



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Rules and Practices of the IPU Advisory Group on Health

*Adopted by the IPU Governing Council at its 200th session
(Dhaka, 5 April 2017)*

MANDATE

The IPU Advisory Group on Health shall provide a global parliamentary focal point for health-related legislative work. The Group shall support the implementation of the health component of the IPU Strategy by focusing on inequalities and discrimination that stand in the way of universal access to services and to prevention. Its main areas of work shall be Women's, Children's and Adolescent's Health, including HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health and rights. In this context, the Advisory Group will also pay attention to how universal health coverage, health security and emerging epidemics relate to its core mandate.

More specifically, the Advisory Group shall: offer guidance to IPU Members on implementing relevant international commitments; help to design information and training material for parliamentarians; conduct field visits to learn lessons from national responses that can be shared with the wider parliamentary community; and expand the scope of parliamentary interventions by identifying more effective strategies.

GROUP MEMBERS

The IPU Advisory Group on Health shall be composed of 12 members of national parliaments. The IPU President shall appoint members of the Group in consultation with IPU Member Parliaments. Members shall be appointed on the basis of attested expertise and a track record of achievement in the field of health. Its membership should be geographically representative and gender-balanced.

Advisory Group members shall serve for a single four-year term.

The mandates of members who fail to participate in three consecutive activities of the Advisory Group shall be automatically terminated.

International organizations shall participate in the Advisory Group's work in a technical advisory capacity. Those organizations include: UNAIDS; The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis; the World Health Organization; and the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.

CHAIRPERSON

The Advisory Group shall elect its Chairperson for one year. He/she shall be eligible for re-election for one further term.

The Advisory Group may also elect a Vice-Chairperson for one year following the same procedure as for election of the Chairperson.

SESSIONS

The Advisory Group shall meet twice a year in regular session. Its sessions shall be held *in camera*. The Advisory Group shall set the dates for its sessions upon proposals made by the Secretary General. At least one of the sessions shall be held during an IPU Assembly. Additional meetings may be held if the Group so decides.

AGENDA

The provisional agenda of the Advisory Group shall be drawn up by the Secretary General, in consultation with the Group's Chairperson.

DECISIONS

As a general rule, the Advisory Group's decisions shall be taken by consensus. If it fails to reach consensus, the Group shall decide by simple majority of the members present. The Chairperson shall have the casting vote.

MISSIONS

The Advisory Group may decide to carry out field visits, principally to examine the role played by a given national parliament in addressing issues within the Group's mandate. Such missions shall be conducted in accordance with the *Concept note on field visits* (attached), adopted by the Advisory Group on 23 March 2007.

ADVISORY GROUP REPORTS

The Advisory Group shall report on its work to the IPU Governing Council, of which it shall be a subsidiary body.