



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
112th Assembly and related meetings
Manila, 31 March to 8 April 2005



C-III/112/C
17 January 2005

CONVOCATION

THIRD STANDING COMMITTEE - DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Manila
5, 6 and 7 April 2005

1. In conformity with the decision taken by the 111th IPU Assembly, the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights will meet during the 112th IPU Assembly to debate item 6 of the Assembly agenda.

Dates and place of meetings

2. The Committee will meet at *the Philippine International Convention Centre*, the venue of the 112th Assembly and all other related meetings.

3. The Committee will meet on Tuesday, 5 April from 2.30 to 6.30 p.m. and on Wednesday 6 April, from 9 to 11 a.m., to debate the report and the preliminary draft resolution prepared by the co-Rapporteurs. If the Committee chooses to appoint a drafting committee, the latter will then meet instead of the full Committee, on Wednesday, 6 April from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. to prepare a final version of the draft resolution. The Bureau of the Standing Committee will meet on Wednesday, 6 April from 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. The full Standing Committee will meet again on Thursday, 7 April from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to take note of the report and adopt the draft resolution, as well as elect members of its Bureau.

Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Approval of the summary records of the session held in Geneva on 28, 29 and 30 September 2004
3. The role of Parliaments in advocating and enforcing observance of human rights in the strategies for the prevention, management and treatment of the HIV/AIDS pandemic

- (a) Presentation of the report and preliminary draft resolution prepared by the Co-Rapporteurs, followed by debate
 - (b) Preparation and adoption of a draft resolution
 - (c) Appointment of a Rapporteur to the 112th Assembly
4. Preparation of the 114th Assembly
 - (a) Proposals for a subject item to be considered by the Committee
 - (b) Proposals for two co-Rapporteurs
5. Election of Bureau of Committee
6. Any other business

Representation and voting rights

4. In conformity with Rule 2 of the Rules of the Standing Committees, the Members of the Union shall be represented on each Standing Committee by one member and one substitute.
5. The substitute shall have the same speaking rights as the titular member, but shall only vote in the latter's absence (cf. Rule 29.1).

Organisation of the debate

6. The Union's governing bodies have decided to make a determined effort to ensure an interactive debate in the Standing Committees. The reading of prepared speeches is therefore discouraged. There will be no pre-registration of speakers. Instead, the President of the Standing Committee will recognise speakers requesting the floor once the debate has begun.

Speaking time

7. The Union's governing bodies have also decided that delegates may take the floor several times but that no statement should exceed a maximum of four minutes. According to the provisions of Standing Committee Rule 24, the President may review this question and take the necessary measures to ensure the smooth running of the debates, particularly since she may have to restrict the speaking time in view of the number of speakers and length of the session.

Documents

8. The preparation of the report and the preliminary draft resolution on the subject item placed on the Standing Committee's agenda is the responsibility of the co-Rapporteurs appointed by the 111th Assembly.
9. Arrangements and deadlines for the preparation and finalisation of the report and the draft resolution are contained in section 8 of the Convocation of the 112^h Assembly (document A/112/C.1) as well as in the circular letter GRP/2004/Doc.15 dated 17 December 2004. Please note that, in accordance with Rule 17.1 of the Rules of the Assembly and Rule 12.2 of the Rules of the

Standing Committees, amendments to the draft resolution must be deposited with the Secretariat of the Assembly no later than one week before the opening of the Assembly, i.e. Monday 28 March 2005. Sub-amendments may be submitted up until the Standing Committee adopts the draft resolution intended for the Assembly (Assembly Rule 17.2).

Election of the Bureau

10. It is to be recalled that, following the recent reform of the structure and working methods of the Union, each Standing Committee has a Bureau composed of a President and five Vice-Presidents - one from each of the six geopolitical groups. For each titular member of the Bureau there is also a substitute member representing the same geopolitical group.

11. The role of the Bureau is vitally important for the normal functioning of the Standing Committee. The Bureau meets at every Assembly and fulfils a number of statutory tasks, including the consideration of proposals submitted by the Members of the Union for the subject items and of candidatures for the co-Rapporteurs for future Assemblies. It is therefore imperative that members of the Bureau be aware of specific issues falling within the field of competence of the respective Standing Committee and that every effort be made to ensure that members of the Bureau participate in all statutory Assemblies during their terms of office so that each geopolitical group is represented at every session of the Bureau, through either its titular or substitute member.

12. In conformity with Rule 7.2 of the Rules of the Standing Committees, officers of the Committee shall be elected or re-elected at the first annual session of the Assembly by an absolute majority of the votes cast.

13. The present members of the Bureau of the Third Standing Committee (both titular and substitute) were elected at the 108th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Santiago de Chile, April 2003) and are therefore eligible for re-election (cf. Rule 8.1).

14. It is to be recalled however that, at the time of the 108th Conference in Santiago de Chile, it was agreed between the six geopolitical groups (see document CL/172/10-P.3 of 11 April 2003) that after two years (i.e., at the 112th Assembly) the geopolitical group holding the presidency would fill the post of the First Vice-President, and the geopolitical Group holding the first vice-presidency would fill the post of President.

<i>President</i>	Mrs. Rebecca A. Kadaga (Uganda)	<i>African Group</i>
<i>First Vice-President</i>	Mr. Jay-Kun Yoo (Republic of Korea)	<i>Asia-Pacific Group</i>
<i>Vice-Presidents:</i>	TITULAR	SUBSTITUTE
<i>Twelve Plus Group</i>	Mrs. Brigitta Gadiant (Switzerland)	Mr. Henrik S. Järrel (Sweden)
<i>Arab Group</i>	Mr. Abdelahad Gamal El Din (Egypt)	Mr. Ahmed El-Kadiri (Morocco)

<i>African Group</i>	Current President	Mr. Alban Baghin (Ghana)
<i>Latin American Group</i>	Mr. José Machuca (El Salvador)	Senadora Addy Joaquin Coldwell (Mexico)
<i>Asia-Pacific Group</i>	Current First Vice-President	Mr. Prem Chand Gupta (India)
<i>Eurasia Group</i>	Mr. Sergey Zhalybin (Kazakhstan)	Mr. Tolib Nabiev (Republic of Tajikistan)

15. The statutory election of Committee officers will take place at the last sitting of the Committee on Thursday 7 April.

Proposals for the subject item and the co-Rapporteurs for the 114th Assembly

16. The Members of the Union are invited to submit to the IPU Secretariat their proposals for the subject item to be discussed by the Third Standing Committee at the 114th Assembly.

17. As far as possible, each proposal should be accompanied by the names of two prospective co-Rapporteurs who should be knowledgeable about the proposed subject and ready to assume the responsibility for drafting the corresponding report and draft resolution. When nominating the candidates for co-Rapporteurs, it is important to keep in mind that, in order to facilitate the work of the IPU Secretariat and ensure timely distribution of the drafts to the Members of the Union, all texts should be transmitted to the Secretariat by the co-Rapporteurs in either English or French which are the two official written languages of the IPU.

18. From the start of the Assembly, the Bureau of the Third Standing Committee will be expected to carry out consultations with geopolitical groups and the Bureaux of the other Standing Committees concerning the choice of subject items for the next Assembly. At its meeting on Wednesday, 6 April, the Bureau of the Third Standing Committee will consider relevant proposals taking into account the opinions of geopolitical groups, and will decide upon a consolidated proposal, which it will then submit for approval to the full Committee at its final sitting the following day. The Committee's proposal for the subject item and the candidatures of co-Rapporteurs for the 114th Assembly will be submitted for approval by the 112th Assembly at its last sitting on Friday, 8 April.