Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Rules and procedures of the Parliamentary Solidarity Fund

Adopted by the IPU Governing Council at its 200th session (Dhaka, April 2017) and amended by the IPU Governing Council at its 205th session (Belgrade, October 2019) and at its 215th session (Tashkent, April 2025)

Table of Content

Background

1. The IPU aims to achieve universal membership and to regularly engage with and convene all its Member Parliaments. Some parliaments remain unaffiliated while others have been suspended periodically for reasons that include non-payment of assessed contributions. The parliaments of many small island States in the Caribbean and South Pacific regions often face financial constraints. Others that are already Members lack the capacity to ensure their full-fledged participation in IPU activities - including statutory sessions - due to limited financial resources at their disposal.

2. As a matter of policy, the IPU does not provide systematic financial assistance to parliaments for participating in its proceedings and other activities. This approach differs from other parliamentary organizations which partially fund the participation of parliamentarians in their events.

3. The Parliamentary Solidarity Fund (PSF) has been created as a practical measure aimed at attaining universal membership, bolstering the engagement of national parliaments in the face of financial constraints, and encouraging solidarity among parliaments around the world, while respecting the IPU's financial policies and the rights and responsibilities of membership.

Purpose and scope

4. The PSF is established as an internal IPU mechanism for granting financial assistance to parliaments that face financial constraints, with a view to facilitating their participation in IPU activities. It is managed in conformity with the IPU's Statutes and Rules, including the Financial Regulations. The IPU Secretary General will account for and report on PSF grants as part of his or her overall financial management responsibilities. The income and expenditure of the PSF are to be accounted for through a single internal extra-budgetary cost centre.

5. The PSF may be used to facilitate the participation of eligible parliaments in mainstream IPU activities through travel and subsistence grants. The primary purpose is to facilitate participation at the regular IPU statutory Assemblies, although applications for support to attend selected specialized events or missions may also be considered.

6. PSF funds may not be used to pay assessed contributions or arrears of contributions due by any Member Parliament.

7. The expenditure under the PSF shall not be subject to programme support cost recovery.

Authorization

8. Decisions concerning the disbursement of PSF grants will be made under the overall authority of the IPU Executive Committee. The IPU Secretary General will suggest applications and, based on the eligibility of the parliament and the merit of the application, inform the Executive Committee of his recommendation, by correspondence if necessary, for its review and approval.

9. The income and expenditure of the PSF will be reported within the regular Financial Situation updates presented at each session of the Governing Council and Executive Committee.

Criteria for eligibility

10. To be eligible for consideration as a beneficiary of the PSF, a national parliament must express its intention to become affiliated or reaffiliated to the IPU and belong to the category of Small Island Developing States, as defined by the United Nations.

Parliaments of countries experiencing economic hardship brought about by natural disasters or civil conflict may also be considered for eligibility.

Grants shall not be given to parliaments of countries known to be tax havens or drug hubs.

11. In addition, one-time targeted financial assistance may be granted to current IPU Member Parliaments in financial difficulty that have been absent from IPU statutory Assemblies for over five years.

Resources

12. On the revenue side, the PSF may receive voluntary contributions from parliaments, government agencies, foundations and other external donors. Such contributions will be earmarked for "parliamentary solidarity" and used exclusively for that purpose. The soliciting and acceptance of PSF revenues is to be consistent with the IPU Guidelines for Voluntary Funding.

13. Provision of PSF grants to parliaments will be subject to the availability of sufficient voluntary contributions in the PSF account.

14. If required, the IPU Executive Committee may also consider allocating a maximum of CHF 20,000 per annum from the core budget to facilitate the participation of at least one parliament in IPU activities in the course of each calendar year. Any core funds allocated are to be offset by voluntary funds, if and when they become available.

Payment modalities

15. For all PSF grants, the following general procedures will apply:

(a) The interested parliament must convey a written application for financial assistance from the PSF to the Secretary General of the IPU, including a justification for the request.

(b) The amount of the grant requested should reflect the geographical locations of the beneficiary parliament and the Assemblies/events.

(c) Where travel arrangements are made by the IPU on behalf of travellers, payment to airlines and hotels may be made directly by the Secretariat. Where payments for a PSF grant are required to be made to the beneficiary parliament, transfer of funds will be made from a bank account of the IPU to a bank account of the beneficiary parliament, not to the bank account of the individual MPs travelling.

16. In the case of a grant for participation at statutory Assemblies, the following specific terms will apply:

(a) Grants will be made to allow the eligible parliament to send a delegation composed of two MPs to a statutory Assembly. Any additional members of the delegation, including staff members, would be expected to travel and be accommodated at the expense of the parliament in question.

(b) Each beneficiary parliament must ensure that its delegations are gender-balanced and that they include representatives of both the ruling party and the opposition in parliament.

17. After receiving financial support, a PSF-beneficiary parliament will endeavour to participate in IPU Assemblies through its own means or with the assistance of its own bilateral donors. The establishment of the PSF does not preclude IPU Member Parliaments from considering twinning/mentoring arrangements whereby one parliament may undertake to support the participation of another eligible parliament directly, on a bilateral basis. In turn, a group of PSF-eligible parliaments themselves may, for example, initiate a mechanism for pooling their resources with a view to sending their delegates to IPU events on the basis of rotation.

Duration and termination

18. The PSF may remain in operation indefinitely unless discontinued.

19. As it is an internal IPU mechanism, the PSF may be terminated at any time upon the decision of the Executive Committee. Any donated funds that may remain in the PSF at that point will be applied to parliamentary solidarity activities as decided upon by the Executive Committee. Once all remaining funds have been fully liquidated, the cost centre used for the PSF will be closed.