



CL/181/C.1
17 July 2007

CONVOCAATION
181st SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
Geneva, 8, 9 and 10 October 2007

Dear Madam,
Dear Sir,

We have pleasure in informing you that the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union will hold its 181st session at the *Centre international de Conférences de Genève (CICG)*, in Geneva.

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 Governing Council by 7 October 2007 at the latest.

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 authorized for that purpose". The IPU Secretariat should be notified accordingly.

2. DOCUMENTS

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

* Each parliament's representation on the Governing Council must include both men and women. Single gender delegations will be limited to two members (Rule 1.2 of the Rules of the Governing Council).

3. PROCEEDINGS OF THE SESSION

First sitting: Monday 8 October, 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon

The first sitting will examine items 1 – 5 of the agenda. It will also cover items 6: *The financial situation of the IPU*, 9: *IPU reform*, 10: *Recent specialized conferences*, and 15: *Amendments to the Statutes and Rules*.

The greater part of the first sitting will be given over to a presentation of the draft Programme and Budget for 2008 in order to give the Council members a deeper understanding of the different activities and how they fit into the overall programme of work.

Each geopolitical group will be invited to select a spokesperson on the budget who will report their group's comments and views when the budget is opened for discussion on the following afternoon. It is hoped that this interval between the presentation and the discussion of the programme and budget will make it possible for the membership to exercise more scrutiny over the IPU's proposed activities for the following year.

The Council will also appoint two auditors for the 2007 accounts at this first sitting (Item 14).

Second sitting, Tuesday 9 October, 4.30 to 6.30 p.m.

During this sitting, the draft programme and budget for 2008 will be fully debated. Items 12 and 13 may also be briefly covered, time permitting.

Third and fourth sittings: Wednesday 10 October, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2.30 to 4 p.m.

The intention is to cover all remaining items in the morning, including elections, and with the sole exception of the Report of the Committee on the Human Rights of parliamentarians. The third sitting will also include an event on democracy, to highlight the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy, adopted in Cairo in September 1997.

The Report of the Human Rights Committee will be presented and debated in the afternoon with a view to a wider discussion of human rights issues relating to parliamentarians.

4. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The provisional agenda for the session prepared by the Executive Committee at its 248th (May 2007) session is as follows:

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
The Governing Council will adopt its agenda at the beginning of its proceedings.
- 2. Approval of the summary records of the 180th session of the Governing Council**
Members requesting corrections to the summary records of the 180th session (CL/180/SR.1) are requested to notify the Union's Secretariat in writing before the opening of the 181st session.
- 3. Questions relating to IPU membership**
 - (a) Requests for affiliation and reaffiliation to the Union
 - (b) Situation of certain Members*The Governing 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 180th session of the Council
 - (b) On the activities of the Executive Committee
- 5. Interim Report by the Secretary General on the activities of the IPU since the 180th session of the Governing Council**
- 6. Financial situation of the IPU**
- 7. Draft programme and budget for 2008**
The Governing Council will be asked to approve the proposals of the Executive Committee for the Union's programme and budget for the year 2008.
- 8. Cooperation with the United Nations System**
- 9. Consolidation of the reform of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**
- 10. Reports on recent IPU specialized conferences and meetings**
- 11. Activities of committees and other bodies**
The Governing Council will examine the reports of the following bodies and committees and will hold elections to fill any vacant seats:
 - (a) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians
 - (b) Coordinating Committee of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians
 - (c) Gender Partnership Group
 - (d) Committee on Middle East Questions
- 12. 118th IPU Assembly**
(Cape Town, South Africa, 13-18 April 2008)
- 13. Future Inter-Parliamentary meetings**
 - (a) Statutory meetings
 - (b) Specialized meetings and other events

14. Appointment of two Auditors for the 2008 accounts

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

15. Amendments to the Statutes and Rules

Proposed amendments to the Statutes and Rules were submitted to the Members on 5 June and 7 July 2007.

16. Elections to the Executive Committee

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

The Governing Council will be required to elect seven members to replace Mr. J. Austin (United Kingdom), Mr. T. Kawara (Japan), Mr. Lü Congmin (China), Ms. M.N. Mensah Williams (Namibia), Mr. F.X. Ole Kaparo (Kenya), Mr. F.O. Natchaba (Togo) and Mr. H. Fortes (Brazil), whose terms of office expire at the time of the 181st session of the Governing Council.

5. 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.

We look forward to fruitful discussions in the Governing Council next October and remain,

Yours sincerely,



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



Pier Ferdinando CASINI
President
of the Inter-Parliamentary Union