



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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Election of President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union is the political head of the organization. The President chairs the Council and the Executive Committee. The Council elects him or her for a mandate of three years at the second Assembly of the year.

The provisions relating to the President are contained in Article 19 of the IPU Statutes and Rules 6 through 11 of the Council Rules. They are supplemented by practice as it has evolved over the years.

The election of the IPU President is announced formally in the convocation of the Council session at which the election will take place. It shall be communicated at least one month before the opening of the regular session of the Council. In practice the convocation is issued three months before the Council session.

The outgoing President cannot be re-elected and shall be replaced by a person belonging to another Parliament.

There is no mandatory automatic system for rotation within the IPU. Instead, the Rules state: “an endeavour will be made to ensure a regular rotation between the different geopolitical groups.”

There are traditionally several candidates for the post from one or more geopolitical groups. There are no requirements that any geopolitical group endorse a candidate.

Candidatures for the post of IPU President can be communicated in writing to the Secretary General at any time, but no later than 24 hours before the opening of the meeting during which the election is to take place.

The election of the President takes place at the last sitting of the Council. Voting shall be conducted by secret ballot. Three delegates from each Member Parliament can cast a vote provided that both genders are represented among them; if not, only two delegates can vote.

The candidate who obtains an absolute majority of the votes cast shall be elected President. If no candidate obtains this majority during the first round of voting, additional rounds will take place until one of them obtains an absolute majority.

While not a formal requirement, it is expected that the candidates for the post of President count upon the support of their respective Parliament.

Geneva, 20 March 2014