



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

# 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.3  
A/138/8-P.2.Am.3  
8 February 2018

## Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

### COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE IPU BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF EGYPT

Cairo, February 2018

Dear Madam President,

It was a pleasure to participate in the extraordinary session of the Executive Committee this past weekend. I look forward to continued cooperation within the Committee and the IPU in general.

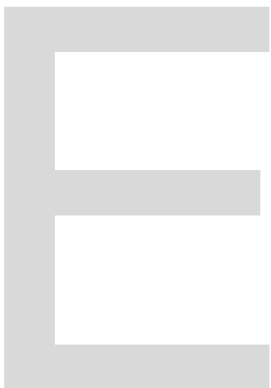
I wish to refer to the sets of amendments you have submitted for the Statutes of the IPU. I share your commitment to work for a stronger and more effective organisation. It is in this spirit that, in view of the far reaching political and financial implications of many of the amendments, I would like, as the Arab Group representative within the Executive Committee, to resubmit my proposal to set up a subcommittee of the Executive Committee. This subcommittee would examine these amendments and any other sub-amendments and proposals that may have been submitted by members in order to arrive at proposals that can be supported by the broader membership. I will be pleased to participate in such an exercise.

In the event that this proposal is not accepted, I am attaching hereto a list of sub-amendments and proposals that I would like to be circulated to all members as per the Statutes.

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

(Signed)

Dr. Ali Abdel-Aal  
Speaker of the Egyptian House of  
Representatives



#IPU138

***Sub-amendments presented by the delegation of Egypt within the statutory deadlines***

*Modify the original amendments as follows<sup>1</sup>:*

**ARTICLE 19bis**

1. As the political head of the IPU, the President shall:
  - (a) Be the principal spokesperson for the Organization with authority to express its political views;
  - (b) Lead the IPU's efforts to develop its relationship with national parliaments, and regional inter-parliamentary organizations, **as well as with international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;**
  - (c) Be the principal representative of the Organization at major political events and at other meetings of international inter-governmental and parliamentary organizations and assemblies; and
  - (d) Represent the IPU at major debates of the United Nations General Assembly and special United Nations summits and meetings of major international significance.
2. In the absence of the President, the Executive Committee shall decide to whom these functions shall be conferred among the six Vice-Presidents representing each of the geopolitical groups.

**ARTICLE 26 (EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE)**

1. The Executive Committee shall be the administrative organ of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.
2. The Executive Committee shall perform the following functions:
  - (a) Consider, whenever a Parliament makes a request for affiliation or reaffiliation to the Union, whether the conditions mentioned in Article 3 of the Statutes are fulfilled, and to inform the Governing Council of its conclusions (cf. Art. 4);
  - (b) Summon the Governing Council, in case of emergency (cf. Art. 17.2);
  - (c) Set the date and place of the Governing Council sessions and establish the provisional agenda;
  - (d) Express an opinion on the insertion of supplementary items in the agenda of the Governing Council;
  - (e) **During the Assembly following the election of the President, propose for approval of the Governing Council the Triennial Strategy of the IPU;**
  - ~~(e)~~(f) **Assess the progress made on the annual work programme and, during the second Assembly of the year, propose to for approval of the Governing Council the annual work programme and budget of the IPU for the following year, aligned with the objectives established in the Triennial Strategy** (cf. Financial Regs., Rule 3.4);
  - (g) **Examine and submit for the approval of the Governing Council all major agreements to be signed by the IPU. Prior to submission to the Governing Council, the Executive Committee shall specify, depending on the nature of the agreements, the office-holder authorized to sign them on behalf of the Organization;**
  - ~~(f)~~(h) Inform the Governing Council at its sessions about the activities of the Executive Committee through a report by the President;

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<sup>1</sup> The text highlighted in grey represents the proposed sub-amendments.

- (i) **Approve every three years the Organization's policies on transparency and accountability aligned with the ~~Triennial~~ Strategy of the IPU. The Executive Committee shall submit an annual report to the Governing Council on this subject with specific recommendations for action;**
- (j) **Examine and submit for approval of the Governing Council a ~~triennial~~ communications strategy of the IPU, which must underline the parliamentary nature of the Organization and ensure the inclusion of all Member Parliaments and parliamentarians;**
- ~~(g)~~(k) Oversee the administration of the IPU Secretariat as well as its activities in the execution of the decisions taken by the Assembly or by the Governing Council and receive, for this purpose, all reports and necessary information;
- ~~(h)~~(l) Examine candidatures for the post of Secretary General with the aim of submitting a proposal to the Governing Council and establish the terms of office of the Secretary General appointed by the Governing Council;
- ~~(i)~~(m) Request the Governing Council to grant supplementary appropriations should the budget appropriations approved by the Governing Council appear to be insufficient to cover the expenditure required for the execution of the programme and the administration of the IPU; in urgent cases, grant these appropriations provided that it shall inform the Governing Council of such action at the latter's next session;
- ~~(j)~~(n) Designate an External Auditor entrusted with auditing the accounts of the IPU (cf. Financial Regs., Rule 13.1);
- ~~(k)~~(o) Determine the scales of the salaries and allowances of staff members of the IPU Secretariat (cf. Staff Regs., Section IV);
- ~~(l)~~(p) Adopt its own Rules;
- ~~(m)~~(q) Carry out all the functions which the Governing Council delegates to it in accordance with the Statutes and Rules.

#### ARTICLE 28 (SECRETARIAT)

1. The IPU Secretariat comprises the totality of the staff of the Organization under the direction of the Secretary General of the IPU (cf. Secretariat, Rule 2), who shall be ~~appointed~~ **elected** by the Governing Council (cf. Art. 21 (l)).

#### **Comment:**

This is the current practice.

2. The Secretariat shall perform the following functions:
- (a) Be the permanent Headquarters of the IPU;
  - (b) Keep records on the Members of the IPU and endeavour to foster new requests for affiliation;
  - (c) Support and stimulate the activities of the Members of the IPU and contribute, on the technical level, towards the harmonization of these activities;
  - (d) Prepare the questions to be considered at inter-parliamentary meetings and distribute the necessary documents in due time;
  - (e) To provide for the execution of the decisions of the Governing Council and of the Assembly;
  - (f) Prepare **drafts of the ~~Triennial~~ Strategy, the annual** work programme and budget for the consideration of the Executive Committee (cf. Financial Regs., Rule 3.2, 3.3 and 3.7);
  - (g) Prepare and submit for consideration of the Executive Committee the annual report on transparency and accountability to be approved by the Governing Council;**

- (h) **Prepare and submit for consideration of the Executive Committee the ~~triennial~~ communications strategy to be approved by the Governing Council;**
- (i) **Prepare proposals of the Organization's policies on transparency, accountability and communications aligned with the ~~Triennial~~ Strategy of the IPU for the approval of the Executive Committee;**
- ~~(g)~~(j) Collect and disseminate information concerning the structure and functioning of representative institutions;
- ~~(h)~~(k) **~~Under the direction of the President, follow up on the~~ Maintain ~~Promote~~** relations between the IPU and other international organizations and, in general, its representation at international conferences;
- ~~(i)~~(l) Maintain the archives of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

#### ARTICLE 21 (GOVERNING COUNCIL)

The Governing Council shall perform, in particular, the following functions:

- (a) Decide on the admission and readmission of Members of the IPU, as well as on the suspension of their affiliation, in accordance with Article 4 of the Statutes;
- (b) Decide on the place and date of the Assembly (cf. Art. 9.2 and Assembly, Rule 4.2);
- (c) Propose the President of the Assembly;
- (d) Decide on the holding of all other inter-parliamentary meetings by the IPU, including the creation of ad hoc committees to study specific problems; determine the modalities thereof and express its opinion on their conclusions;
- (e) Set the number and terms of reference of the Standing Committees of the Assembly (cf. Art. 13.1);
- (f) Set up ad hoc or special committees and working groups while ensuring geopolitical, geographical (regional and sub-regional) and gender balance in their composition;
- (g) Determine the categories of observers at IPU meetings and their rights and responsibilities and decide which international organizations and other bodies shall have observer status at the IPU's meetings on a regular basis (cf. Assembly, Rule 2; Governing Council, Rule 4; Standing Committees, Rule 3.1), in addition to inviting on an occasional basis observers that may contribute to the study of a particular item on the Assembly agenda;
- (h) **Adopt the ~~Triennial~~ Strategy of the IPU ~~during the Assembly following the election of the President;~~**
- ~~(h)~~(i) Adopt annually the work programme and budget of the IPU and establish the scale of contributions (cf. Financial Regs., Rules 3.1 and 5.2);
- (j) **Approve all ~~major~~ agreements to be signed by the IPU (cf. Art. 26.2(g) of the Statutes);**
- ~~(i)~~(k) Approve, each year, the accounts for the preceding fiscal year on the recommendation of two Auditors, whom it shall appoint from among its members (cf. Governing Council, Rule 41; Financial Regs., Rule 13.3; Secretariat, Rule 12);
- (l) **Approve the ~~triennial~~ communications strategy submitted by the Executive Committee (cf. Art. 26.2(j));**
- (m) **Approve the annual report on transparency and accountability submitted by the Executive Committee (cf. Art. 26.2(i)) and instruct the Secretary General to ~~implement the recommendations contained therein;~~**

#### Comment:

The Secretary General executes all decisions and recommendations of the IPU's governing bodies so no need to single this out.

- ~~(j)~~(n) Authorize the acceptance of donations and legacies (cf. Financial Regs., Rule 7.1);
- ~~(k)~~(o) Elect the members of the Executive Committee (cf. Governing Council, Rules 37, 38 and 39) **and** appoint the Secretary General of the IPU (cf. Art. 28.1; Secretariat, Rule 3.1);
- ~~(m)~~(p) Adopt its own Rules and express its opinion on proposals to amend the Statutes (cf. Governing Council, Rule 45.1)

## ARTICLE 2

1. The Headquarters of the Inter-Parliamentary Union shall be at Geneva.
2. **The official languages of the Organization are English, and French, Arabic, Spanish and Portuguese.**

### **Comment:**

Defer a decision and request an estimate of the financial and practical implications of such measures.