Information seminar on the structure and functioning of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
15-19 June 2020

Virtual session, with a focus on IPU and parliamentary operations during the pandemic

PROGRAMME

DAY ONE
Monday, 15 June 2020

Session 1
10.00–10.45
- Welcome of participants
- Overview of the IPU: Strategy and priority areas of work
  Strengthening multilateralism and inter-parliamentary cooperation
  Business continuity during the pandemic
- Q&A with the IPU Secretary General

Martin Chungong, Secretary General
Anda Filip, Director, Division for Member Parliaments and External Relations

10.45–11.00: virtual break

Session 2
11.00–11.45
- Membership (current membership, rights and obligations –
  including the reporting exercise, suspension of rights)
- Cooperation with regional and other parliamentary organizations

11.45–12.00: virtual break

12.00–13.00:
- Statutory bodies, including work of the Standing Committees
- IPU Assemblies

Anda Filip, Director, Division for Member Parliaments and External Relations
Sally-Anne Sader, Conference Services Officer
Akiyo Alouda, Programme Officer, Human Rights, Secretary of the Governing Council
Laurence Marzal, Programme Officer, Technical Assistance, Secretary of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security
DAY TWO
Tuesday, 16 June 2020

Session 1
10.00–10.20: IPU work to strengthen parliaments
   Overview of programme work and Q&A
   Kareen Jabre, Director, Division of Programmes

10.20–11.00: Research and standard setting
   Andy Richardson, Programme Manager, Parliamentary Standards Setting and Knowledge Generation

11.00–11.30: Building capacity and provision of technical assistance
   - Presentation of overall work
   - Thematic interactive session on one of the following themes to be chosen in advance by participants through polling:
     1. The IPU is finalizing a paper on the governance of parliamentary administration which will be available in your documents’ package. What are the areas of work of parliamentary administration that would be worthwhile to consider for further research?
     2. Presentation of the Capstone project on role of opposition/majority
     3. Cooperation with regional and other parliamentary organizations in the design and implementation of capacity-building programmes

   Norah Babic, Manager, Technical Cooperation
   Laurence Marzal, Programme Officer, Technical Cooperation
   Jonathan Lang, Project Officer, Technical Cooperation

11.30–11.45: virtual break

Session 2
11.45–12.45: Parliaments in a time of pandemic
   - How have parliaments managed to function?
   - What are some of the key challenges and lessons learned for enhanced preparedness?
   - Interactive exchange with and between participants

   Thomas Fitzsimons, Director, Communications Division
   Andy Richardson, Programme Manager, Parliamentary Standards Setting and Knowledge Generation

DAY THREE
Wednesday, 17 June 2020

Session 1
10.00–11.15: IPU work in the area of peace and security
   Anda Filip, Director, Division for Member Parliaments and External Relations
   Kareen Jabre, Director, Division of Programmes (on IPU work to promote respect for international humanitarian law)
   Laurence Marzal, Secretary of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security (on IPU disarmament work)
   Carmen Castillo, Senior Consultant (on countering terrorism and violent extremism)

11.15–11.30: virtual break
Session 2
11.30–12.15: Protecting MPs at risk: The work of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians
Presentation and interaction, including group exercise
12.15–12.20: virtual break
12.20–13.00: Helping parliaments to promote and protect human rights
Presentation and interaction, including group exercise

Human Rights Programme team

DAY FOUR
Thursday, 18 June 2020

Session 1
10.00–11.15
IPU work to promote gender equality and youth participation
Short presentations of both programmes and a Q&A session with the participants

Zeina Hilal, Programme Manager, Gender Partnership and Youth Participation
Mariana Duarte Mützenberg, Programme Officer, Gender Partnership
Jonathan Lang, Project Officer, Youth Participation

11.15–11.30: virtual break
Session 2
11.30–12.45
Overview of IPU work to promote the parliamentary dimension of international cooperation
Promoting parliamentary support for international development goals

Anda Filip, Director, Division for Member Parliaments and External Relations
Isabel Obadiaru, Project Officer, Sustainable Development Goals
Miriam Sangiorgio, Project Officer, Health

DAY FIVE
Friday, 19 June 2020

Session 1
10.00–11.00: IPU Communications

Thomas Fitzsimons, Director, Communications Division
Suroor Alikhan, Web and Social Media Editor

11.00–11.15: virtual break
Session 2
11.15–12.15: IPU funding and staff
- Presentation of the IPU’s budget
- Members’ contributions and matters relating to IPU staff

Andrée Lorber-Willis, Director, Division of Support Services
Ed Cooper, Senior Finance Officer, Division of Support Services

12.15–12.30: virtual break
12.30–13.00
Closing session: Assessment of the Seminar: Views and suggestions from participants

Anda Filip, Director, Division for Member Parliaments and External Relations
Sally-Anne Sader, Conference Services Officer