



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

134th IPU Assembly

Lusaka (Zambia), 19 - 23 March 2016



Governing Council
Item 8

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Way ahead for the revised IPU Strategy for 2017-2021

Report on the PaperSmart Initiative

The present report was endorsed by the Executive Committee, which decided to share it with the Governing Council for final approval.

1. Following on from the universal and legally binding climate change agreement reached at COP21 in Paris in December 2015, the IPU has recognized the need to be in tune with the global movement on environmental protection. It has developed a Parliamentary Action Plan on Climate Change, which it will submit to the governing bodies at the 134th Assembly.
2. Already, several years ago, the IPU adopted a policy to reduce its carbon footprint inter alia by tracking official travel and reducing its consumption of paper. These efforts were inspired by successful models adopted by other international organizations. Already at the IPU Assembly in Quebec in October 2012, efforts had been made to sensitize Members to the use of new technologies and to raise their awareness about the massive consumption of paper, especially during Assemblies.
3. In recent years, the IPU Secretariat has implemented a number of measures to reduce paper consumption. For example, it no longer publishes the Summary Records of IPU Assemblies in paper format. Instead, these are posted on the IPU website. In addition, the number of paper copies of the *Results* brochure has been reduced dramatically. In preparation for Assemblies, most documents are posted in advance on the website, with limited numbers of copies made available in the rooms during the Assembly proceedings.
4. Further to these measures, paper consumption at IPU Headquarters decreased from 1,950,000 sheets in 2010 to 1 million in 2015, which consequently resulted in lower postage costs for the organization. These dropped from CHF 87,000 in 2010 to CHF 24,000 in 2015. Similarly, the quantity of paper stipulated in the Agreements signed with future host parliaments of IPU Assemblies was reduced by more than half over the same 5-year period (from the requirement of 1 million sheets of A4 paper in 2010 for the documents reproduction service to 450,000 sheets in 2015). Details can be found in the [annex](#).
5. The Secretariat is taking a gradual and phased approach to a paper-smart IPU and intends to test new ideas, such as a print-on-demand service, a save-on-demand facility and a possible customized WebApp for future Assemblies that would also ensure easy access to conference documents. Starting at the 134th Assembly in Lusaka, the IPU Secretariat will also encourage Members to use some of these new technologies, while gradually changing its own working methods.

6. Already for the next Assembly in Lusaka, the IPU is sending all Executive Committee documents to members in electronic format only. Also at that Assembly, the majority of Assembly documents will be posted on the IPU website www.ipu.org/conf-e/134agnd.htm and only a limited number of documents for the various Assembly sessions will be printed. While delegations will have access to the same quantities of documents for the Governing Council, the Assembly, the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and Standing Committees, the actual number of documents in the sets will be reduced, as has been the case in recent Assemblies.
7. The Secretariat would like to help the Organization make further progress, building on what has already been achieved. It intends to pursue its efforts to achieve a further reduction in paper consumption in the coming years. In this endeavour, the IPU plans to study in-depth the experiences of Member Parliaments and other international organizations. In parallel, the Secretariat will need to put in place smarter and more efficient internal procedures.
8. Considering the level of resources required, the IPU will take a gradual approach to becoming paper-smart. It will start with an assessment of current needs, consumption patterns and costs. It will then phase in the recommendations of that assessment into its own working methods and future planning. The overall target is to reduce its carbon footprint through paper reduction and the use of innovative and accessible solutions, including new technologies. Implementation of new measure pursuant to the assessment would be dependent on the resources that are available or will be made available by the Governing Bodies.

ANNEX

IPU paper consumption patterns over the past 6 years

2010:	1,950,000 sheets (one Assembly abroad, one in Geneva)
2011:	1,000,000 (one Assembly abroad: Panama, one outside Geneva: Bern)
2012:	900,000 (two Assemblies abroad: Kampala, Québec)
2013:	1,100,000 (one Assembly abroad, one in Geneva)
2014:	1,400,000 (two Assemblies in Geneva)
2015:	1,000,000 (one Assembly abroad, one in Geneva)

Linked to these figures are the costs of postage for documents and publications:

2010:	CHF 87,000
2011:	CHF 73,000
2012:	CHF 64,000
2013:	CHF 44,000
2014:	CHF 45,000
2015:	CHF 24,000 (18/11/2015)

Recommendations for going greener

1. No longer print out the reports of specialized meetings for the Governing Council; an oral report by the meeting's rapporteur will be made to the Council.
2. In the same vein, Rapporteurs could use Power Point or other audio visual methods to present their reports to the Governing Council with a Q&A at the end. This would be more interactive and perhaps engage the audience more than the present way.
3. No distribution of the explanatory memorandums for the Committee resolutions, the delegates often just work on the resolution itself, which are distributed, together with the list of amendments. The memorandums can be posted on IPU website.

4. No longer include candidatures in the sets of documents for the Council. The candidate's name, country and geopolitical group affiliation can be noted in the Journal (copies could be made available from Documents Distribution or on website).
If absolutely necessary, copies of candidates to the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians could be distributed in limited quantities to the meeting of Women Parliamentarians at the time of the election.
5. When written reports are necessary, try to reduce the length, be concise and to the point, and give oral reports where possible. With the amount of time available to Members, it is not certain that they are able to read all the detailed information provided.
6. The draft budget document would only be distributed in the Sub-Committee on Finance and to the Executive Committee. It will be posted on the website and a limited number of copies available upon request at Documents Distribution. It would have been sent to all Members by post, in any case.
7. For the emergency item, only distribute the final version of the list of proposals, as well as the voting table. All related documentation would be posted on the website. Full sets of documents would be provided to the drafting committee.
8. During the Governing Council sessions, distribute only the agenda and those documents to be adopted by the Council.
9. Only have documents available at the documents desks in the rooms – do not place at each seat.
10. During the agenda item on the work of the Human Rights Committee, only the decisions document should be distributed. The mission reports and other documents are available on the website and, upon request, at Documents Distribution.