

## 202<sup>nd</sup> session of the Governing Council (Geneva, 25 and 28 March 2018)

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### **1. Membership of the IPU**

At its sitting on 25 March, the Governing Council approved modalities aimed at retaining the membership of defaulting Member Parliaments while suspending their participation in statutory meetings and voting rights. Such parliaments would henceforth be placed in a new category of “non-participating” Members. That measure was part of the organization’s overall efforts to achieve universal membership. The Council entrusted the Secretariat with formulating the necessary amendments to the Statutes and Rules in order to reflect those changes.

At its sitting on 28 March, the Council was apprised of the situation of certain parliaments and endorsed relevant recommendations formulated by the Executive Committee with regard to: Burundi, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Maldives, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen.

### **2. Financial results for 2017**

The Governing Council considered the Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements for 2017. The Financial Statements had been prepared in full compliance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and the accounts of the IPU and the closed Pension Fund were again consolidated into a single set of financial statements.

The financial results for 2017 were presented by Mr. R. del Picchia (France), Chair of the Sub-Committee on Finance, who reported that the External Auditor had indicated to the Sub-Committee on Finance that the financial statements were of high quality and the collaboration with the IPU finance team had been excellent. During the year under review, the net assets had increased by CHF 559,617 which had resulted from a combination of several positive factors. The performance of IPU investments had achieved a very good return, the addition of new Members had increased revenues above their originally budgeted amount, and tight budget control had been exercised on expenditures.

Savings had been made on the second Assembly, which had taken place in St. Petersburg, where the Parliament of the Russian Federation had provided additional support to cover more costs than usual. In addition, voluntary contributions and related expenditure had remained stable. The Chair of the Sub-Committee also drew attention on the fact that the collection of assessed contributions from Members was lower than in previous years and asked the geopolitical groups to draw Members’ attention to their responsibility to pay their dues on time.

The Internal Auditors’ report was presented by Mr. K. Ornfjäder (Sweden). He said that the accounts accurately portrayed the financial situation of the IPU at 31 December 2017 and complied with all

current standards and rules. The External Auditor had expressed no reservations on the Financial Statements and had made no recommendations for improvements.

The Governing Council approved the Secretary General's financial administration of the IPU and the financial results for 2017.

### **3. Financial situation of the IPU**

The Governing Council received a written overview of the IPU's financial situation at 31 January 2018 which noted that the overall level of expenditure was on track at this early stage of the year. Arrears in assessed contributions amounted to CHF 619,000, with 37 Members having overdue accounts. Assessed contributions of CHF 5.9 million had already been paid for 2017, being 56 per cent of the total amount due. The Secretary General gave an oral report to the Governing Council on the mobilization of voluntary funding towards implementation of the IPU Strategy for 2017-2021.

### **4. Cooperation with the United Nations system**

The Council took note of the checklist of activities conducted in cooperation with the United Nations since the previous Assembly held in October 2017 in St. Petersburg.

It noted that the draft resolution on "Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union" would likely be adopted by the UN General Assembly on 22 May 2018 and urged Member Parliaments to lobby their foreign ministers to sponsor the resolution.

The Secretary General informed the Council about a memorandum of understanding (MoU) that had been signed with UNDP in November 2017 and a planned MoU to be concluded with UN Environment in 2018.

The Council noted in particular that a first meeting of the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG) had been held in Geneva on 5 and 6 February in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). While encouraging the Group to pursue its work, it recommended that its composition be reviewed as part of its Terms of Reference by the Executive Committee and resubmitted for endorsement at the next session.

### **5. Implementation of the IPU Strategy for 2017-2021**

The Council took note of a report on recent activities aimed at implementing the Strategy and endorsed the detailed project report on the Centre for Innovation in Parliament. The report would be used primarily for resource mobilization purposes.

### **6. Recent specialized meetings**

The Governing Council took note of the results of the Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (<http://archive.ipu.org/splz-e/cop23.htm>); the International Conference on *Promoting better regional cooperation towards smart and humane migration across the Mediterranean* (<http://archive.ipu.org/splz-e/valletta17.htm>); the Fourth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians (<http://archive.ipu.org/splz-e/youngmp17.htm>); the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO (<http://archive.ipu.org/splz-e/trade17.htm>); the 2018 Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations (<https://www.ipu.org/event/annual-parliamentary-hearing-united-nations>); and the Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women (<https://www.ipu.org/event/parliamentary-meeting-62nd-session-commission-status-women-parliaments-deliver-rural-women-and-girls>).

### **7. Activities of committees and other bodies**

At its sitting on 18 October, the Governing Council took note of the reports on the activities of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians; the Committee on Middle East Questions; the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law; the Gender Partnership Group; the Advisory Group on Health; the Group of Facilitators for Cyprus and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU.

The Council also heard the report of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and approved nine decisions submitted by the latter, noting the reservations expressed by the delegations of Mongolia, Niger and Turkey concerning the cases in their respective countries.

## **8. Future inter-parliamentary meetings**

The Council was informed that visa guarantees had been provided by the Argentinian authorities for all delegates invited to attend the 140<sup>th</sup> Assembly in Buenos Aires barring those individuals who were on a UN Security Council sanctions list or an Interpol arrest warrant list. It approved proposals for a number of specialized meetings.

## **9. Amendments to the Statutes and Rules**

The Council approved amendments to the Statutes and Rules aimed at enhancing youth participation at the IPU. Two other sets of amendments, submitted respectively by the Russian Federation and the IPU President, would be the subject of further consultations among the geopolitical groups and the wider membership. A new set of proposals would be examined by the Executive Committee with a view to their adoption at the next session in October 2018.