



129th ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 7 – 9.10.2013

GRP/2013/Inf.6
2 September 2013

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

As the 129th IPU Assembly approaches (Geneva, 7-9 October), I am pleased to give you a brief update on the status of preparations.

Concept notes for the various sessions have been finalized and are available on the Assembly webpage at <http://www.ipu.org/Conf-e/129agnd.htm>. Background notes on the subject items under consideration by the Standing Committees have been prepared by the co-Rapporteurs and will be posted on the IPU website in the coming days.

The IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs will be meeting throughout the Assembly, with several senior UN officials confirmed to participate. For the first time, the IPU will be working directly with the United Nations Security Council on convening a special session. This will focus on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors, an issue of particular relevance in the context of the alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria. The Chairman of Security Council Committee 1540 will be travelling from New York to join us for this important event, and we are encouraging all IPU Members to actively participate.

I also wish to draw your attention to a series of post-Assembly events which are scheduled to take place on 10 October and for which concept notes are either posted on the website or in the process of being finalized. These include:

- The annual joint IPU-ASGP meeting, which will deal with the issue of Managing conflict between parliaments and the courts;
- The annual Information seminar on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol;
- A round-table discussion on Parliamentarians, a critical force in promoting the abolition of the death penalty (marking World Day against the Death Penalty).

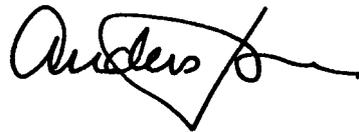
As you are aware, on 7 July the IPU Secretariat circulated a series of draft amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules, based on the decisions recently adopted by the Governing Council concerning the format of the IPU Assemblies and the functioning of the IPU Standing Committees and their Bureaux. While the deadline for submitting sub-amendments to the Statutes has passed, sub-amendments to the Rules of the Assembly and Standing Committees are receivable until 7 September 2013.

A joint meeting of the Bureaux of the Standing Committees, to which the Chairs of the geo-political groups have also been invited, will take place on Sunday, 6 October. This meeting will be important, as the Standing Committees seek to establish more comprehensive work plans and restructure their Bureaux. In addition, I kindly invite all delegations that have not yet done so to respond to the Questionnaire sent out on 5 July on Members' participation in the IPU and follow-up of resolutions – <http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/129/followup.pdf>.

Lastly, I wish to refer to the 130th IPU Assembly. As you are aware, the Governing Council in Quito decided to accept the invitation of Azerbaijan to host this Assembly, pending formal assurances from the Government that all registered participants would receive entry visas. In the absence of the specific guarantees requested by the IPU, the Executive Committee has unanimously concluded that the 130th Assembly can unfortunately not be held in Baku. The 130th Assembly will therefore take place in Geneva from 17 to 20 March 2014. Please note that the new dates are based on the availability of the International Conference Centre (CICG) in Geneva.

I look forward to welcoming you soon in Geneva.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anders B. Johnsson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General