



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
124th Assembly and related meetings
Panama City (Panama), 15 – 20 April 2011



CL/188/C.1
18 January 2011

CONVOCAATION
188th SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF
THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
Panama City, 16 and 20 April 2011

Dear Madam,
Dear Sir,

We have pleasure in informing you that the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union will hold its 188th session at the ATLAPA Convention Centre in Panama City.

The Governing Council will hold a first sitting from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Saturday, 16 April. Its second sitting will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, 20 April.

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 16 April 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.

* 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).

2. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The provisional agenda for the session prepared by the Executive Committee at its 258th (October 2010) 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 187th session of the Governing Council

Members requesting corrections to the summary records of the 187th session (CL/187/SR.1) are asked to notify the IPU Secretariat in writing before the opening of the 188th session.

3. Proposals for the election of the President of the 124th Assembly

4. Questions relating to IPU membership

- (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. It will also examine any requests for observer status.

5. Report of the President

- (a) On his activities since the 187th session of the Governing Council
- (b) On the activities of the Executive Committee

6. Annual Report by the Secretary General on the activities of the IPU for 2010

7. Reports on recent IPU specialized conferences and meetings

8. Cooperation with the United Nations System

9. Consolidation of the reform of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The Governing Council will pursue its consideration of a strategy for the future development of the IPU.

10. Financial results for 2010

The Governing Council will have before it the report of the Auditors on the Union's accounts for 2010.

11. Action by the IPU to strengthen democracy and parliamentary institutions

12. Parliamentary action in support of the UNHCR and refugee protection

13. 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) Meeting of Women Parliamentarians
- (b) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians
- (c) Committee on Middle East Questions
- (d) Group of Facilitators for Cyprus
- (e) Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law
- (f) Gender Partnership Group
- (g) Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS

14. 125th IPU Assembly (Bern, 16-19 October 2011)**15. Future Inter-Parliamentary meetings**

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

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 and posted on the IPU website in advance.

Yours sincerely,



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



Theo-Ben Gurirab
President
of the Inter-Parliamentary Union