



# 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly

Belgrade (Serbia)  
13-17 October 2019



Governing Council  
Item 15  
Assembly  
Item 7

CL/205/15-P.1  
A/141/7-P.1  
8 July 2019

## Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

### *Amendments submitted by the Gender Partnership Group*

At its 41<sup>st</sup> session held in Geneva in October 2018, the Gender Partnership Group decided to pursue ways to further encourage IPU Member Parliaments to include both men and women in their delegations to IPU Assemblies and to strive for gender balance. Measures envisaged by the Group include amending the current IPU Statutes and Rules so as to strengthen existing sanctions for single-sex delegations, as well as providing incentives to gender-balanced delegations by giving them more visibility during the Assembly.

An explanatory letter received from the Chair of the IPU Gender Partnership Group is attached ([Annex](#)).

#### **Statutes**

Amend Article 10.4 as follows:

10.4 Any delegation that for ~~three~~**two** consecutive sessions of the Assembly is composed exclusively of parliamentarians of the same sex shall automatically be reduced by one person.

Amend Article 15.2(c) as follows:

15.2(c) Any delegation that for ~~three~~**two** consecutive sessions is composed exclusively of parliamentarians of the same sex shall have a minimum of eight votes (instead of 10 for mixed delegations) at the Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. For delegations entitled to a certain number of additional votes, the overall calculation will be made on the basis of eight votes instead of 10.

#### **Rules of the Governing Council**

Amend Rule 1.2 as follows:

1.2 Each Member of the IPU shall be represented on the Governing Council by three parliamentarians, provided that its representation includes both men and women. Single-gender delegations will be limited to ~~two~~**one** members.

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE IPU BY  
MS. HEGE HAUKELAND LIADAL, CHAIR OF THE IPU GENDER PARTNERSHIP GROUP**

Oslo, 5 July 2019

Dear Mr. Chungong, Dear Martin,

I am pleased to write to you in follow-up to the deliberations of the Gender Partnership Group at the 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Doha last April.

As you know, the Group has the mandate to regularly monitor the participation of men and women at IPU Assemblies and governing bodies, and to put forward recommendations to promote progress towards gender equality at the IPU.

As part of its monitoring work, the Group has noted that for over a decade now, the percentage of women delegates at IPU Assemblies has stagnated. After the record 32.5% women delegates in 2005 in Geneva, when the percentage of women surpassed the 30% mark for the first time, this ratio has never gone much further up and women's participation has been hovering around 30% since then. This stagnation has been the subject of discussions within the Group for some time.

With this in mind, the Group has strived to inform and raise awareness among IPU's governing bodies and within geopolitical groups. Despite such efforts, the Group has noticed that two particular challenges still persist. On the one hand, several delegations that do include women have a gender ratio that is very low. On the other hand, the number of single-sex delegations of two or more members remains high: 20 delegations on average at recent Assemblies.

In response to the first challenge, the Group has decided to enhance its awareness-raising efforts by giving visibility to gender balanced delegations, with the hope that this will incentivise Member Parliaments to move beyond a minimal participation of women.

In response to the second challenge, the Group has decided to put forward a set of amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules. The amendments strengthen already existing mechanisms, namely to enhance sanctions for single-sex delegations by reducing voting rights in the Governing Council to one and by applying sanctions that restrict the number of delegates after two consecutive Assemblies instead of three (see document enclosed).

The Group believes that these measures will reinforce IPU's role as a trailblazer when it comes to gender equality in political decision-making.

I would be grateful if the IPU Secretariat could circulate these proposed amendments to all Members, within the statutory deadline, in view of their consideration at the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly in Belgrade next October.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Hege HAUKELAND LIADAL (Ms.)  
Chair  
IPU Gender Partnership Group