



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

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Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

At its 201st session in St. Petersburg in October 2017, the Governing Council approved the modalities proposed by the Executive Committee to enhance youth participation at IPU Assemblies. The Governing Council is now called upon to adopt the proposed amendments to the IPU's Statutes and Rules, which pertain to the composition of delegations at Assemblies, as well as to the speaking time and rights in the General debate.

(a) Statutes

Article 10.2, add at the end of the paragraph: "**A Member Parliament may register one additional delegate if at least one young parliamentarian¹ is part of the delegation, on condition that the delegation is composed of both sexes and the Member is not in arrears in the payment of its assessed contributions**".

(b) Rules of the Assembly

Rule 22.1, amend as follows: "~~No more than Two~~ representatives of each delegation may speak during the General Debate. ~~For this Debate, every delegation shall be entitled to eight minutes' speaking time unless the Steering Committee decides otherwise. When two speakers from the same delegation are registered for this Debate. They shall share the speaking time~~ **as they deem fit in the most appropriate way. An additional MP from each delegation may address the General Debate, provided he/she is a young parliamentarian².**"

Delete Rule 22.2

~~2. With a view to ensuring the normal running of the debates, the Steering Committee may adjust the above-mentioned speaking time to suit the circumstances.~~

(c) Practical modalities of the rights and responsibilities of Observers at IPU Meetings

Paragraph 7, amend as follows: "In the General Debate of the Assembly, the speaking time of observers will be limited to **three five** minutes. Some flexibility will be shown to executive heads of organizations of the United Nations system who wish to address the IPU.

¹ In these Statutes, whenever the words "young parliamentarians" are used, they should be construed as referring to parliamentarians who are below the age of 45 years.

² In these Rules, whenever the words "young parliamentarians" are used, they should be construed as referring to parliamentarians who are below the age of 45 years.

Explanatory note

The 8-minute speaking time referenced in the Rules has not been applicable for several years now. In 2014, the format of IPU Assemblies changed from a five-day event to four days, with the consequent reduction of time allocated to the General Debate (as compared to the 18 hours devoted to the Debate prior to 2014, only 13-14 hours were available in 2017). Moreover, IPU membership has grown considerably (from 108 Members in 1987 to 178 Members now), which has also led to the reduction in speaking time.

As part of the modalities to enhance youth participation at IPU Assemblies, the Governing Council agreed that a list of speakers shall be opened and reserved exclusively for young MPs. Therefore, it is suggested that an additional two minutes be given to delegations registering a young MP as a third speaker in the General Debate, on condition that the additional time is used by a young MP.

Consequently, it is proposed that the speaking time in the General Debate be modified as follows:

List A	High-level segment (Presiding Officers)	7 minutes
List B	First speakers from delegations	6 minutes
List C	Young parliamentarians	2 minutes
List D	Second speakers from delegations	Time remaining (up to a total of 7 minutes for two speakers)

In case of need and depending on the number of speakers, the Assembly Steering Committee may decide to further reduce the speaking time. As usual, Members and Associate Members have the right to divide their speaking time between two speakers from the same delegation (majority-opposition, male-female, etc.). Observer delegations will have three minutes' speaking time and will normally speak at end of List B. Heads of Organizations will be included in the usual drawing of lots for the order of speakers.