



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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138th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

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Governing Council
Item 14
Assembly
Item 8

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2 February 2018

Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY DIVISION, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT, SECRETARIAT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF JAPAN

Subject: Revised agenda and amendments - 277th (extraordinary) session of the Executive Committee - IPU Headquarters, 3 and 4 February 2018!

2 February 2018

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

Please find comments of Mr. Teru Fukui, currently serving as an Executive Committee Member on behalf of Mr. Shunichi Suzuki, on the proposed amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules. As we have informed you earlier, Mr. Fukui will not be able to take part in the upcoming 277th session of the Executive Committee in Geneva.

We find some of the proposals of the IPU Speaker are quite controversial, so we hope that the Executive Committee will examine them carefully and will not proceed hastily.

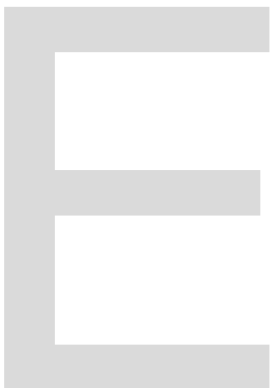
1. List of Speakers suggested by Secretariat

He agrees with the idea of enhancing youth participation at the IPU Assemblies. However, considering a second speaker's position and status in a case where his or her parliament is bicameral, he cannot agree with the proposed speaking order which places second speakers (List D) at the very end after young parliamentarians (List C).

He also believes that issues associated with having many speakers should be addressed. As we have seen in the recent IPU Assemblies, having many speakers at a General Debate session has often resulted in a situation where not all the speeches could be delivered by the scheduled closing time. That entails additional costs associated with extending the hiring hours of the venue and the interpreters.

2. Three-year strategy proposed by IPU Speaker

Mr. Fukui believes that keeping the current five-year timeframe is preferable. A period of three years is not long enough for a strategy to be appropriately drafted, carried out, and evaluated. Therefore, a period of five years is necessary to maintain the quality of the IPU strategy, which is the very foundation of the IPU activities.



#IPU138

3. Additional official languages proposed by IPU Speaker

A significant increase in cost associated with translation and interpretation is expected if these three languages, Arabic, Spanish, and Portuguese, are to be added. Even today, the translation and interpretation costs account for a substantial percentage of the IPU budget. Please note that Mr. Fukui is opposed to a further increase in the Member countries' contributions. There could be also an issue of the accuracy of translated documents if the number of the official languages is increased.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

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