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**IPU COMMITTEE ON MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS - CALL FOR CANDIDATES**

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

When the Committee on Middle East Questions met last October, it recommended that its membership be increased from five to seven titular and substitute members. I am therefore writing to invite your Parliament to submit nominations for the new posts of two titular and two substitute members.

I enclose a list of the current members of the Committee for your information. As you will see, only two geopolitical groups are represented among the titular members and there is only one woman member. In this connection I draw your attention to the recommendation of the Committee that no more than four of the seven members should be of the same sex and that as many as possible of the geopolitical groups should be represented on the Committee.

Please note that the Governing Council will elect members to the Committee on the basis of their interest and expertise in the subject matter and of their availability to attend all Committee sessions. Given the need to ensure continuity in the Committee's work, Committee members who fail to attend more than two consecutive sessions will be replaced through an election. Members of the Committee are elected in their personal capacity and may not be replaced by other members of their delegations.

All candidates should submit a curriculum vitae indicating their familiarity with the Middle East, and confirming that their parliament commits to including them in delegations to future IPU Assemblies.

The deadline for submission of candidatures is 9 a.m. on Friday 15 April. The elections will take place in the Governing Council at its first sitting in Panama City, on Saturday 16 April. The newly elected Committee members will then be able to attend the Committee's second sitting on 19 April.

I look forward to receiving your nominations for this important Committee and remain,

Yours sincerely,

Anders B. Johnsson  
Secretary General