



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
108th Conference and related meetings
Santiago de Chile, 6 - 12 April 2003



CL/172/C.1
31 January 2003

CONVOCAÇÃO
172nd SESSION OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL
SANTIAGO DE CHILE, 7, 9 and 12 April 2003

Madam/Sir,

We have pleasure in informing you that the Inter-Parliamentary Council will hold its 172nd session at the Centro de Convenciones Diego Portales, the venue for the 108th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

- ▶ Delegates are requested to take note that the first sitting will be held from 9. a.m. to 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 7 April. It is proposed that a special sitting take place in the afternoon of Wednesday, 9 April in order to consider the amendments to the Statutes and Rules of the IPU. The last sitting of the Council will be held from 9 a.m. on Saturday, 12 April and will last until the Council has completed its agenda.

1. PARTICIPATION

The Council is composed of two members from each parliament represented in the IPU. The list of Council members may be found in the Directory of the Union's Members, who are asked to confirm the names of their representatives to the Council by 28 March at the latest.

In accordance with Council Rule 2, "a member of the Council who is unable to attend may be replaced by another representative of the Union Member in question duly authorised for that purpose". The IPU Secretariat should be notified accordingly.

2. PROVISIONAL AGENDA*

The provisional agenda for the session prepared by the Executive Committee at its 238th (September 2002) session is as follows:

1. **Adoption of the agenda**
2. **Approval of the summary records of the 171st session of the Council**
Members requesting corrections to the summary records of the 171st session (CL/171/SR.1) are requested to notify the Union Secretariat in writing before the opening of the 172nd session.
3. **Proposals for the election of the President of the 108th Conference**
In accordance with the Union's practice, a member of the host Parliament will be proposed by the Council for election as President of the Conference.
4. **Questions relating to IPU membership**
 - (a) Requests for affiliation and reaffiliation to the Union
 - (b) Situation of certain Members*The Council will have before it the report of the Executive Committee on any requests for affiliation and reaffiliation and on the situation of certain Members.*
5. **Report of the President**
 - (a) On his activities since the 171st session of the Council
 - (b) On the activities of the Executive Committee
6. **Annual report by the Secretary General on the activities of the Union for 2002**
7. **Report on the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO**
(Geneva, 17 – 18 February 2003)
8. **Financial results for 2002**
The Council will have before it the report of the Auditors on the Union's accounts for 2002.
9. **The Union's new Headquarters in Geneva**
The Secretary General will report on matters concerned with the new Headquarters.
10. **Reform of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**
The Council will have before it the recommendations of the Executive Committee regarding implementation of the reform measures adopted in Geneva in September 2002.

* The Executive Committee will supplement this provisional agenda, if necessary, at its 239th session to be held in Geneva in February 2003 and at its 240th session to be held in Santiago in April 2003.

11. Statutory Amendments

- (a) Amendments to the Statutes and Rules of the Inter-Parliamentary Union arising from the reform
The Council will be required to consider and adopt amendments to the Statutes and Rules to be applied as a consequence of the reform of the Organisation. The Council will consider the amendments to its own Rules, to the Rules of the Study Committees, to the Financial Regulations of the Union, and to the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians. The draft amendments were circulated to IPU Members on 18 December.
- (b) Other amendments
The Council will also consider other amendments to the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.

12. Cooperation with the United Nations system

The Council will receive a progress report on the cooperation between the IPU and the UN system.

13. Action by the IPU to strengthen democracy and parliamentary institutions in the world**14. Future direction and programme of work of the Union**

The Council will have before it recommendations of the Executive Committee regarding the future direction of the IPU, covering such issues as follow-up to the Conference of Presiding Officers (September 2000), the Union's role in promoting the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the Union's relationship with other parliamentary organisations and assemblies.

15. Activities of plenary bodies and specialised committees

The Council will examine the reports of the following bodies and committees and will hold elections to fill any vacant seats within them:

- (a) Meeting of Women Parliamentarians
(b) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians
(c) Meeting of Representatives of Parties to the CSCM Process
(d) Committee on Middle East Questions
(e) Group of Facilitators for Cyprus
(f) Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law
(g) Gender Partnership Group

16. IPU Assembly (Geneva, 29 September – 4 October 2003)**17. Future Inter-Parliamentary meetings**

- (a) Statutory meetings
(b) Specialised meetings and other events

3. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

In conformity with Council Rule 13, members of the Council may request the inclusion of supplementary items in the agenda. Such items must fall within the competence of the Council which, according to Article 20.1 of the Statutes, determines and guides the activities of the Union and controls their implementation.

Any requests for the inclusion of supplementary items will be immediately transmitted by the Secretariat to all Council members. After hearing the opinion of the Executive Committee, the Council shall decide on such a request by a majority of votes cast if the request was received by the Secretariat at least 15 days before the opening of the session; otherwise by a two-thirds majority.

4. DOCUMENTS

To the extent possible working documents regarding various items of the provisional agenda will be sent out to members in advance.

5. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Convocation of the 108th Conference (CONF/108/C.1) contains information relating to the Santiago session of the Union. Moreover, the invitation of the Parliament of Chile provides all necessary details relating to the registration of delegates and accommodation.

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Yours sincerely,



Sergio PAEZ VERDUGO
President
of the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary
Union



Anders B. JOHNSSON
Secretary General
of the Inter-Parliamentary Union