



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

135th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 23 – 27.10.2016

No. 1

JOURNAL¹ Sunday, 23 October 2016

Time	Meeting	Place
8.30 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Salle Genève CCV Annexe, CIGG (in camera)
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Forum of Women Parliamentarians	Room 2 level 0, CIGG
11 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.	♦ Discussion on gender activities at the 135 th Assembly	
11.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	♦ Discussion on Assembly agenda item <i>The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective</i> The discussion will take place in two groups.	
11.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Meeting of Chairpersons of Geopolitical Groups and Presidents of Standing Committees	Salle Genève CCV Annexe, CIGG (in camera)
2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law	Salle Genève CCV Annexe, CIGG (in camera)
2.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Forum of Women Parliamentarians	Room 2 level 0, CIGG
2.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.	Panel discussion on <i>Securing the rights and future of women and girls during war and conflict</i>	
2.30 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians	Salle Lausanne CCV Annexe, CIGG (in camera)
4.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Meeting of Advisers and Secretaries to delegations	Rooms 5 & 6 level 3, CIGG

*
* *

GENERAL DEBATE – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Seating arrangements in view of high attendance – Plenary Hall (Room 1). On the basis of seats available at desks, most delegations will be allocated four seats (two at desks). Members entitled to 10-MP delegations will have a total of six seats (three at desks). Delegations with six or more MPs, led by a Speaker of Parliament, will have one additional desk seat. Single-member delegations and Observers will have one desk seat.

Interpretation. Delegates may, exceptionally, use another language provided that they arrange for their speech to be interpreted into one of the IPU's official languages by a member of their delegation who will be given access to an interpretation booth. To allow for all necessary arrangements to be made in good time, delegations should contact, well in advance, the Chief Interpreter (Ms. F. Steinig-Huang) through the English booth interpreters assigned to the meeting at which the speech will be delivered. Moreover, eight copies of the translation of the speech into one of the IPU's official languages should be given to the Chief Interpreter or to the English booth for distribution to the other interpreters. Electronic copies of speeches should be e-mailed in PDF format to speeches@ipu.org, a minimum of three hours before the speech is to be made, so as to also ensure a high quality of simultaneous interpretation into the other working languages.

Publication of speeches: As far as possible, the texts of official statements delivered in the General Debate will be published on the Assembly web page and be part of the records of the Assembly. Due to technical limitations, only speeches in English, French and Spanish will be published. Please note that the IPU Secretariat is not in a position to translate the texts of speeches.

¹ Information as at 6 p.m. on 22 October.

Preview of main programme for Monday, 24 October

9 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.	Governing Council	Room 1 level 1, CIGC
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU – Contribution to the work of the 135 th Assembly – Recent developments on youth participation at country level – Forum's workplan and activities (2016-2017) – Q&A with representatives of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians on the occasion of its 40 th anniversary – Preparations for the 136 th Assembly	Room 2 level 0, CIGC
9.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights – Presentation and debate of the draft resolution on <i>The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective</i>	Rooms 3 & 4 level 0, CIGC
2.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.	– Drafting of the resolution in plenary	
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Assembly – Start of the General Debate on <i>Human rights abuses as precursors of conflict: Parliaments as early responders</i> – Special guest speakers: › Mr. Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva › Ms. Fawzia Koofi, MP (Afghanistan), member of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians	Room 1 level 1, CIGC
2.30 p.m. – 5.15 p.m.	– Continuation of the General Debate	
5.15 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.	– Decision on the emergency item	
2.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Standing Committee on Peace and International Security Expert hearing on <i>The role of parliament in preventing outside interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States</i>	Room 2 level 0, CIGC
6.30 p.m.	Reception hosted by Switzerland * * * *	Events area level 1, CIGC

OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Monday, 24 October 2016

12 noon – 2 p.m.	Side event on <i>Leaving no one behind: Parliaments at the forefront of protecting women's, children's and adolescents' health in migration crises, including in humanitarian and fragile settings</i> , organized by the IPU, WHO and The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH). A light lunch will be provided.	Room 18 level -1, CIGC (<u>English and French only</u>)
------------------	---	---

Tuesday, 25 October 2016

9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	Information session on the IPU's work and activities, open to all delegates	Room 2 level 0, CIGC (<u>English and French only</u>)
1 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.	Side event on <i>The role of parliaments in implementing the Paris Agreement</i> , jointly organized by the IPU and International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) A light lunch will be provided.	Room 15 level -1, CIGC (<u>English only</u>)
2.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Side event on <i>E-Parliament: Online voting in a parliamentary context</i> , organized by the Twelve Plus Group	Rooms 3 & 4 level 0, CIGC (<u>English and French only</u>)
2.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.	Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade – Segment on <i>Parliamentary contribution to the 2016 UN Climate Change Conference</i> – Debate on <i>Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the SDGs, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development</i>	Room 2 level 0, CIGC

3 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	During the Assembly: Special session to mark the 40 th anniversary of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, including a Q&A debate and film screening	Room 1 level 1, CICG
4.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.	Informal panel discussion on <i>How to reconcile growing military expenditures with the realization of our sustainable development commitments</i> , jointly organized by the IPU and the International Peace Bureau	Rooms 3 & 4 level 0, CIGC (<u>English and French only</u>)
Wednesday, 26 October 2016		
	Standing Committee on Peace and International Security Panel discussions on:	Room 1 level 1, CIGC
9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m. 10.30 a.m. – 12 noon	– <i>Promoting democratic accountability of the private security sector</i> – <i>Comprehensive disarmament</i>	
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs Panel discussions on:	Rooms 3 & 4 level 0, CIGC
	– <i>Funding the United Nations</i> – <i>The UN response to allegations of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse by UN peacekeepers</i>	
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Parity debate on <i>Harassment and violence against parliamentarians: Issues and solutions</i> , organized by the Forum of Women Parliamentarians	Room 2 level 0, CIGC
	– Presentation of the <i>Issues brief on sexism, harassment and violence against women parliamentarians</i> – Marking of the 40 th anniversary of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians	
2.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.	Open session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law Panel debate on <i>Refugees, migrants and their hosts – What next?</i>	Salle Genève CCV Annexe, CIGC
3 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	During the Assembly: Special segment and launch of the publication <i>Human Rights – Handbook for Parliamentarians N° 26</i> (English version only – French and Spanish will be published shortly), produced jointly by the IPU and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	Room 1 level 1, CIGC
4.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.	Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade Panel discussion on <i>The role of parliaments in countering the activities of vulture funds</i>	Room 2 level 0, CIGC
Thursday, 27 October 2016		
10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	Side event for African Parliaments on <i>Putting into practice the recommendations of the Abidjan seminar on the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)</i>	Salle Genève CCV Annexe, CIGC (<u>English and French only</u>)
10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	Panel discussion on <i>How parliaments change: Developing recommendations for strengthening parliamentary oversight</i> , jointly organized by the IPU and the ASGP	Rooms 3 & 4 level 0, CIGC
11 a.m.	During the Governing Council: Launch of the publication <i>International Humanitarian Law – Handbook for Parliamentarians N° 25</i> , produced jointly by the IPU and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Room 1 level 1, CIGC
12.30 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Side event on <i>Nuclear-weapon-free zones and regional security in the Middle East, North-East Asia and Europe</i> , co-sponsored by the IPU, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) and the World Future Council	Room 18 level -1, CIGC (<u>English, French and Arabic</u>)

OTHER INFORMATION

- ♦ **Assembly App:** As part of the IPU's PaperSmart policy, an application has been created to facilitate the online consultation of Assembly documents. A user manual is available at <http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/135/app-manual.pdf> and at the Registration and Information Desk. If you would like a personal invitation to download the App, send an email to sas@ipu.org.
- ♦ **Print-on-demand service:** This service is available at the Typing Pool and Photocopying Service for those delegates who wish to obtain additional copies of any documents published on the IPU Assembly web page.
- ♦ **40th anniversary of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians at the 135th IPU Assembly:** Special events to mark this occasion include a Q&A session featuring personal testimonies, a photo exhibition, debates and the launch of the publication *Human Rights: Handbook for Parliamentarians N° 26*. Details of the events can be found in document [A/135/3/Inf.2](#).
- ♦ **List of participants:** Delegations are reminded that the [provisional list of participants](#) has been published on the IPU Assembly web page and that only a limited number of printed copies are available. In order to ensure the accuracy of the final list of participants, delegations are kindly requested to report any changes to Ms. Marina Filippin at the Registration Desk by **12 noon on Wednesday, 26 October 2016**. The final list of participants will be published on the IPU website.
- ♦ **IPU gift items:** IPU logo gift items will be on sale at a stand located on level 0 of the CICG, near the coffee bar. The stand will be open from Monday, 24 to Wednesday, 26 October, between 12 noon and 2 p.m. Please note that only cash in Swiss francs (CHF) will be accepted.
- ♦ **Alfred Fried Photography Award exhibition "What does peace look like?":** Delegates are invited to the opening of the exhibition on Monday, 24 October at 2 p.m. by its Austrian hosts. The exhibition is on display on level 1 of the CICG, at the top of the escalator, until 27 October.
- ♦ **Photo shoot for the IPU's new website:** Current and new members of IPU Working Groups and Committees are kindly invited to a photo shoot for the IPU's new website (<https://beta.ipu.org>). Please go to the Publications Stand on the ground floor (close to the coffee bar) from Monday, 24 to Thursday, 27 October, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., and ask for Ms. Silvia Tomanin or Ms. Suroor Alikhan.

*
* *

MEDIA INFORMATION



Join in the discussions at the Assembly on **Twitter** using #IPU135 (www.twitter.com/ipuparliament). Follow IPU on @IPUparliament, the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians on #WomenMPs and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians on #YoungMPs.



Photos from the Assembly are available for free download and use at <http://www.ipu.org/135pics>. Please credit: Inter-Parliamentary Union.

*** For all media enquiries, contact Ms. Jean Milligan or Mr. Fernando Puchol ***
*** (Office 212/213, level 2, CICG, tel. 022 791 97 12) ***

*
* *

VACANCIES TO BE FILLED AT THE 135th ASSEMBLY

For more detailed information, please see [Vacancies](#) document. For all vacancies, candidatures should be accompanied by a signed letter and a brief (one-page maximum) curriculum vitae.

FORUM OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

At its meeting today, Sunday, 23 October 2016, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians will fill the following **three** vacancies in its Bureau: one regional representative each for the Asia-Pacific Group, the Eurasia Group and the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC).

The geopolitical groups concerned are encouraged to submit candidatures by 1 p.m. today.

FORUM OF YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE IPU

At its meeting on Monday, 24 October, the Forum will fill the following **four** vacancies on its Board: one member (female) each for the Arab Group and Eurasia Group; and two members (one female and one male) for the Twelve Plus Group (end of terms: March 2017).

The geopolitical groups concerned are encouraged to submit candidatures, preferably of the youngest members of parliament, by 3 p.m. today.

On 27 October 2016, the Governing Council will hold elections and make appointments as outlined below. Candidatures may be submitted to the Submission and Control of Documents Service (Office 224/225, level 2, CICG) up to 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 26 October 2016.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Governing Council will be required to elect **three members**: one member each for the African Group, the Asia-Pacific Group and GRULAC.

To date the following candidatures have been received:

- Ms. M.I. Valente (Angola): candidature submitted by the National Assembly of Angola (to complete the term of Angola);
- Mr. Nguyen Van Giau (Viet Nam): candidature submitted by the National Assembly of Viet Nam (to complete the term of Viet Nam);
- Ms. M.Y. Ferrer Gómez (Cuba): candidature submitted by the National Assembly of Cuba;
- Mr. J.P. Letelier (Chile): candidature submitted by the National Congress of Chile.

COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

The Governing Council will be required to elect **one member**.

Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

The Governing Council will be required to elect **three members**: one member (male) each for the Arab Group and the Eurasia Group; and one member (female) for GRULAC.

APPOINTMENT OF TWO INTERNAL AUDITORS FOR THE 2017 ACCOUNTS

The Governing Council will appoint **two Internal Auditors** for the 2017 fiscal year.

* * *

STANDING COMMITTEE BUREAUX

Elections to the Bureaux will take place as outlined below.

Candidatures from the respective geopolitical groups, which should highlight the candidate's experience in the relevant field, may be submitted up to the time of the elections, which will take place at the last sitting of each of the Committees. Only the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights will hold its elections at its first sitting (Monday, 24 October). As a result, the geopolitical groups concerned are encouraged to submit candidatures by close of business today, Sunday, 23 October 2016.

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

Five vacancies: Three vacancies for the African Group, to be filled by men and women; and two vacancies for the Asia-Pacific Group, at least one of which must be filled by a woman.

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

Two vacancies: One vacancy for the Eurasia Group, to be filled by a man; and one vacancy for GRULAC, to be filled by a man or a woman.

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

Five vacancies: One vacancy each for the African Group (to be filled by a woman), the Asia-Pacific Group (to be filled by a man or a woman) and GRULAC (to be filled by a man or a woman); and two vacancies for the Eurasia Group, at least one of which must be filled by a woman.

The candidature of Mr. A.Y. Desai (India) was submitted by the Asia-Pacific Group after the Standing Committee completed its work at the 134th Assembly in March 2016.

The Standing Committee will elect its new President (from the African Group) and Vice-President from among the members of the Bureau.

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

One vacancy for the Asia-Pacific Group, to be filled by a man or a woman.

* * *