

Inter-Parliamentary Union
125th Assembly and related meetings
Bern, Switzerland
16–19 October 2011



CL/189/C.1
20 July 2011

CONVOCAATION

189th SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Bern, 17 and 19 October 2011

Dear Madam,
Dear Sir,

We have pleasure in informing you that the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union will hold its 189th session at the BERNEXPO Conference Centre in Bern, Switzerland.

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 17 October 2011 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 **and posted on the IPU website**.

* 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, 17 October, 9 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

The first sitting will start by examining items 1 to 6. It will then receive a presentation of the *draft Programme and Budget for 2012* (item 7). Time permitting, the Governing Council will also cover item 10: *Reports on Recent IPU specialized meetings*.

The greater part of the first sitting will be given over to the presentation of the *draft Programme and Budget for 2012*. 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 Wednesday, 19 October.

Second and third sittings: Wednesday, 19 October, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

At the second sitting, the Governing Council will debate and adopt the *draft Programme and Budget for 2012* (item 7), as well as the *IPU Strategy 2012-2017* (item 9). It will then proceed to examine other agenda items.

At its third sitting, the Governing Council will examine all remaining items on its agenda, including the election of the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

4. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The provisional agenda for the session prepared by the Executive Committee at its 260th session (April 2011) 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 188th session of the Governing Council

Members requesting corrections to the summary records of the 188th session (CL/188/SR.1) are asked to notify the Union's Secretariat in writing before the opening of the 189th 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) Requests for 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 188th session of the Governing Council
- (b) On the activities of the Executive Committee

5. Interim Report by the Secretary General on the activities of the Union since the 188th session of the Governing Council

- 6. Financial situation of the IPU**
- 7. Draft programme and budget for 2012**
- 8. Cooperation with the United Nations System**
- 9. Strategy for the IPU 2012-2017**
- 10. Reports on recent IPU specialized 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) 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
- 12. 126th IPU Assembly**

The 126th IPU Assembly will take place in Kampala (Uganda) from 31 March to 5 April 2012.
- 13. Future Inter-Parliamentary meetings**
 - (a) Statutory meetings
 - (b) Specialized meetings and other events
- 14. Appointment of two Auditors for the 2012 accounts**

(cf. Rule 41 of the Rules of the Governing Council)
- 15. Amendments to the Statutes and Rules**

The Governing Council will be invited to approve amendments to Articles 5.2 and 5.3 of the Statutes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Rule 3 of the Rules of the Secretariat.
- 16. 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)
- 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 seven members to replace Ms. Z. Drif Bitat (Algeria), Mr. R. del Picchia (France), Mr. Young Chin (Republic of Korea), Mr. M.C. Nago (Benin), Mr. Ngo Quang Xuan (Viet Nam), Ms. M. Saa (Chile) and Mr. T. Toga (Ethiopia) whose terms of office expire at the time of the 189th session of the Governing Council.

5. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

In conformity with Governing Council Rule 13, members of the Governing 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 Governing 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. JOHANSSON
Secretary General
of the Inter-Parliamentary Union



Theo-Ben GURIRAB
President
of the Inter-Parliamentary Union