



Assembly – Item 5
Governing Council - Item 14

A/129/5-P.1
CL/193/14-P.1
7 July 2013

AMENDMENTS TO THE IPU STATUTES AND RULES

1. At its 192nd session (Quito, March 2013), the Governing Council endorsed a set of proposals to modify the format of IPU Assemblies, improve the functioning of the Standing Committees and their Bureaux, and place the Committee on United Nations Affairs on an equal footing with the Standing Committees (see CL/192/8(b)-P.1). The decision of the Governing Council had been preceded by a series of multi-format consultations among IPU Members carried out in the period 2006-2012 and finalized during the session in Quito.

2. Practical implementation of the decision taken by the Governing Council requires a number of amendments to be made to the Statutes, the Rules of the Assembly, the Rules of the Standing Committees, the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and the Rules of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians. An aggregate table of these amendments, as reviewed by the Executive Committee via correspondence in June 2013, is to be found in the Annex. Section A contains amendments deriving from the decision of the Governing Council, while Section B lists a number of additional amendments that are necessary to align the Statutes and Rules with current practice (preparation of the Assembly summary records, annual reporting exercise by Members, etc.).

3. The scope of amendments being exceptionally wide, they have been grouped by subject (Sessions and functioning of the Assembly; Sessions and functioning of the Standing Committees; Committee on UN Affairs; Bureaux of the Standing Committees; Selection of subject items for discussion by Standing Committees at future Assemblies; Rapporteurs; Meeting of Women Parliamentarians; Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians; Forum of Young Parliamentarians; and Miscellaneous) and numbered for ease of reference.

4. The overall purpose of each proposed amendment is outlined in a brief introduction appearing in the table as a grey box entitled "Description of the modification". The actual text of each amendment starts with an indication of the Article or Rule to which it refers and is presented with revision marks (**deleted text is stricken through, new wording is in bold**).

5. At its sitting on 9 October, the **Governing Council** will express an opinion on the proposed amendments to the IPU Statutes and will adopt amendments to the Rules of the Standing Committees. Also on 9 October, the **Assembly** will adopt amendments to the IPU Statutes and the Rules of the Assembly. Given the fact that the **Meeting of Women Parliamentarians** will not be holding a session in October and that the related amendments will only become operational at the second Assembly of 2014, the proposed amendments to the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and the Rules of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians will only be adopted at the 130th IPU Assembly in April 2014.

6. Procedural aspects differ depending on the category of amendments concerned, the IPU bodies that are responsible for the adoption of amendments and the type of majority vote that are required for adoption. More specifically:

- (a) Amendments to the **Statutes** are adopted by the Assembly by a two-thirds majority vote after hearing the opinion of the Governing Council expressed through a simple majority vote (cf. Statutes, Art. 28.1 and 28.3). Sub-amendments are receivable up to six weeks before the meeting of the Assembly (cf. Statutes, Art. 28.2), **i.e. by 26 August 2013.**
- (b) Amendments to the **Rules of the Assembly** are adopted by the Assembly itself by a majority of the votes cast (cf. Assembly Rule 40.1). Sub-amendments are receivable up to one month before the meeting of the Assembly (cf. Assembly Rule 40.2), **i.e. by 7 September 2013.**
- (c) Amendments to the **Rules of the Standing Committees** are adopted by the Governing Council by a majority of the votes cast (cf. Standing Committees, Rules 35.1(c) and 38). Sub-amendments are receivable until one month before the meeting of the Governing Council (cf. Standing Committees, Rule 38.2), **i.e. by 7 September 2013.**
- (d) Amendments to the **Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians** are approved by the Governing Council by a two-thirds majority vote after hearing the opinion of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians expressed through a simple majority vote (cf. Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, Rules 38.3, 38.4 and 38.6). During the vote in the Governing Council, the number of affirmative votes must be equal to at least one-third of the total number of Governing Council members or their substitutes actually participating in the session (cf. Council, Rule 35.3). Sub-amendments are receivable up to one month before the sessions of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and the Governing Council (cf. Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, Rule 38.2).
- (e) Amendments to the **Rules of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians** are adopted by the Coordinating Committee itself, by a majority of the votes cast by the members or substitutes present at the time of voting (cf. Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Rule 17.2) and approved by the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians by a majority of the votes cast (cf. Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, Rules 23.1). Sub-amendments are receivable up to three months before the session of the Coordinating Committee (cf. Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Rule 17.2).

7. The approval of proposed amendments will lead to a renumbering of paragraphs and the readjustment of cross-references throughout the text of the Statutes and Rules.

AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES AND RULES
relating to the new format of the IPU Assemblies, the functioning of the Standing Committees
and their Bureaux, and the status of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs

SECTION A: Amendments deriving from the Governing Council decision CL/192/8(b)-P.1

No.	Article/Rule	Amendment
1. Sessions and functioning of the Assembly		
1.1	Description of the modification: Both Assemblies of the year will take place over four days.	
	Rules of the Assembly	
	Rule 4.1	1. The Assembly will meet twice a year. The first session will take place in the first half of each year and normally last for five four working days. The second session take place in the second half of the year and normally last for three working days. It will be held in Geneva, unless the IPU Governing bodies decide otherwise.
1.2	Description of the modification: The size of delegations to both Assemblies of the year will follow the rules currently applied to the first Assembly.	
	Statutes	
	Article 10.2	2. The number of members of Parliament appointed as delegates to the first annual session of the Assembly by a Member of the Union shall in no case exceed eight in respect of Parliaments of countries with a population of less than one hundred million inhabitants, or ten in respect of Parliaments of countries with a population of one hundred million inhabitants or more. The number of delegates to the second annual session shall not exceed five or seven for Parliaments of countries with a population of one hundred million inhabitants or more.
1.3	Description of the modification: Provisional summary records of each Assembly sitting will no longer be made available to delegates on the spot within twenty-four hours.	
	Rules of the Assembly	
	Rule 38.1	1. The provisional summary record of each sitting shall be made available to delegates within twenty-four hours. Any delegate may request a rectification; the Steering Committee shall decide, in case of doubt, as to its admissibility. [Deletion of the Rule]
	Rule 38.3	3 1. The final summary record of the proceedings shall be published and distributed before the following Assembly. [This Rule should precede current Rule 38.2]
2. Sessions and functioning of the Standing Committees		
2.1	Description of the modification: Each Standing Committee will meet during both annual Assemblies, but adopt only one resolution per year. A system of rotation between Standing Committees will be put in place. Standing Committees can establish a work plan and will set their own agenda for the session where they do not adopt a resolution. They may commission research, discuss reports on good practices, review follow-up action, organize field missions, hold hearings with UN and other officials, etc. Note: Some of the amendments appearing in this section are linked to the modifications described in sections 2.2, 3.1 and 5.2 below.	
	Statutes	
	Article 13.2	2. Standing Committees shall normally prepare reports and/or draft resolutions for the Assembly and perform other functions as set out in the Rules (cf. Standing Committees, Rule 6.1bis).

	Rules of the Assembly	
	Rule 10.1	1. The agenda of the Assembly, approved on the occasion of its previous session, shall include a General Debate with an overall theme, and one normally two subject items proposed by the each Standing Committees and relating to its-their own field of competence (cf. Standing Committees, Rule 6.1 and Statutes, Art. 14.1) as well as possible reports submitted by the Standing Committees.
	Rule 15.3	3. The three -subject items placed by the Assembly on its agenda shall be debated by the competent Standing Committees, each of which shall prepare a report and a draft resolutions for consideration by the Assembly (cf. Statutes, Art. 13.2).
	Rules of the Standing Committees	
	Rule 6.1	1. Standing Committees shall normally meet during each session of the Assembly and shall normally debate and prepare one reports and draft resolutions per year on their respective a subject items placed on the agenda of the Assembly (cf. Assembly, Rule 15.3).
	New Rule 6.1bis	6.1bis. A system of rotation among the Standing Committees shall be put in place to determine the order in which the resolutions are prepared.
	New Rule 6.1ter	6.1ter. The Standing Committees will establish their own work plans and set their agendas.
	New Rule 6.1quater	6.1quater. In addition to the consideration of explanatory memoranda and draft resolutions prepared by the rapporteurs on the subject item placed on the agenda of the Assembly (cf. Assembly, Rules 10.1 and 15.3, and Standing Committees, Rules 12.1 and 12.2), the Standing Committees may inter alia commission research, discuss reports on good practices, review implementation of and follow-up action on previous IPU resolutions, organise field missions and hold hearings on subjects relating to their field of competence.
	Rule 6.2	25. The Standing Committeesy may also be instructed by the Governing Council to study an item included in the latter's agenda and make a report.
2.2	Description of the modification: The rapporteurs are expected to prepare a succinct action-oriented draft resolution accompanied by an explanatory memorandum. Members of the Union may provide written inputs for the rapporteurs to take into account in their work. Such inputs must be brief and be submitted in one of the official languages of the IPU. Note: Related amendments already appear under section 2.1 above.	
	Rules of the Assembly	
	Rule 13	As a rule, the Assembly will appoint two rapporteurs for each subject item proposed by a Standing Committee, who will prepare a succinct action-oriented draft resolution and an accompanying explanatory memorandum report or reports on the item placed on their Committee's agenda. Members of the Union may contribute to such reports the drafting process by submitting their brief written inputs in one of the official languages of the IPU (cf. Assembly, Rule 37.1) suggestions and comments to the rapporteurs. The arrangements for the submission of such suggestions and comments inputs shall be indicated in the convocation of the Assembly (cf. Standing Committees, Rule 12).
	Rule 14.1	1. — The rapporteurs will also prepare a draft resolution on the subject included on the agenda of their Committee. [Deletion of the Rule]
	Rule 17.1	1. Any delegate may submit amendments relating to the draft resolutions prepared by the rapporteurs on the subject item included in the agenda approved by the Assembly. They shall be deposited with the IPU Secretariat of the Assembly no later than 15 days before the opening of the Assembly. However, the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians shall be permitted to submit amendments incorporating a gender perspective at any time prior to the closure of the first sitting of the respective Standing Committee. This Rule shall apply to the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians at the second Assembly of the year (cf. Standing Committees, Rule 12.2).
	Rules of the Standing Committees	
	Rule 12.1	1. The Assembly shall appoint rapporteurs for each subject item proposed by the Standing Committees, who will prepare a succinct action-oriented draft resolution and an accompanying explanatory memorandum report or reports on the item placed on their Committee's agenda. Members of the Union may contribute to the drafting process such reports by submitting their brief written inputs in

		one of the official languages of the IPU (cf. Assembly, Rule 37.1) suggestions and comments to the rapporteurs. The arrangements for the submission of such suggestions and comments inputs shall be indicated in the convocation of the Assembly. The explanatory memorandum final report shall remain the responsibility of its authors (cf. Assembly Rule 13).
	Rule 12.2	2. The rapporteurs shall also prepare a draft resolution on the subject to be debated in their Committee, which the Secretariat of the IPU shall send the draft resolution and the explanatory memorandum to the Members in advance of the session. Members may propose amendments to the draft resolution no later than 15 days before the opening of the Assembly. However, the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians shall be permitted to submit amendments which incorporate a gender perspective to the draft resolutions at any time prior to the closure of the first sitting of the respective Standing Committee. This Rule shall apply to the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians at the second Assembly of the year. The Committee will finalise the draft resolution and submit it to the Assembly for adoption (cf. Assembly Rule 17.1).
2.3	Description of the modification: Drafting committees may be established by a decision of the Standing Committee and not of its Bureau.	
	Rules of the Standing Committees	
	Rule 15.1	1. The Bureau of a Resolutions shall be normally finalised in the Standing Committees. A Standing Committee may, if necessary, set up a drafting committee.
3. Committee on UN Affairs		
3.1	Description of the modification: The Committee on UN Affairs will be placed on an equal footing with the existing Standing Committees, will maintain its unique mandate to give direction to the growing relationship between the United Nations and the IPU and will assist in the elaboration of parliamentary input to major UN processes. The Committee will meet at every session of the Assembly, but will not be expected to adopt resolutions on a regular basis. Note: Related amendments already appear under section 2.1 with reference to Article 13.2 of the Statutes, Assembly Rules 10.1 and 15.3, and Standing Committee Rules 6.1 and 6.1bis, as well as under section 2.2 with reference to Assembly Rule 13. Taken together, these amendments provide the Committee on UN Affairs with sufficient flexibility to exercise its mandate.	
4. Bureaux of the Standing Committees		
4.1	Description of the modification: Chapter "Officers" of the Committee Rules will be renamed "Bureau". Each Bureau will have one President and one Vice-President, to be elected in one go. Geopolitical groups are expected to coordinate with each other so as to ensure, to the extent possible, an equitable distribution of leadership functions within the Bureaux. The current system of titular and substitute members of the Bureaux will be replaced by a unified system, with all members being titular and each geopolitical group represented by at least two members. Larger geopolitical groups may have additional seats on the Bureaux.	
	Rules of the Standing Committees	
	Rule 7.1	OFFICERS BUREAU RULE 7 1. Each Standing Committee shall elect a Bureau composed of a minimum of two representatives of each of the existing geopolitical groups. Similar to the system established for the composition of the Executive Committee (cf. Statutes, Art. 23.4), medium-sized geopolitical groups will be entitled to one additional seat on the Bureau, whereas larger groups will be entitled to two additional seats. The Standing Committees shall elect a President and a Vice-Presidents, one of whom shall be elected as First Vice-President. from among the members of their Bureau. They shall represent the existing geopolitical Groups and the number of Bureau members shall be equivalent to the number of geopolitical Groups. Each member shall have a substitute. An effort shall be made to ensure gender balance.

	Rule 7.2	2. Officers-Members of the Bureau shall be elected or re-elected at the first annual session of each Committee by an absolute majority of the votes cast.
	Rule 7.3	3. The posts of President and Vice-President shall be filled at a single election.
	Rule 8.1	1. A-Members of the Bureau Committee-officer shall not be elected for a two-year period, renewable once. eligible for re-election to the same post, either as titular or substitute, after four years in office.
	Rule 8.2	2. When a member of a Bureau Committee-officer has served for four consecutive years, two years must elapse before that person may again be elected to the post held previously same Bureau.
	Rule 9.1	1. In order to ensure as far as possible a fair distribution of these posts among the Members of the Union, representatives of a Member shall not simultaneously hold more than one post as President or Vice-President of Standing Committees (cf. Rule 7.3) , or hold a post in the same body for more than four consecutive years (cf. Rule 8.2). The geopolitical groups shall coordinate among themselves so as to ensure, to the extent possible, an equitable distribution of leadership functions within the Bureaux.
	Rule 10.1	1. The First Vice-President shall act for the President of a Standing Committee in the latter's absence.
	Rule 10.2	2. In case of resignation, loss of parliamentary mandate or death of the President of a Standing Committee, or if the affiliation of the Member of the Union to which the President belongs is suspended, the President's duties shall be exercised by the First Vice-President, until such time as the Committee holds its next elections. A similar procedure shall be followed when the President of a Standing Committee is elected to the Executive Committee or to the Presidency of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (cf. Rule 9.2).
4.2	Description of the modification: Geopolitical groups entitled to two seats on a Bureau shall designate one male and one female parliamentarian, while those entitled to three or four seats shall designate not more than two members of the same sex. Efforts will be made to also include young parliamentarians and to encourage candidatures from new Members of the Union as well as Members that do not hold other offices in the IPU. Members of the Executive Committee cannot be elected as Bureau members.	
	Statutes	
	Article 23.9	9. Members of the Executive Committee shall not simultaneously hold office as President or Vice-President Bureau members of a Standing Committees.
	Rules of the Standing Committees	
	New Rule 7.1bis	7.1bis. Geopolitical groups entitled to two seats on a Bureau shall designate one male and one female candidate, while those entitled to three or four seats shall designate not more than two candidatures of the same sex. Every effort shall be made to include young parliamentarians and encourage candidatures from new Members of the Union as well as Members that do not hold other offices in the Union.
	Rule 9.2	2. Members of the Executive Committee shall not simultaneously hold office as President or Vice-President Bureau members of a Standing Committees (cf. Statutes, Art. 23.9 and Standing Committees, Rule 10.2).
	Rule 9.3	3. There shall be no candidates for the post of President or Vice-President of a Standing Committee from a Member of the Union represented on the Executive Committee.
4.3	Description of the modification: Candidatures for the Bureaux shall be submitted by geopolitical groups and be expected to have the necessary expertise in the given Committee's area of work. Submission of candidatures should be accompanied by an assurance from the respective parliament that the candidate will receive the necessary support and be included in delegations to IPU Assemblies for the duration of the candidate's mandate.	
	New Rule 7.1ter	7.1ter. Candidatures for a Bureau shall be submitted by the respective geopolitical group (cf. Statutes, Art. 25.2) and should have expertise in the area of work of the given Standing Committee.

	New Rule 7.1quater	7.1quater. Elected members of the Bureau shall be supported by their respective parliament in carrying out their function as members of the Bureau. Every effort shall be made to ensure their participation in IPU Assemblies for the duration of their mandate as members of the Bureau.
4.4	Description of the modification: A member of the Bureau who is unable to participate in a session may be replaced by another duly mandated representative from the same parliament for the duration of that session only. A member of the Bureau who is absent for two consecutive sessions without a valid reason may be excluded from the Bureau. In such cases, a new election will be held to fill the respective vacancy.	
	New Rule 9bis	9bis.1. Members of the Bureau who are unable to participate in a session may be replaced by other duly mandated representatives from the same Member of the Union for the duration of that session only.
		9bis.2. Members of the Bureau who are absent for two consecutive sessions without a valid reason may lose their seat on the Bureau by a decision of the latter. In such cases, a new election will be held at the next session of the Standing Committee to fill the respective vacancy.
4.5	Description of the modification: All Bureaux will meet at each session of the Assembly to prepare and review implementation of the respective Committee's work plans and consider proposals for subject items to be discussed at future Assemblies.	
	New Rule 9ter	RULE 9ter The Bureau of each Standing Committee shall normally meet at both annual sessions of the Assembly to prepare and review implementation of the Committee's work plans and consider proposals for subject items to be discussed at future Assemblies.
4.6	Description of the modification: A Bureau may meet and deliberate irrespective of the number of members present. However, a vote may take place only if at least half of the Bureau members are present. Decisions of the Bureau shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast.	
	New Rule 9quater	RULE 9quater The Bureau of a Standing Committee may meet and deliberate irrespective of the number of Bureau members present. However, a vote may take place only if at least half of the Bureau members or their duly mandated replacements (cf. Rule 9bis.1) are in attendance. The quorum shall be determined by the Committee President at the opening of the session of the Bureau.
	Rule 30.1	1. Decisions of Standing Committees and their Bureaux decisions , with the exception of elections which are held in conformity with the provisions of Rule 7, shall be taken either by show of hands or by roll call.
	Rule 35.1	1. Decisions of Standing Committees and their Bureaux shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast, except as stipulated in Rule 7.2 of these Rules.
5. Selection of subject items for discussion by Standing Committees at future Assemblies		
Rules of the Standing Committees		
5.1	Description of the modification: An entirely new chapter, "Selection of subject items", is to be added to the Rules of the Standing Committees. The first of the new rules specifies that any Member of the Union may submit a proposal for a subject item to be discussed by a Standing Committee at a future Assembly. The deadline for the submission of proposals is 15 days before the opening of the Assembly preceding the one where the subject is to be discussed.	

	New Rule 16bis	SELECTION OF SUBJECT ITEMS
		<p>RULE 16bis</p> <p>Any Member of the Union may submit a proposal for a subject item to be discussed by a Standing Committee at a future Assembly. Such proposals shall be deposited with the Secretariat of the Union no later than 15 days before the opening of the Assembly preceding the one where the subject will be discussed.</p>
5.2	<p>Description of the modification: A Standing Committee takes decisions concerning subject items to be discussed at future Assemblies on the recommendation of its Bureau. When the Committee is called to take the decision, the only proposals in order, other than those included in the recommendation of the Bureau, shall be earlier proposals submitted within the statutory deadlines but not accepted by the Bureau. If such a proposal is resubmitted, the Committee will first decide whether to consider it.</p>	
	New Rule 16ter	<p>RULE 16ter</p> <p>16ter.1. A Standing Committee shall decide on the subject item to be proposed for discussion at the next Assembly (cf. Assembly, Rule 15.3) after hearing the recommendation of its Bureau.</p> <p>16ter.2. When the Committee is called upon to take a decision on the subject item to be proposed for discussion at the next Assembly, the only proposals in order, other than those included in the recommendation of its Bureau, shall be earlier proposals submitted within the statutory deadlines (cf. Rule 16bis.1) but not accepted by the Bureau.</p> <p>16ter.3. If a Standing Committee receives a request from a Member of the Union to consider a proposal that was not accepted by the Bureau, the Standing Committee shall first decide whether to consider such a request.</p>
5.3	<p>Description of the modification: The authors of a proposal for a subject item are entitled to present it in person to the Bureau, which will consider all such proposals and formulate a relevant recommendation to the Standing Committee. A Bureau member cannot present a proposal on behalf of a delegation. When considering the proposals, the Bureau may combine two or more suggestions into a single proposal, put forward another subject item or decide to submit more than one proposal for the Standing Committee to choose from.</p>	
	New Rule 16quater	<p>RULE 16quater</p> <p>16quater.1. The Bureau shall consider all duly submitted proposals for subject items to be discussed at future Assemblies and shall formulate its recommendation to the Standing Committee.</p> <p>16quater.2. The authors of proposals (cf. Rule 16bis.1) shall be invited to present them to the Bureau.</p> <p>16quater.3. A member of the Bureau cannot present a proposal on behalf of a delegation.</p> <p>16quater.4. When considering the proposals for subject items to be discussed at future Assemblies, the Bureau may choose one of the proposals, combine two or more of them into a single item, put forward another subject item or decide to submit more than one proposal to the Standing Committee.</p>
5.4	<p>Description of the modification: The Bureau of a Standing Committee may transmit to the Bureau of another Standing Committee its suggestions for subject items to be discussed by those Committees at future Assemblies.</p>	

	New Rule 16quinquies	RULE 16quinquies The Bureau of one Standing Committee may convey to the Bureau of another Standing Committee its suggestions for subject items to be discussed by that Standing Committee at future Assemblies.
6. Rapporteurs		
Rules of the Standing Committees		
6.1	Description of the modification: In the appointment of rapporteurs, every effort will be made to respect the principle of gender equality and ensure the representation of young parliamentarians.	
	New Rule 12.3	12.3 The appointment of rapporteurs shall take into account the principles of gender equality and equitable geographical distribution. Every effort shall be made to include young parliamentarians among the rapporteurs.
6.2	Description of the modification: If it proves to be impossible to appoint one or more rapporteurs before the end of the Assembly preceding the one where the subject is to be discussed, the President of the IPU shall be given the mandate to pursue consultations with a view to appointing the rapporteurs at the earliest possible opportunity.	
	New Rule 12.4	12.4 If at least one rapporteur is not appointed before the end of the Assembly preceding the one where the subject is to be discussed, the President of the IPU shall be entrusted with pursuing consultations with a view to appointing these rapporteurs at the earliest possible opportunity.
7. Meeting of Women Parliamentarians		
7.1	Description of the modification: A Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will take place at every session of the Assembly. Note: Related amendments also appear under sections 2.2 above.	
Statutes		
	Article 22	A Meeting of Women Parliamentarians shall be held on the occasion of the first both annual sessions of the Assembly and shall report on its work to the Governing Council. This Meeting shall establish its own Rules which shall be approved by the Governing Council. The Meeting is assisted by a Coordinating Committee whose Rules it shall approve. The Coordinating Committee will meet during both annual sessions of the Assembly.
Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians		
	Rule 1	The Meeting of Women Parliamentarians shall be held each year on the occasion of the first round of both Statutory Meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and shall report on its work to the Governing Council.
	Rule 6.1	1. The Meeting of Women Parliamentarians shall meet each year on the occasion of the first both annual sessions of the Assembly. Its Coordinating Committee shall meet on the occasion of both annual sessions, in a place and on dates decided by the governing bodies of the Union (cf. Statutes, Arts. 9, 17 and 21 (b)).
	Rule 6.2	2. The Meeting of Women Parliamentarians shall take place each year on the day before the opening of the work of the first Assembly. If necessary, an additional sitting may be organised during that Statutory Meeting, particularly for the election of the new regional representatives to the Coordinating Committee.
	Rule 30.2	2. At the first each session of the annual Assembly, it shall hold a first sitting before the opening of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and a second sitting during the days following the Meeting; if necessary, a further sitting may be organised during the Statutory Inter-Parliamentary Meetings.

Rules of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians		
Rule 3.2	2.	At the first annual each session of the Assembly, it shall hold a first sitting before the opening of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and a second sitting during the days following the Meeting; if necessary, a further sitting may be organised during that Assembly.
8. Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians		
8.1	Description of the modification: The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians should be referred to in the Statutes as a body invested with its own Rules.	
	Statutes	
New Article 22bis	ARTICLE 22bis	The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians shall meet on the occasion of both annual sessions of the Assembly and may hold additional sessions and organise missions as necessary. This Committee shall report on its work to the Governing Council. The Committee shall establish its own Rules, which shall be approved by the Governing Council.
9. Forum of Young Parliamentarians		
9.1	Description of the modification: The Forum of Young Parliamentarians should be referred to in the Statutes as a body invested with its own Rules. The Forum will meet at every session of the Assembly.	
	Statutes	
New Article 22ter	ARTICLE 22ter	The Forum of Young Parliamentarians shall meet on the occasion of both annual sessions of the Assembly and shall report on its work to the Governing Council. The Forum shall establish its own Rules, which shall be approved by the Governing Council.

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SECTION B: Additional amendments required to align the Statutes and Rules with current practice

10.1	Description of the modification: A separate rule specifying the number of panel discussions to be held during Assemblies (one panel) is no longer pertinent.	
	Rules of the Assembly	
Rule 15.2	2.	The Assembly may hold a panel discussion on a specific topic of general interest, which could also be the overall theme allocated to the General Debate. [Delete the Rule]
10.2	Description of the modification: The definition of the quorum for Standing Committee sessions and of its applicability ought to be simplified.	
	Rules of the Standing Committees	
Rule 34.1	1.	A Standing Committee may meet and deliberate whatever the number of members present. However, a vote may take place only if at least half of the Members of the Union participating in the Assembly are represented in the Standing Committee. The quorum shall be determined by the Secretary General on the basis of the number of Members of the Union present at the Assembly at the time of its opening of each Assembly.

	Rule 34.2	2. The quorum shall be considered as attained and a vote taken by a Standing Committee as valid, whatever the number of members present or participating therein if, before the voting, the President has not verified whether there is a quorum and/or has not been called upon to do so by a member of the Standing Committee to verify whether there is a quorum.
	Rule 34.3	3. — When, before the vote, the presence of a quorum has been noted, that vote shall be considered as valid whatever the number of members participating therein. [Deletion of the Rule]
10.3	Description of the modification: At present, Members of the Union are expected to send, before the end of January of each year, a report on their activities. This deadline no longer corresponds to realities and should be deleted.	
	Statutes	
	Article 6.1	1. All Members or Associate Members of the Union shall have their own Rules governing their participation in the Union's work. They shall make all structural, administrative and financial provisions required to ensure effectively their representation in the Union, the implementation of the decisions taken and to maintain a regular liaison with the Secretariat of the Union to which they shall send, before the end of January of each year, an annual report of their activities, including the names of their officers and the list or the total number of their members.