



CL/173/C.1
10 July 2003

CONVOCATION

173rd SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Geneva, 1 and 3 October 2003

Dear Madam,
Dear Sir,

We have pleasure in informing you that the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union will hold its 173rd session at the Centre international de Conférences de Genève (CICG), in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Governing Council will hold a brief first sitting at 9.00 a.m. on Wednesday 1st October when it will consider primarily any requests for affiliation or reaffiliation to the Union. It will hold its second sitting from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 a.m. on Friday 3rd October. The Council will conclude its work at a third sitting from 2.30 p.m. to approximately 4 p.m. on the same day.

1. PARTICIPATION

The Governing Council is composed of three members from each parliament represented in the IPU*. The Members are asked to confirm the names of their representatives to the Council by 30 September 2003 at the latest, so that the Secretariat can update the list of Council members in the IPU Directory.

In accordance with Governing Council Rule 2, "a member of the Governing 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.

* Single gender delegations will be limited to two members.

2. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The provisional agenda for the session prepared by the Executive Committee at its 240th (April 2003) session is as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council will adopt its agenda at the beginning of its proceedings.

2. Approval of the summary records of the 172nd session of the Council

Members requesting corrections to the summary records of the 172nd session (CL/172/SR.1) are requested to notify the Union's Secretariat in writing before the opening of the 173rd session.

3. Questions relating to IPU membership

- (a) Requests for affiliation and reaffiliation to the Union
- (b) Situation of certain Members

The Council will decide on any requests for affiliation and reaffiliation and review the situation of certain Members on the basis of the report of the Executive Committee.

4. Report of the President

- (a) On his activities since the 172nd session of the Council
- (b) On the activities of the Executive Committee

The Council will have before it the President's report on his activities and will hear an oral report on the activities of the Executive Committee.

5. Interim Report by the Secretary General on the activities of the Union since the 172nd session of the Council

The Council will have before it the interim report of the Secretary General on the activities of the Union since the 172nd session of the Council.

6. Financial situation of the Union

The Council will be apprised of the financial situation of the Union.

7. Draft programme and budget for 2004

The Council will be asked to approve the proposals of the Executive Committee for the Union's programme and budget for the year 2004.

8. Cooperation with the United Nations System

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

9. Preparations for the Second Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments

The Council will be informed of arrangements made to establish a Preparatory Committee for the Conference.

10. Reports on recent IPU specialised conferences and meetings

The Council will hear reports on:

- (a) Seminar for South-West Asian Parliaments on Parliament and the budgetary process, including from a gender perspective
- (b) Parliamentary panel in the framework of the WTO Symposium
- (c) Fifth Round Table of Parliamentarians on *"The role of members of parliament in promoting sustainable development at national level within the framework of the implementation of the UNCCD"*
- (d) Cancún session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, held on the occasion of the 5th WTO Ministerial Conference

11. Activities of committees and other bodies

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

- (a) Coordinating Committee of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians
- (b) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians
- (c) Committee on Middle East Questions
- (d) Meeting of the CSCM Coordinating Committee
- (e) Gender Partnership Group

12. Future Inter-Parliamentary meetings

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

The Council will review the list of meetings included in the Union's programme and consider any proposals for future events.

13. Appointment of two Auditors for the 2003 accounts

(Cf. Rules 41 of the Rules of the Governing Council)

The Council will appoint two Auditors for a one-year term.

14. Elections to the Executive Committee

(Cf. Article 23 of the Statutes and Rules 37, 38 and 39 of the Rules of the Governing Council)

Elections will be held to fill nine seats on the Executive Committee. The distribution of seats on the Executive Committee will henceforth be made on the basis of Article 23.4 of the Statutes, as amended in Santiago de Chile. In practice, this means that the seats will be distributed among the geopolitical groups as follows: African group: 4 seats, Twelve Plus group: 4 seats, Asia Pacific group: 3 seats, Latin American group: 2 seats, Arab group: 1 seat, Eurasia group: 1 seat. It also means that, consequent upon the increase of the number of elected seats from 12 to 15, two new seats will be allocated to the African group, and one to the Asia Pacific group. The vacancies number as follows:

African Group: 4 vacancies (expiry of term of Mr. Nzouba-Ndama (Gabon), and addition of 2 new seats. The Council will also be called upon to fill the seat left vacant following the death of Mr. Al-Mansury (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

Twelve Plus Group: 1 vacancy (expiry of term of Mrs. Fraser (Canada))

Asia Pacific Group: 3 vacancies (expiry of terms of Mr. Enkhbold (Mongolia) and Mr. Drilon (Philippines), and addition of 1 new seat)

Latin American Group : 1 vacancy (expiry of term of Mr. Abdala (Uruguay))

3. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

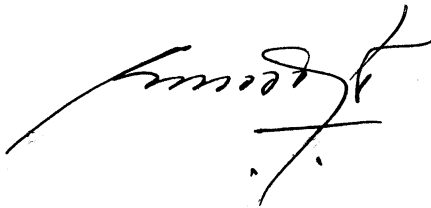
In conformity with Governing Council Rule 13, members of the Council may request the inclusion of supplementary items in the agenda. Such items must fall within the competence of the Council which, according to Article 20.1 of the Statutes, determines and guides the activities of the Union and controls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

Yours sincerely,



Sergio Páez Verdugo
President
of the Inter-Parliamentary Union



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