



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
126th Assembly and related meetings
Kampala (Uganda), 31 March to 5 April 2012



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VACANCIES TO BE FILLED DURING THE 126th ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On 5 April 2012, the Governing Council will be required to elect **one member**, as follows:

- Twelve-Plus Group** : One vacancy to replace Ms. D. Stump (Switzerland), who is no longer a member of parliament and whose Executive Committee term ends in October 2013.

In accordance with Article 23.6 of the Statutes, if a member of the Executive Committee ceases to be a parliamentarian, the Member of the Union concerned shall appoint a substitute to serve until the next session of the Governing Council, when an election shall be held. If the newly elected member is from a different parliament than the outgoing member, he/she will serve a full term. Otherwise, the new member shall complete the term of office of his/her predecessor (in this case until October 2013).

SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians

The 17th Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will be called upon to renew half of the membership of its Coordinating Committee, to replace those titular and substitute regional representatives whose term expires in April 2012 as well as those members of parliament who have lost their seat.

Posts to be filled include:

- **One titular and one substitute regional representative** per geopolitical group, for a four-year term;
- One titular regional representative for **GRULAC** to fill the seat left vacant (end of term: April 2014);
- One substitute regional representative for the **Arab Group**, and **Eurasia Group**, respectively, to fill the seats left vacant (end of term: April 2014).

According to the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, a retiring member of the Coordinating Committee shall not be eligible for re-election for two years.

The Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will hold elections to the Coordinating Committee on Wednesday, 4 April 2012.

Geopolitical groups are requested to submit candidatures in writing by Monday, 2 April, 6 p.m. to the Manager of the Gender Partnership Programme, Ms. K. Jabre. Candidatures should be accompanied by a signed cover letter from the geopolitical group and a brief curriculum vitae (3 paragraphs maximum) in English and/or French, for distribution to participants.

Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

On 5 April, the Governing Council will be required to elect:

- **Two titular members** to replace Mr. P. Mahoux (Belgium), whose term of office expires at the 190th session of the Governing Council; and Mr. B. Barovic (Slovenia), who is no longer a member of parliament;
- **One substitute member** to replace Mr. J.P. Letelier (Chile), who was elected titular member at the 189th session of the Governing Council.

Candidatures, accompanied by a signed covering letter and a brief curriculum vitae (one page maximum), may be submitted up to 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 4 April 2012.

Committee on Middle East Questions

On 5 April, the Governing Council will be required to elect **one substitute member** to replace Mr. H. Alir (Turkey), whose term of office expires at the 190th session of the Governing Council.

Candidatures, accompanied by a signed covering letter and a brief curriculum vitae (one page maximum), may be submitted up to 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 4 April 2012.

Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

On 5 April, the Governing Council will be required to elect:

- **Three titular members** to replace Mr. S. Gavrilov (Russian Federation) and Mr. J.C. Romero (Argentina), whose terms of office expire at the 190th session of the Governing Council; and Ms. B. Gadiant (Switzerland), who is no longer a member of parliament;
- **Four substitute members** to replace Mr. J.J. Mwiimbu (Zambia), Ms. M. Osman Gaknoun (Sudan), Ms. B. Gohar (Pakistan), and Ms. E. Arguedas (Costa Rica), whose terms of office expire at the 190th session of the Governing Council.

Candidatures, accompanied by a signed covering letter and a brief curriculum vitae (one page maximum), may be submitted up to 9 a.m. on Wednesday, 4 April 2012.

STANDING COMMITTEE BUREAUX

First Standing Committee (Peace and International Security)

Apart from **one vacancy** of titular member representing the African Group, all present members of the Bureau of the First Standing Committee are eligible for re-election.

Candidatures from the African Group (titular) may be submitted up to the time of the elections, which will take place on Tuesday, 3 April 2012 at the last sitting of the Committee.

Second Standing Committee (Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade)

Apart from **two vacancies** – one titular member representing the African Group and one substitute member representing the Eurasia Group - all present members of the Bureau of the Second Standing Committee are eligible for re-election.

Candidatures from the African Group (titular) and Eurasia Group (substitute), may be submitted up to the time of the elections, which will take place on Wednesday, 4 April 2012 at the last sitting of the Committee.

Third Standing Committee (Democracy and Human Rights)

Apart from **one vacancy** of titular member representing the Eurasia Group, all present members of the Bureau of the Third Standing Committee are eligible for re-election.

Candidatures from the Eurasia Group (titular) may be submitted up to the time of the elections, which will take place on Wednesday, 4 April 2012 at the last sitting of the Committee.

ADVISORY GROUP OF THE IPU COMMITTEE ON UNITED NATIONS AFFAIRS

There are currently eight vacancies in the Advisory Group:

- **Two members from the African Group** to replace Ms. S. Sani (Nigeria) and Mr. T. Toga (Ethiopia), who are no longer members of parliament;
- **One member from the Arab Group** to replace Mr. M. El Feki (Egypt), who is no longer a member of parliament;
- **One member from Eurasia**, to fill a position that has been vacant for the past year;
- **One member from GRULAC**, to replace Mr. M. Maia (Brazil), who has not participated in any Advisory Group activities over the past year;
- **Three members from the Twelve Plus Group**, to replace Mr. L. Fraga (Spain) and Ms. Lugaric (Croatia) who are no longer members of parliament, as well as Mr. N. Treacy (Ireland), who has not participated in any Advisory Group activities over the past year.

Given the nature of the work conducted by the Advisory Group, geopolitical groups are encouraged to designate representatives that have a strong background and experience in United Nations operations at both the national and international levels. It is also important for candidates to have a good command of one of IPU's two working languages - English and French. More details are provided in the annex to this document.

Candidatures from the corresponding geopolitical groups, accompanied by a signed covering letter and a brief curriculum vitae (one page maximum), may be submitted up to 12 noon on Tuesday, 3 April.

IPU COMMITTEE ON UNITED NATIONS AFFAIRS

- Appointment of members of the Committee Advisory Group -

1. In April 2007, the IPU Governing Council decided to establish a Committee on United Nations Affairs. This decision was taken in view of the growing partnership between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations.
2. The Committee on United Nations Affairs was entrusted with a broad mandate, which includes:
 - Evaluating progress in the cooperation between the IPU and the UN system, and proposing strategies for further action;
 - Holding hearings with senior UN officials;
 - Scrutinizing the working of the United Nations and UN reform, in particular in terms of system-wide coherence, institutional effectiveness and its use of public funds;
 - Examining how parliaments organize their work vis-à-vis the United Nations; and
 - Making suggestions for more structured cooperation with the United Nations by regional parliamentary organizations and assemblies.
3. An Advisory Group was set up to prepare the work of the Committee (see also www.ipu.org/cnl-e/182-advgr.htm). It conducts investigations and undertakes field missions. It reports to the Committee. The Advisory Group normally comprises 15 members with a geopolitical representation similar to that of the Executive Committee. The members are appointed by the President of the IPU in consultation with the geopolitical groups.
4. In the five years that have passed since its establishment, the Committee has carried out some important work:
 - It prepared an IPU Policy Paper on the nature of the relationship between the United Nations and the world of parliaments, subsequently endorsed by the IPU Member Parliaments and circulated in the United Nations General Assembly.
 - It carried out a survey of more than one hundred parliaments on how they organize their work vis-à-vis the United Nations. The survey demonstrated that even though parliamentary engagement with the United Nations has grown steadily over the years, the potential for interaction between parliaments and the UN, particularly at the national level, remains largely untapped. The survey contributed to the deliberations of the Third World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments.
 - The Committee convened hearings and consultations with senior UN officials, including the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UN High Representatives for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Alliance of Civilizations, the Deputy Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other senior UN officials.
 - It examined the status of implementation of several international agreements, and helped mobilize a greater parliamentary involvement in national review processes, most recently in preparation of the IVth UN Conference for Least Developed Countries.

- The Committee debated and prepared formal IPU statements as contributions to several multilateral negotiating processes, including international conferences on climate change and least developed countries.
- The Committee facilitated preparation and adoption of successive resolutions of the UN General Assembly dealing with cooperation between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU.

5. The Advisory Group plays a significant role in preparing the work of the Committee. It has undertaken missions to Tanzania (2008), Viet Nam (2009), Ghana and Sierra Leone (2011) to examine the implementation of United Nations reform and system-wide coherence. The findings of those missions were discussed in the Committee and circulated among Member Parliaments and the United Nations system. They have contributed to achieving greater involvement by parliaments in the elaboration and implementation of national development strategies and plans.

6. There are currently eight vacancies in the Advisory Group that need to be filled: two from the African Group, one from the Arab Group, one from Eurasia, one from GRULAC and three from the Twelve Plus Group. Given the nature of the work conducted by the Advisory Group, geopolitical groups are encouraged to designate representatives that have a strong background and experience in United Nations operations at both the national and international levels. It is also important for candidates to have a good command of one of IPU's two working languages - English and French.

7. It is important for candidates to be able to devote the necessary time to take part in the Group's activities and to receive material and financial support from their parliament to that end. It is recalled that the Advisory Group holds three meetings a year (at the two annual IPU Assemblies and during the annual Parliamentary Hearing at UN Headquarters in New York). It also carries out one mission each year. Moreover, members of the Advisory Group are expected to participate actively in the regular sessions of the Committee on United Nations Affairs, held during the second Assembly of the year.

8. Geopolitical groups are invited to consult their members and to submit candidatures by Tuesday, 3 April, at noon. A detailed CV, highlighting relevant experiences, should accompany candidatures.