



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

138th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 24 – 28.03.2018

Governing Council
Item 14
Assembly
Item 8

CL/202/14-P.2.Am.6
A/138/8-P.2.Am.6
9 February 2018

Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

***Sub-amendments presented by the delegation of Portugal within
the statutory deadlines to the sub-amendments presented
by the delegation of the Russian Federation***

*Modify the sub-amendments as follows:*¹

ARTICLE 2 (Statutes)

2. The official languages of the Organization are English, ~~and French, Arabic, Spanish and Portuguese.~~ **The working languages of the Organization are Arabic, Chinese, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish.**

Comment:

Portuguese is the most spoken language in the south hemisphere and it is spoken in nine Member States of the United Nations and Member Parliaments of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Since 2014 Portugal and the other Portuguese speaking countries - Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe and Timor-Leste – have been paying for Portuguese language interpretation at Assemblies. As a result, the Assemblies have become more participative and it enables these countries to intervene more fully.

The inclusion of the Portuguese language was a commitment of the President, who was elected with 80 per cent of the votes in St. Petersburg, to make the Organization more inclusive.

RULE 37 (Rules of the Assembly)

The IPU Secretariat shall receive all documents, reports and draft resolutions and distribute them, together with the summary records of the sittings **in English and French** and ensure the simultaneous interpretation of the debates in **these two languages, as well as in Arabic, Chinese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish** ~~all the official languages of the Organization referred to in Article 2.2 of the Statutes.~~

¹ The text **highlighted in grey** represents the proposed sub-amendments.

RULE 43 (Governing Council)

1. The IPU Secretariat shall receive all documents, reports and draft resolutions and distribute them **in English and French** and ensure the simultaneous interpretation of the debates **in these two languages, as well as in Arabic, Chinese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish** ~~all the official languages referred to in Article 2.2 of the Statutes.~~

RULE 15 (Executive Committee)

1. The IPU Secretariat shall receive or prepare all documents necessary for the deliberations of the Committee and shall distribute them to its members **in English and French** and ensure the simultaneous interpretation of the debates in **these two languages, as well as in Arabic, Chinese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish** ~~all the official languages referred to in Article 2.2 of the Statutes.~~

RULE 7 (Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee on Finance)

1. The Sub-Committee shall be provided with administrative and secretarial support from the IPU Secretariat as and when required. The IPU Secretariat shall ensure simultaneous interpretation in **English and French as well as in Arabic, Chinese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish if so requested** ~~all the official languages referred to in Article 2.2 of the Statutes.~~

RULE 42 (Rules of Standing Committees)

1. The IPU Secretariat shall receive the documents, reports and draft resolutions and distribute them **in English and French** and ensure the simultaneous interpretation of the debates **in these two languages, as well as in Arabic, Chinese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish** ~~all the official languages referred to in Article 2.2 of the Statutes.~~

RULE 15 (Rules of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians)

2. It shall ensure simultaneous interpretation in these two languages, as well as in Arabic, **Chinese, Portuguese, Russian** and Spanish.