



CL/183/C.1
30 June 2008

CONVOCAATION
183rd SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
Geneva, 13, 14 and 15 October 2008

Dear Madam,
Dear Sir,

We have pleasure in informing you that the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union will hold its 183rd 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 12 October 2008 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, 13 October, 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon

The first sitting will start by examining items 1 to 5. It will then cover items 16: *Amendments to the Statutes and Rules*; 7: *Draft Programme and Budget for 2009*, and, time permitting, items 6: *The financial situation of the IPU*; 11: *Reports on Recent IPU specialized conferences and meetings*, and 15: *Appointment of two Auditors for the 2009 accounts*.

After consideration of the first items and the amendments to the Statutes and Rules, the greater remaining part of the first sitting will be given over to the presentation of the *draft Programme and Budget for 2009*. 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.

Second sitting: Tuesday, 14 October, 5.00 to 6.30 p.m.

During this sitting, the draft programme and budget for 2009 will be fully debated. Items 9: *Consolidation of the Reform of the Inter-Parliamentary Union*, 13: *120th Inter-Parliamentary Assembly*, and 14: *Future Inter-Parliamentary Meetings*, may also be briefly covered, time permitting.

Third and fourth sittings: Wednesday, 15 October, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2.00 to 4 p.m.

The third sitting in the morning will be devoted to items 8: *Cooperation with the United Nations System* (to include the adoption of a draft UNGA resolution), and 10: *Action by the IPU to strengthen democracy and parliamentary institutions*. The Governing Council will receive a detailed presentation on the latter subject. It will also be informed of activities undertaken by parliaments to celebrate the International Day of Democracy. Should the Assembly have approved the amendment to Article 3 of the Statutes, the Governing Council will also be required to take a decision on Palestine's request for membership, on the basis of the amended Statutes.

All remaining items, including the election of the IPU President and of Executive Committee members, will be covered at the fourth and final sitting in the afternoon.

4. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The provisional agenda for the session prepared by the Executive Committee at its 250th (April 2008) 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 182nd session of the Governing Council**
Members requesting corrections to the summary records of the 182nd session (CL/182/SR.1) are asked to notify the Union's Secretariat in writing before the opening of the 183rd session.
- 3. Questions relating to IPU membership and observer status**
 - (a) Requests for affiliation and reaffiliation to the IPU
 - (b) Situation of certain Members
 - (c) Observer status*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 182nd 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 182nd session of the Governing Council**
- 6. Financial situation of the Union**
- 7. Draft programme and budget for 2009**
- 8. Cooperation with the United Nations System**
The Governing Council will have before it the checklist of activities undertaken with the United Nations System since April 2008 and will review the overall status of cooperation with a view to preparing for the debate on that subject in the United Nations General Assembly and adopting a draft resolution.
- 9. Consolidation of the reform of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**
- 10. Action by the IPU to strengthen democracy and parliamentary institutions**
- 11. Reports on recent IPU specialized conferences and meetings**
- 12. 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) Coordinating Committee of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians
 - (b) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians
 - (c) Committee on Middle East Questions
 - (d) Gender Partnership Group
- 13. 120th IPU Assembly**

The 120th IPU Assembly will take place in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) from 5-10 April 2009.

14. Future Inter-Parliamentary meetings

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

15. Appointment of two Auditors for the 2009 accounts

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

16. Amendments to the Statutes and Rules

The Governing Council will be invited to approve an amendment to Article 3 of the Statutes.

17. 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 elect two members to replace Mr. A. Radi (Morocco) and Ms. K. Serrano Puig (Cuba) whose terms of office expire at the time of the 183rd session.

18. Election of the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

(Article 19 of the Statutes and Rules 6, 7 and 8 of the Rules of the Governing Council)

The Governing Council will elect a new President to replace Mr. Pier Ferdinando Casini (Italy), whose term of office expires at the time of the 183rd session.

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.

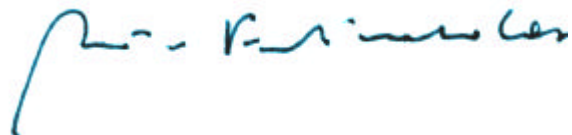
Any requests for the inclusion of supplementary items will be immediately transmitted by the Secretariat to all Council members. After hearing the opinion of the Executive Committee, the Council shall decide on such a request by a majority of votes cast if the request is received by the Secretariat at 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