



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

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Election of the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union is the political head of the organization. The President chairs the Governing Council and the Executive Committee. The Council elects him or her for a mandate of three years at the second Assembly of the year. According to the IPU Statutes and Rules, *"the retiring President shall not be eligible for re-election for three years and shall be replaced by a person belonging to another Parliament. An endeavor will be made to ensure a regular rotation between the different geopolitical groups"*.

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

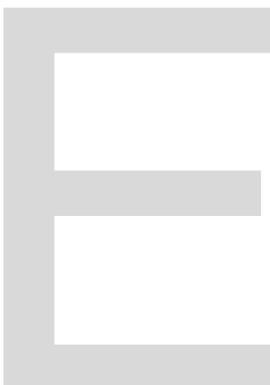
The principle of regional rotation is generally observed. Over the past twenty years, the Presidency of the IPU has been ensured by prominent MPs from Egypt (Arab Group, 1994-1997), Spain (Twelve Plus Group, 1997-1999), India (Asia-Pacific Group, 1999-2002), Chile (Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2002-2005), Italy (Twelve Plus Group, 2005-2008), Namibia (African Group, 2008-2011), Morocco (Arab Group, 2011-2014) and Bangladesh (Asia-Pacific Group, 2014-2017).¹

There are no formal criteria for the election of the IPU President, other than the fact that he/she is a sitting Member of Parliament expecting to remain an MP for the duration of the term of IPU President (in this case, 2017-2020). Historically, IPU Presidents have been outstanding political leaders, well respected nationally and internationally, firmly committed to the core IPU values and principles – in particular the promotion of democracy, human rights and the rule of law – and able to invest significant time and energy in effectively carrying out the high office of IPU President.

As the IPU is playing an increasingly important role in political dialogue and understanding within and among nations, the IPU President is expected to be a mediator and bridge-builder, exercising tact, credibility and respect for the IPU membership in all its diversity. He/she is called upon to regularly interact with Heads of State and Government, Speakers of Parliament, the UN Secretary-General and other high-level officials. He/she should ideally have a good command of at least one of the official languages of the IPU: English and French. As a gender-sensitive organization, the IPU also attaches great importance to gender equality and the political empowerment of women at all levels.

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 four months before the opening of the regular session of the Council (in this case, in mid-June 2017).

¹ The full list of IPU Presidents can be found at <http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/presdnt.htm>.



Worthy candidates are expected to express their interest in running for the position of IPU President through a formal letter addressed to the IPU Secretary General. The letter should underscore the key skills and competencies of the candidate and their vision of promoting the strategic plan of the IPU, and it should be accompanied by a brief CV. Candidatures may be submitted by the candidate directly, by a member Parliament or group of Parliaments, or by one or more Geopolitical Groups. There is no formal deadline for the submission of candidatures, although in practice it is important that these are submitted in good time, so as to allow for translation and distribution.

While not a formal requirement, in practice it is expected that the candidates for the post of President can count upon the financial and material support of their respective Parliament in the exercise of the IPU Presidency.

The candidates will present themselves to the IPU membership on the occasion of the 137th IPU Assembly, to be held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, on 14-18 October 2017. As per usual practice, they will be invited for hearings by the Geopolitical Groups, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU.

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. This year, the vote will take place on 18 October.

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, the candidate who has received the least number of votes will be eliminated, and additional rounds will take place until one of the candidates obtains an absolute majority.

Geneva, 10 May 2017