



C-III/128/C
15 January 2013

CONVOCATION

THIRD STANDING COMMITTEE - DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Quito

23, 25 and 26 March 2013

1. In conformity with the decision taken by the IPU governing bodies, the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights will meet during the 128th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to debate item 6 of the Assembly agenda, *The use of media, including social media, to enhance citizen engagement and democracy.*

Dates and place of meetings

2. The Committee will meet in the San Francisco Convention Centre, the venue of the 128th Assembly and all other related meetings.

3. The Committee will meet in the afternoon of Sunday 24 March, to debate the main theme on its agenda. The report and the preliminary draft resolution prepared by the co-Rapporteurs have been circulated to all Members, and are currently available on the IPU website (<http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/128agnd.htm>). The Committee will appoint a drafting committee, which will meet in the afternoon of Monday 25 March, to consider and finalize the draft resolution, based on the amendments received from Members by the statutory deadline of 8 March 2013. A last sitting of the Standing Committee will be held in the morning of Tuesday 26 March to adopt the Resolution and take a number of decisions regarding preparations for the 130th IPU Assembly and the composition of the Standing Committee Bureau.

4. In light of the efforts currently under way to enhance the functioning of the Standing Committees and their Bureaux, a joint Meeting of the Standing Committees' Bureaux will be held on Friday 22 March from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. It is very important for all members of the Bureaux (both titular and substitute) to be part of their national delegations to the Quito Assembly and attend this meeting.

5. The Bureau of the Third Standing Committee will then meet on Monday 25 March, from 4.30 to 6.30 p.m., to consider its own work programme.

Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Approval of the summary records of the Committee's session held on the occasion of the 126th IPU Assembly in Kampala (April 2012)
3. *The use of media, including social media, to enhance citizen engagement and democracy*
 - (a) Presentation of the report and the preliminary draft resolution prepared by the co-Rapporteurs, followed by a debate
 - (b) Preparation and adoption of a draft resolution
 - (c) Appointment of a rapporteur to the 128th Assembly
4. Preparations for the 130th Assembly
 - (a) Proposals for a subject item to be considered by the Committee
 - (b) Proposals for two co-Rapporteurs
5. Election of the Bureau of the Third Standing Committee
6. Any other business

Representation and voting rights

6. In conformity with Rule 2 of the Rules of the Standing Committees, the Members of the IPU shall be represented on each Standing Committee by one member and one substitute.
7. 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).

Organization of the debate

8. The IPU'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 recognize speakers requesting the floor once the debate has begun.
9. A panel discussion on the issue under consideration by the Third Standing Committee already took place at 127th IPU Assembly (Québec City, October 2012) and dealt with general aspects of the subject. The summary records of that panel discussion will be available on the IPU website at: <http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/128agnd.htm>. At the 128th Assembly, the Third Standing Committee will be called upon to pursue the debate in greater detail, identifying issues and proposing appropriate solutions.
10. The IPU's governing bodies have also decided that statements should be limited to 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 he or she may have to restrict the speaking time in view of the number of speakers and length of the session.

Documents

11. 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 126th Assembly.

12. 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 128th Assembly (document A/128/C.3). Please note that, in accordance with the Rules of the Assembly and the Rules of the Standing Committees, amendments to the draft resolution must be deposited with the Secretariat of the Assembly no later than 15 days before the opening of the Assembly, i.e. Friday 8 March 2013. Sub-amendments may be submitted until the Standing Committee adopts the draft resolution intended for the Assembly (Assembly Rule 17.2).

Election of the Bureau

13. 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.

14. The role of the Bureau is critical to the proper functioning of the Standing Committee. The Bureau meets at every Assembly and fulfils a number of statutory functions, including the consideration of proposals submitted by IPU Members for the subject items and of candidatures for the co-Rapporteurs at future Assemblies. Bureau members should therefore be knowledgeable about specific issues falling within the purview of the respective Standing Committee. Every effort should be made to ensure that members of the Bureau, both titular and substitute, participate in all statutory Assemblies during their terms of office.

15. In conformity with the Rules of the Standing Committees, Committee office-holders shall be elected or re-elected at the first annual session of the Assembly by an absolute majority of the votes cast. Committee office-holders shall not be eligible for re-election to the same post, either as titular or substitute members, after four years in office.

16. All current members of the Bureau of the Third Standing Committee (both titular and substitute) are eligible for re-election, (cf. Rule 8.1) at the Quito session.

President:	Mr. Osei Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu (Ghana)	<i>African Group</i>
First Vice-President:	Mr. Sergey Gavrilov (Russian Federation)	<i>Eurasia Group</i>
Vice-Presidents:	TITULAR	SUBSTITUTE
<i>African Group</i>	<i>Current President</i>	Mrs. Philomène Fouty-Soungou (Congo)
<i>Arab Group</i>	Ms. Jameela Nassif (Bahrain)	Mr. Rafea Abdul-Jabbar (Iraq)
<i>Asia-Pacific Group</i>	Vacancy	Mr. Riaz Fatyana (Pakistan)
<i>Eurasia Group</i>	<i>Current First Vice-President</i>	Vacancy
<i>Latin American Group</i>	Mr. Juan Manuel Galán (Colombia)	Vacancy
<i>Twelve Plus Group</i>	Vacancy	Vacancy

Proposals for the subject item and the co-Rapporteurs for the 130th Assembly

17. The Members of the IPU are invited to submit to the IPU Secretariat their proposals for the subject item to be discussed by the Third Standing Committee at the 130th Assembly. The deadline for the submission of proposals is 5 p.m. on Sunday 24 March. Authors of the proposals are invited to make a presentation to the Bureau at its meeting on Monday 25 March, at 4.30 p.m.

18. As far as possible, each proposal should be accompanied by the names of two prospective co-Rapporteurs who are knowledgeable about the proposed subject and ready to assume the responsibility for drafting the corresponding report and draft resolution. It is important to keep in mind that as the co-Rapporteurs will be working closely together they should be in a position to communicate directly. All texts submitted to the Secretariat must in one of the IPU's two official languages, English or French.

19. From the start of the Assembly, Committee Bureau members will be expected to carry out consultations with delegations and the geopolitical groups concerning the choice of subject items for the 130th Assembly.

20. At its meeting on Monday 25 March, the Bureau of the Third Standing Committee will consider relevant proposals taking into account the presentations made by the authors of the respective proposal and the views of the geopolitical groups. The Bureau will submit a proposal to the Committee in plenary at its final sitting on 26 March. The Committee's proposal for the subject item and the candidatures of co-Rapporteurs for the 130th Assembly will then be submitted for approval by the Assembly at its last sitting on Wednesday 27 March.