



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

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12 March 2018

Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE IPU BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE OF CAMEROON

Yaoundé, 9 February 2018

Subject: Amendments to the Statutes and Rules of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Dear Madam President,

The Upper Chamber of the Parliament of Cameroon has received your proposed amendments to the Statutes and Rules of the Inter-Parliamentary Union as well as those submitted by the Russian Parliament.

I wish to thank you for the initiative which, undoubtedly, aims to maintain the tradition of efficiency and of keeping in step with modernity that has prevailed to this day and has reinforced the specificity of our Organization for inter-parliamentary cooperation.

Thanks to these fundamental values, the Inter-Parliamentary Union has been able to contribute to and assist in dealing with important issues of the day of concern to all national parliaments, namely the consolidation of democracy, the safeguarding of peace, the promotion of inclusive economic and social development and, more recently, the mobilization around climate change.

Our common Organization has been able to meet these challenges, on the one hand, thanks to the will of the Members to keep continuously adapting the Organization to the times and, on the other hand, their determination to give it stability based on a balanced distribution of responsibilities and harmonious collaboration between the IPU Presidency, Executive Committee and Secretariat.

In this regard, it is the tradition and practice in international organizations that the presidency, a political figure, does not have executive responsibility and is not intended to have any as this function is attributed exclusively to the Secretary General, Executive Secretary or Director General who ensures the daily administrative and financial management of an organization under the control of the political bodies.

Our Organization has inscribed itself in following changes to which our Members have always devoted and privileged time for reflection and sought consensus.

It has to be concluded that some of the proposed amendments tend to call into question the balance of the distribution of responsibilities as practised to date among the main IPU bodies.



#IPU138

In the absence of a documented analysis of the identified issues and objectives underlying the proposed solutions, it is difficult to grasp the reasoning for the new distribution of functions as proposed in the amendments.

On a different matter, I have also noted that some of the amendments you put forward have financial repercussions to an amount that we cannot assess as it has not been communicated to us.

It seems to me that these additional, not yet known, costs impinge on the budgetary policies of many countries, African in particular, that have to contain public spending, including their contributions to various partner organizations, to be able to cope with their current economic difficulties.

For all the above reasons, I have the honour to inform you that the Senate of Cameroon considers that it is necessary to allow for time to reflect and consult on the sub-amendments to be submitted to you so that consensual decisions on the functioning of our common Organization may be reached.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Marcel Niat Njifenji
President of the Senate of Cameroon

Copy: Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE IPU BY THE
PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF CAMEROON**

Yaoundé, 7 March 2018

Subject: Amendments to the Statutes and Rules of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Dear Madam President,

On 10 January 2018, you transmitted to the National Assembly of Cameroon some documentation concerning amendments to the Statutes and Rules of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

You likewise informed us that the governing bodies of the IPU will be called upon to consider the proposed amendments on the occasion of the 138th IPU Assembly, to be held from 24 to 28 March 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Further to this correspondence, and following the consideration by the Cameroonian Parliament of the proposed amendments to the Statutes and Rules, it would appear that some of the amendments relate to the representation of both sexes and the participation of youth in IPU Assemblies, which would alter the composition of delegations. I welcome this very good initiative, which will help to promote democracy among Member Parliaments.

However, other, more significant draft amendments which you yourself submitted on 22 December 2017 deal with the responsibilities of the President of the IPU, the Secretary General and even the Governing Council of our Organization.

Should the latter draft amendments be adopted, they would "call into question the balance of the distribution of responsibilities among the main IPU bodies", as the President of the Cameroonian Senate, Mr. Marcel Niat Njifenji, has pointed out.

Accordingly, in view of the importance of the proposed modifications, their adoption during the 138th Assembly would be premature – it should be postponed or even subjected to an in-depth review and more judicious adoption by the members of the Union.

This is why, like the President of the Cameroonian Senate, I wish to reconfirm the position of the Cameroonian Parliament on this matter, namely that *time for reflection and consultation is needed, in order to enable the delegation of Cameroon to submit its sub-amendments to you.*

Accept, Madam President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Yeguie Djibril Cavayé
President of the National Assembly
of Cameroon