



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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138th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 24 – 28.03.2018

Governing Council
Item 14
Assembly
Item 8

CL/202/14-P.2.Am.Inf.2.rev
A/138/8-P.2.Am.Inf.2.rev
22 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.

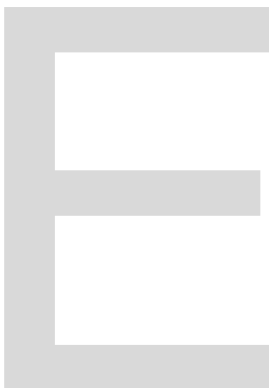
1. List of Speakers suggested by Secretariat

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)

Kazuhiro MIZUTANI
Director
Interparliamentary Relations Division
International Affairs Department
Secretariat, House of Representatives, Japan

**COMMUNICATION ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE IPU BY MR. FUKUI,
SUBSTITUTE MEMBER OF THE IPU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR JAPAN**

Tokyo, 22 February 2018

Dear Madam President,

I am Teru Fukui, currently serving as an Executive Committee Member on behalf of Mr. Shunichi Suzuki. I have carefully read your proposal to amend some parts of the IPU Statutes and Rules, and I would like to express my respect for your commitment and efforts on this matter.

I believe that it is essential for us to set aside enough time for the Member Parliaments to fully consider this matter. We should not hurry and take a vote on the proposed amendments at the upcoming IPU Assembly or the Governing Council. Instead, we should thoroughly discuss the amendments at meetings of both the Executive Committee and of each geopolitical group. We have a history of spending ample time discussing past IPU reforms until all the Member Parliaments consented, and this tradition is the essence of the IPU which advocates dialogue and democracy. We should continue that tradition this time in particular, as the proposed amendments include adding three more official languages, which will significantly increase the budget. This is a matter directly related to a further increase in the Member countries' contributions, to which we cannot agree.

We hope that you will proceed with this matter by taking into account that we should decide on these proposed amendments after careful consideration and deliberation by each of the Member Parliaments.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Teru Fukui
Substitute member, IPU Executive Committee,
House of Representatives, Japan