



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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# 138<sup>th</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 24 – 28.03.2018

Governing Council  
Item 14  
Assembly  
Item 8

CL/202/14-P.2.Am.Inf.4  
A/138/8-P.2.Am.Inf.4  
8 February 2018

## Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

### COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE IPU BY THE HEAD OF THE URUGUAYAN INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Montevideo, 6 February 2018

Dear Madam President,

With reference to the amendments to IPU's Statutes and Rules that have been presented we see the need to communicate our point of view, since we do not believe this is the most appropriate time to be discussing and drafting amendments to IPU's Statutes.

We see that the proposed amendments are significant. To our understanding, however, the processes required to properly discuss a matter as important as modifying IPU's "Magna Carta", its Statutes, have not taken place.

It should be recalled that modifications were made to the Statutes in 2016 and 2017; what we need is a process involving all of our Members in which sufficient time can be allowed for those corrections to be applied and adjusted as may prove necessary.

The process we need must enable us to hold discussions, take positions as geopolitical groups, hear from the other IPU organs, and in the case of substantial changes, allow for more extensive debate, participation and discussion. This will ensure that our Statutes will have the necessary support after the process is completed.

It is legitimate for the Executive Committee, as well as any member of a geopolitical group, to draft such amendments. But it is not appropriate to draft them in the Governing Council without prior discussion or even awareness of the amendments to be considered – and at a time when in some cases, such as in Uruguay, parliaments have been in recess, so that their committees have not been operating. That is the case of Uruguay's Interparliamentary Group, whose members represent all of the political parties in parliament and are appointed for the entire legislative term, which is what enables us to participate in IPU's work on a solid, sustained and knowledgeable basis.

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It is following that logic that we do not consider it timely to reduce the periods covered by IPU Strategies as proposed. The current strategy was adopted by the IPU Assembly for a period of five years and we don't think it should be modified midstream. That does not prevent us from making adjustments, as discussed in the prologue of the approved document itself, because strategy periods admittedly extend over more than one IPU presidency – and more than one legislative term in our countries. That enables us to maintain a long-term vision and set the short-, medium- and long-term agendas for our parliaments, bearing always in mind that the Strategy for 2017-2021 is based on suggestions from parliaments resulting from the collective work of their members, with the adjustments we need to make in our respective countries.

The Strategy was adopted by the IPU Governing Council at the 135<sup>th</sup> Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, in October 2016. That enabled us to participate in an optimal manner in the exercise of world governance. Parliaments, which also change over time, can then adhere to a general framework, as they do in the case of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. And that gives us the guarantee of continuity from one IPU Presidency to the next.

We request that this note be circulated to all IPU Members.

With assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed)

Senator Ivonne Passada (Ms.)  
Head of Delegation  
Permanent Member of the Uruguayan  
Interparliamentary Group; Former Vice Chair of  
the Executive Committee of IPU

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cc: Mr. Martin Chungong  
Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union  
Geneva, Switzerland