



C-III/115/C
26 June 2006

CONVOCATION

THIRD STANDING COMMITTEE DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Geneva

16, 17 and 18 October 2006

1. In conformity with the decision taken by the 114th IPU Assembly, the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights will meet during the 115th IPU Assembly to debate item 5 of the Assembly agenda.

Dates and place of meetings

2. The Committee will meet in *the Centre international de Conférences de Genève (CICG)*, the venue of the 115th Assembly and all other related meetings.

3. The Committee will meet on Monday, 16 October, from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. to debate the report and the preliminary draft resolution prepared by the co-Rapporteurs. The Standing Committee may decide at any time that it is more appropriate to continue the discussion of the draft resolution in a drafting committee. If that is the case, the drafting committee will meet on Monday, 16 October from 5 to 6.30 p.m. and on Tuesday, 17 October from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 2.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. to prepare a final version of the draft resolution. The Bureau of the Standing Committee will meet on Wednesday, 18 October, from 9 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. The full Standing Committee will meet again on Wednesday, 18 October, from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to adopt the draft resolution.

Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Approval of the summary records of the Committee's session held in Nairobi on 9 and 11 May 2006
3. Missing persons
 - (a) Presentation of the report and the 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 115th Assembly

4. Preparation of the 117th Assembly
 - (a) Proposals for a subject item to be considered by the Committee
 - (b) Proposals for two co-Rapporteurs
5. 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 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 he 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 113th 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 115th Assembly (document A/113/C.1). 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, 9 October 2006. Sub-amendments may be submitted up until the Standing Committee adopts the draft resolution intended for the Assembly (Assembly Rule 17.2).

Proposals for the subject item and the co-Rapporteurs for the 117th Assembly

10. The Members of the Union are invited to submit to the IPU Secretariat their proposals for the subject item to be discussed by Third Standing Committee at the 117th Assembly.

11. 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 candidatures of 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, the two official written languages of the IPU.

12. From the start of the Assembly, the Bureau of Third Standing Committee will be expected to carry out consultations with the geopolitical groups and the Bureaux of the other Standing Committees concerning the choice of subject items for the 117th Assembly. At its meeting on Wednesday, 18 October, the Bureau of the Third Standing Committee will consider relevant proposals taking into account the opinions of the geopolitical groups, and will decide upon a consolidated proposal, which it will then submit for approval to the full Committee at its final sitting on the same day. The Committee's proposal for the subject item and the candidatures of co-Rapporteurs for the 117th Assembly will then be submitted for approval by the 115th Assembly at its last sitting in the afternoon of Wednesday, 18 October.