is of the opposite sex and a different geopolitical group to the President, and that there is regular rotation between the different geopolitical groups.**

3. The Executive Committee shall appoint six Vice-Presidents of the Executive Committee **from among its members**, nominated by each of the geopolitical groups respectively, who shall assist the President of the IPU in his/her work between statutory sessions. **An endeavour shall be made to ensure gender parity among the six Vice-Presidents of the Executive Committee.**

Note: These amendments are intended to enshrine current practice. As for the election of the President (Statutes Article 19.2, as revised by the Assembly in October 2024), the provisions for gender and geopolitical rotation are aspirational and not mandatory.

(2) Amendments proposed by the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

Statutes

Article 1

4bis. In all of its work and functioning the IPU shall mainstream a gender perspective and apply a human rights-based approach. In particular, it shall foster gender-balanced representation in its structures and deliberations, with the ultimate goal of achieving overall parity (1).

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Add footnote: **(1) Parity is understood as a 50:50 ratio. In practice, given the diversity in modalities for representation, gender balance or alternation of each sex should be pursued. Gender balance is understood as being as close to 50:50 as possible, including a 40:60 ratio or a rule by which no sex outnumbers the least represented sex by more than 2. Alternation implies that men and women share or rotate in leadership positions.**

Note: This amendment is intended to make gender parity the new norm by defining it among the objectives of the IPU as described in Article 1 of the Statutes. The concepts of gender balance and gender parity are defined in line with the IPU's specific context and realities.

Article 25

2. The President of the IPU shall be ~~ex-officio~~ President of the Executive Committee. Fifteen members shall be elected by the Governing Council. ~~Each sex shall be represented by no less than one-third of the elected members.~~ **An endeavour shall be made to ensure gender balance in the composition of the Executive Committee.**

Note: This amendment clarifies the intention that, if possible, the Executive Committee should be gender balanced. On request of the Executive Committee, "ex officio" has been removed from the first sentence. For consistency, these words will also need to be removed from Article 19.1, Rule 5 of the Governing Council and Rule 5 of the Executive Committee.

Rules of the Executive Committee

Rule 13

3. The Sub-Committee on Finance shall be composed of one representative from each of the geopolitical groups, selected from among the Executive Committee members. **An endeavour shall be made to ensure gender balance in the composition of the Sub-Committee on Finance.**

Note: This amendment clarifies the intention that, if possible, the Sub-Committee on Finance should be gender balanced.

Rules of the Sub-Committee on Finance

Rule 3

1. ~~Bearing in mind the need to strive for geographical representation and gender balance, the~~ **The** Sub-Committee shall be composed of ~~six members of both sexes,~~ one **representative** from each **of the** geopolitical groups, selected from among the Executive Committee members. **An endeavour shall be made to ensure gender balance in the composition of the Sub-Committee on Finance.**

Note: This amendment harmonizes the wording of this Rule with the equivalent Rule of the Executive Committee.

Rule 3

2. The Sub-Committee shall elect a President from among its members. **An endeavour shall be made to ensure gender and geopolitical rotation at each election of the President.**

Note: This amendment introduces an aspirational provision for gender and geopolitical rotation of the President of the Sub-Committee on Finance.

The Working Group also decided that the remaining proposals made by the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians relating to reinforcing gender equality provisions, such as quotas for delegations attending IPU Assemblies, and reinforcing sanctions for non-compliance with existing gender equality provisions merited further consideration. Such amendments could be shared with the Geo-Political Groups and then examined by the Working Group following the 150th Assembly, with a view to potentially tabling new amendments for adoption at the 151st Assembly in October 2025.

(3) Emergency item

Rules of the Assembly

Rule 14 and Rule 15.3

Delete these Rules and replace with a new Rule 11.2bis, as follows:

11.2bis The Steering Committee shall give its opinion on the admissibility of proposals and propose an ad hoc procedure for the overall emergency item process, for approval by the Assembly.

Note: Rules 14 and 15.3 are currently out of place (Rules 11 and 12 refer to the emergency item, Rule 13 refers to Rapporteurs for the Standing Committees, Rule 15 refers to the General Debate and Standing Committee subject items). By merging them and moving them to form part of the existing Rule 11, the role of the Steering Committee is introduced in a more logical sequence. Through this new Rule, the Steering Committee and Assembly are given scope to modify the usual procedures relating to the emergency item. In the longer term, provision could be added to this Rule for the establishment of a drafting committee (thus formalizing existing practice), ensuring that such a Committee would be gender balanced and would function in accordance with the Rules of the Standing Committees, mutatis mutandis.

The Working Group also continued its broader discussion on improvements to the modalities for the adoption of an emergency item at IPU Assemblies. It reconfirmed the proposal, not requiring an amendment to the Statutes and Rules, to adjust the Assembly timetable to allow for more time for consultations among Member Parliament delegations on emergency item proposals prior to the selection vote. Although difficult to confirm that it was a direct consequence of this change, at the 149th Assembly, two proposals achieved the requisite two-thirds majority, giving the IPU its first emergency item since the 146th Assembly.

The Working Group took note of the concerns expressed by both the Twelve Plus Group and the head of delegation of the Russian Federation relating to the emergency item process. It was agreed that the Secretariat could develop more specific guidelines on the admissibility of proposals, so as to facilitate the work of the Assembly Steering Committee. In terms of accuracy and fact-checking, all proposals received by the Secretariat undergo editing and translation, processes which by their nature include a certain degree of fact-checking and verification of sources. When a proposal is chosen, the Secretariat and the drafting committee work intensively to ensure that any issues are ironed out before the final resolution is submitted to the membership for adoption. The Secretariat will continue to check the accuracy of submissions to the best of its abilities in the time available.

As for the adoption of a second emergency item proposal, the Executive Committee agreed that, on an experimental basis, should a second proposal receive the required two thirds majority, it could be included in the Assembly timetable for a debate and resolution on the subject in question. This approach will be trialled at the 150th Assembly without an amendment to the Statutes and Rules. If successful, the practice could then be enshrined in the Assembly Rules through an amendment.

(4) Composition of delegations (Article 10.1)

Statutes

Article 10

1. The Assembly shall be composed of parliamentarians designated as delegates by the Member Parliaments and Associate Members. Member Parliaments and Associate Members shall include men and women parliamentarians in their delegation and shall strive to ensure their equal representation. **Member Parliaments and Associate Members shall also strive to include in their delegations young parliamentarians, parliamentarians with disabilities and parliamentarians representing vulnerable groups.**

Note: In October 2024, the Executive Committee invited the Working Group to reexamine the various proposals on the table for an amendment to this Article. The solution proposed above incorporates the original request of the delegation of Türkiye for a specific reference to

“parliamentarians with disabilities”, alongside an acknowledgement of the IPU’s general evolution towards a greater inclusion of young parliamentarians in its work, as well as towards improved recognition of under-represented groups. The phrase “vulnerable groups” has been chosen since the United Nations has a clear definition of this term, which includes a very diverse range of groups (see [here](#) for details). Moreover, the proposed wording can be seen as merely a recommendation, which Member Parliaments can interpret in line with Article 6.2 of the Statutes, which states that “It is the sovereign right of each Member Parliament of the IPU to decide on the manner in which it organizes its participation in the IPU.”

(5) Proposal from Member Parliaments in the Southern African Development Community (SADC)

Rules of the Assembly

Rule 17

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

Rules of the Standing Committees

Rule 13

2. The IPU Secretariat shall send the draft resolution and the explanatory memorandum to the Member Parliaments and Associate Members in advance of the session. Member Parliaments and Associate Members may propose amendments to the draft resolution no later than 21 days before the opening of the Assembly. However, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians **and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians** shall be permitted to submit amendments which incorporate a gender **or youth** perspective into the draft resolutions at any time prior to the closure of the first sitting of the respective Standing Committee. The Committee will finalize the draft resolution and submit it to the Assembly for adoption (cf. Assembly Rule 17.1).

Note: While the majority of proposals raised by the SADC group during the 149th Assembly have either already been dealt with in the previous round of amendments or are covered by documentation other than the Statutes and Rules, this particular proposal was seen as having merit in line with the general evolution towards considering the Forum of Young Parliamentarians increasingly on a par with the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.

(6) Deadline harmonization

Note: At its meeting on 20 November 2024, the Working Group accepted the proposal of the Secretariat to harmonize the deadlines for submission of amendments to the Statutes and Rules to two months before each Assembly for amendments and one month for sub-amendments, and also to harmonize the deadlines for the submission of summary records to the membership to 30 days before the next session of the body in question. The amendments below are intended to implement this decision.

(a) Amendments

Statutes

Article 31

1. Any proposal to amend the Statutes shall be submitted in writing to the IPU Secretariat at least ~~three~~ **two** months before the meeting of the Assembly. The IPU Secretariat will immediately communicate all such proposals to the Member Parliaments of the IPU. The consideration of such proposed amendments shall be automatically placed on the agenda of the Assembly.

2. Any sub-amendments shall be submitted in writing to the IPU Secretariat at least ~~six weeks~~ **one month** before the meeting of the Assembly. The Secretariat will immediately communicate all such sub-amendments to the Member Parliaments of the IPU.

Rules of the Assembly

Rule 40

2. Proposals for amending the Rules of the Assembly shall be formulated in writing and sent to the IPU Secretariat at least ~~three~~ **two** months before the Assembly meets. The Secretariat shall communicate such proposals immediately to all Member Parliaments of the IPU. It shall also, if necessary, communicate to all Member Parliaments any proposals for sub-amendments at least one month before the meeting of the Assembly.

Rules of the Governing Council

Rule 44

2. Proposals for amending the Governing Council's Rules shall be formulated in writing and sent to the IPU Secretariat at least ~~three~~ **two** months before the next meeting of the Governing Council. The Secretariat shall communicate such proposals immediately to all Member Parliaments of the IPU. It shall communicate any proposals for sub-amendments at least one month before the meeting of the Governing Council.

Rules of the Executive Committee

Rule 16

2. Proposals to amend the Rules of the Executive Committee must be formulated in writing and sent to the IPU Secretariat at least ~~three~~ **two** months before the next meeting of the Committee. The Secretariat shall immediately communicate such proposals, as well as any proposals for sub-amendments, to the members of the Committee.

Rules of the Standing Committees

Rule 43

2. Proposals for amending the Standing Committees' Rules shall be formulated in writing and sent to the IPU Secretariat at least ~~three~~ **two** months before the next meeting of the Governing Council. The IPU Secretariat shall communicate such proposals immediately to all Member Parliaments of the IPU. It shall communicate any proposals for sub-amendments at least one month before the meeting of the Governing Council.

Rules of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians

Rule 39

1. Any proposal to amend the Rules of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians must be formulated in writing and sent to the IPU Secretariat at least ~~three~~ **two** months before the next session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and of the Governing Council. The Secretariat shall communicate such proposals immediately to all Member Parliaments and Associate Members of the IPU. It shall also send them any proposals for sub-amendments at least one month before the next session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the Governing Council.

Rules of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

Rule 17

2. Proposals to amend the Rules of the Bureau must be formulated in writing and sent to the IPU Secretariat at least ~~three~~ **two** months before the next meeting of the Bureau. The Secretariat shall communicate such proposals immediately to all members of the Bureau and shall do likewise with any proposals for sub-amendments.

(b) Distribution of summary records

Rules of the Assembly

Rule 38

1. The summary record of the proceedings shall be published and distributed **as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days** before the following Assembly.

Rules of the Governing Council

Rule 42

2. It shall prepare provisional summary records of the meetings which shall be circulated to all Member Parliaments of the IPU ~~within 60 days of the close of the session and~~ **as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days before the following session of the Governing Council, when they will be** submitted for approval ~~by the Governing Council at the opening of its next session.~~

Rules of the Executive Committee

Rule 15

2. It shall prepare provisional summary records of the sessions, which shall be sent to the members of the Committee ~~within 40 days of the close of each session and~~ **as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days before the following session of the Executive Committee, when they will be** submitted for their approval ~~at the opening of the next session.~~

Rules of the Standing Committees

Rule 42

2. It shall prepare the provisional summary record of the meetings, which shall be circulated to all Member Parliaments and Associate Members of the IPU **as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days** before the following session of the Standing Committee, when it will be submitted for approval at the opening sitting.

Rules of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians

Rule 36

2. The IPU Secretariat shall prepare the provisional summary record of the meetings, which shall be circulated to Member Parliaments and Associate Members ~~within 60 days of the close of each session and~~ **as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days before the following session of the Forum, when they will be** submitted for the Forum's approval ~~at the opening of the next session.~~