



Governing Council
Item 16
Assembly
Item 5

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26 June 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES AND RULES OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

1. The Governing Council decided in Cape Town to take the necessary steps to admit the Parliament of Palestine as a Member of the IPU. To achieve this objective, the Council instructed the Executive Committee to prepare an amendment to the IPU Statutes and circulate it to Members in time for its adoption at the 119th Assembly.
2. The Executive Committee met in Geneva on Friday, 20 June and prepared the proposed amendment, which is to be found in Annex. In accordance with Article 28 of the Statutes, this proposal is circulated to all Members and will be included automatically in the agenda of the 119th Assembly.
3. Article 28 of the Statutes stipulates that the Assembly decides on proposals to amend the Statutes by a two-thirds majority vote after hearing the opinion of the Governing Council, expressed through a simple majority vote. The article in question also clarifies that any sub-amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Secretariat at least six weeks before the meeting of the Assembly, i.e. before 1 September 2008. The Secretariat will immediately, upon receipt, circulate any sub-amendments to all Members.
4. As regards the procedure to be followed at the 119th Assembly, the proposed amendment will be considered by the Governing Council in the morning of Monday, 13 October. The Assembly will take its decision on the amendment in the beginning of the Monday afternoon on the same day before the debate starts on the emergency item. Once approved, the amendment will enter into force with immediate effect.
5. If the amendment is approved by the Assembly, the formal decision to grant membership to the Parliament of Palestine will be taken by the Governing Council in accordance with Article 4.1 of the Statutes after hearing the opinion of the Executive Committee.

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IPU Statutes

Membership

Article 3, add a new Article 3.1 bis as follows: "***Ibis. The parliament constituted in conformity with the basic law of a territorial entity whose aspirations and entitlement to statehood are recognized by the United Nations, and which enjoys the status of Permanent Observer to that Organization with substantial additional rights and privileges, may also become a Member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.***"