



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

137th IPU Assembly

St. Petersburg, Russian Federation
14–18 October 2017



Convocation

A/137/C.1
14 June 2017

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

The 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and related meetings will be held at the Tavrishesky Palace and the Parliamentary Centre in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, from Saturday, 14 to Wednesday, 18 October 2017.

We are pleased to enclose detailed information on these meetings. We hope that your Parliament will be represented at the 137th Assembly and that the delegation, under your leadership, will take an active part in the proceedings.

Yours sincerely,

Martin CHUNGONG
Secretary General

Saber CHOWDHURY
President

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#IPU137

INFORMATION ON THE ASSEMBLY

AGENDA

1. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 137th Assembly
2. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
3. General Debate on *Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue*
4. Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy (*Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights*)
5. Reports of the Standing Committees on Peace and International Security, Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade and United Nations Affairs
6. Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 139th IPU Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs

TIMETABLE

The Timetable of the Assembly and related meetings is set out in **Annex 1**. The Inaugural Ceremony will take place on Saturday, 14 October at 7.30 p.m., at ExpoForum in St. Petersburg.

The Governing Council will convene on 15 and 18 October and will consider and take decisions on a host of matters relating to the functioning and activities of the IPU. The convocation of the 201st session of the IPU Governing Council is attached.

The Assembly will start its General Debate on 15 October with the high-level segment reserved for Speakers of Parliament. At its sittings on 17 and 18 October, the Assembly will adopt resolutions on the emergency item and on the subject item taken up by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights. The Assembly is expected to conclude its business by 6 p.m. on Wednesday, 18 October.

The Governor of St. Petersburg will host a reception for all heads of delegation, in the evening of 18 October at the Yusupovsky Palace.

VENUE

There will be two sites for the St. Petersburg Assembly. Most meetings will take place at the Tavrichesky Palace. The ASGP meeting and some sittings of the Standing Committees will be held at the Parliamentary Centre. A regular shuttle (every 15 minutes) will run between the two sites to enable delegates to be at their meetings on time.

EMERGENCY ITEM

According to Assembly Rule 11.1 and Article 14.2 of the IPU Statutes, any Member of the IPU may request the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda. If the Assembly so decides, the emergency item will be debated by the Assembly in the morning of Monday, 16 October 2017. Provision has also been made for a drafting committee to meet in the afternoon that same day in order to prepare a draft resolution. The Assembly will then adopt a resolution on 17 October 2017.

All requests for inclusion of an emergency item must relate to a recent major situation of international concern, on which urgent action by the international community is required and on which it is appropriate for the IPU to express its opinion and mobilize a parliamentary response. All proposals for an emergency item should be accompanied by a brief explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution, which clearly define the scope of the subject covered by the request.

STANDING COMMITTEES

All four Standing Committees will meet during the 137th IPU Assembly.

The Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights will discuss and adopt a resolution on the subject item *Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy*.

The other three Standing Committees will hold hearings and panel discussions on the basis of recommendations from their respective Bureaux. The draft agendas of the Standing Committees are attached.

Member Parliaments are kindly reminded that Bureau members and other IPU office-holders should be included in the national delegations to the Assembly.

PARTICIPATION

IPU Members may appoint a maximum of eight delegates, or 10 for parliaments of countries with a population of 100 million inhabitants or more. The number of additional MPs accompanying delegations as Advisers must not exceed two.

All Member Parliaments are encouraged to strive for gender parity in the composition of their delegations. Any delegation which, for three consecutive sessions of the Assembly, is composed exclusively of parliamentarians of the same sex will automatically be reduced by one person.

Member Parliaments are also encouraged to include in their delegation young members of parliament, i.e. below 45 years of age. The IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians will meet on 15 October 2017. Among other things, the Forum will formulate and provide input to the deliberations of the Assembly.

In addition to the Secretaries General who will attend the regular session of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP), Members are encouraged to include professional parliamentary staff (IPU focal points) in their delegations, with a view to ensuring adequate support during and in follow-up to the Assembly (in particular in terms of meeting the statutory obligation by Members to prepare and disseminate reports on action undertaken on IPU decisions and resolutions).

IPU Members whose arrears equal or exceed the amount of the contributions due from them for the preceding two full years will not be represented by more than two delegates at meetings of the IPU (Article 5.2 of the Statutes), nor will they be entitled to vote.

Associate Members may participate in the Assembly and its Standing Committees with the same rights as Members, with the exception of the right to vote and to present candidates for elective office.

International organizations and other bodies invited by the Governing Council to be represented at the Assembly as Observers are reminded that they are entitled to register a maximum of two delegates.

The Plenary Hall, where the meetings of the Assembly and Governing Council will be held, has limited seating capacity. Additional seating is available in the Dumsky Hall Gallery on the first floor. The Secretariat will allocate seats for all delegations taking into account the total number of participants in the Assembly. At a minimum, each delegation of a Member Parliament will be allocated a sufficient number of seats required for a possible vote by the Assembly or Governing Council.

STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee of the Assembly is composed of the President of the Assembly, the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Vice-President of the Executive Committee. The Presidents of the Standing Committees may take part in the work of the Steering Committee in an advisory capacity.

The Steering Committee, assisted by the IPU Secretary General, is mandated to take all appropriate measures to ensure the effective organization and smooth running of the Assembly proceedings. The first sitting of the Steering Committee is scheduled for the early morning of Sunday, 15 October 2017.

VACANCIES TO BE FILLED DURING THE 137th ASSEMBLY

On 18 October 2017, the Governing Council will hold an election by secret ballot for the new IPU President. Candidatures, accompanied by a signed covering letter and a brief curriculum vitae, may be submitted up to Tuesday, 17 October, at 2.30 p.m. A detailed Note on the election of the IPU President is available in **Annex 2**.

A provisional list of vacancies for IPU bodies will be posted on the IPU website prior to the opening of the Assembly.

Member Parliaments, especially new Members and Members currently not holding IPU offices are encouraged to consider submitting candidatures for the main committees and bodies of the IPU (<http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/comtees.htm>). Candidates should have the expertise, as far as possible, in the areas of work of the given bodies, and should be supported by their respective parliament in carrying out their functions as IPU office-holders.

As the meeting of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians will be held on Saturday, 14 October, all geopolitical groups are urged to schedule their meetings on Friday, 13 October, or at another time which does not conflict with the meeting of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. The Forum's draft agenda is attached.

A joint meeting of the Chairpersons of the Geopolitical Groups and Presidents of the Standing Committees will take place on Saturday, 14 October, from 11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Secretaries of the Geopolitical Groups and Standing Committees are also invited to attend the meeting.

PREPARATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND SELECTION OF AGENDA ITEMS

The calendar pertaining to the preparation of the resolution of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights is as follows:

1-2 June 2017	Working meeting between the rapporteurs in Geneva
1 July 2017	Deadline for the rapporteurs to submit the draft resolution and explanatory memorandum to the IPU Secretariat
30 September 2017	Deadline for Member parliaments to submit proposals for amendments to the draft resolution
14-17 October 2017	Committee debates, amends and adopts the draft resolution; Co-Rapporteurs present the draft resolution and provide advice during the drafting process
18 October 2017	137 th IPU Assembly formally adopts the resolutions

All Members can contribute to the drafting of resolutions by submitting a brief written input (Article 13.1 of the Rules of the Standing Committees). The deadline for written input to the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights has passed (30 April 2017). Members are encouraged to submit input for the draft resolutions to be adopted by the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security on *Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development*, and by the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade at the 138th IPU Assembly (March 2018), on *Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy*. Written input to these draft resolutions is welcome no later than 29 September 2017.

In accordance with the Rules of the Standing Committees, proposals for subject items to be taken up by Standing Committees should be submitted up to one day prior to the meeting of the respective Standing Committee Bureau. As such, Members wishing to do so should submit to the IPU Secretariat by 15 October 2017 at the latest their proposals for subject items to be taken up by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights.

Those proposals will serve as the basis for consultations by the respective Standing Committee Bureaux before a final decision is taken by the Standing Committee. When considering the proposals for subject items to be discussed at future Assemblies, the Bureau may recommend one of the proposals, combine two or more of them dealing with the same subject or related subjects into a single item, put forward another subject item or decide to submit more than one proposal to the Standing Committee.

GENERAL DEBATE (Item 3 of the agenda)

The General Debate at the 137th Assembly will focus on the overall theme of *Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue*. A concept note on this theme will be posted on the Assembly webpage in due course.

In accordance with the Assembly Rules and unless the Steering Committee decides otherwise, every delegation is entitled to eight minutes speaking time in the General Debate. When two speakers from the same delegation are registered for the Debate, the eight minutes will be shared as appropriate. By decision of the IPU Governing Council, the speaking time for Observers will be five minutes.

In light of the growing membership of the IPU (and implicitly the growing number of speakers in the General Debate), as well as of the difficulties in time management experienced at recent Assemblies, the Steering Committee may consider limiting speaking time in the General Debate (seven minutes for Members and four minutes for Observers).

Registration will take place at the speakers' registration desk, situated just outside the main entrance to the Plenary Hall (Dumsky Hall) on the ground floor of the Tavrichesky Palace. This desk will open 24 hours before the beginning of the first plenary of the Assembly, on Saturday, 14 October at 11 a.m.

Members may also send the names of their speaker(s) in advance to the IPU Secretariat by e-mail or fax, using the attached "Speakers pre-registration form" (**Annex 3**). As per established practice, the order of speakers will be determined by a public drawing of lots at 6 p.m. on Saturday, 14 October 2017 (cf. Rule 23.2 of the Rules of the Assembly).

VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE ASSEMBLY

According to Assembly Rule 7.3, all delegations from Member Parliaments are entitled to designate one of their members as a Vice-President of the Assembly. Some of them will be called upon to replace the President of the Assembly during a sitting or part of a sitting.

Upon arrival at the IPU Registration Desk in St. Petersburg, delegations are invited to indicate the name of the parliamentarian nominated as a Vice-President of the Assembly. Alternatively, names may be submitted to the Documents Submission and Control Service (IPU Secretariat offices, ground floor of the Tavrichesky Palace), by Saturday, 14 October 2017, at the latest.

TABLE SHOWING THE ALLOCATION OF VOTES

A provisional table showing the votes allocated to delegations to the 137th Assembly is contained in **Annex 4**.

Member Parliaments are kindly requested to check the figures against their country name and, if necessary, inform the IPU Secretariat in Geneva in writing of any modifications required, preferably ahead of the Assembly. The final table showing the allocation of votes at the Assembly will be distributed at the opening of the session.

LANGUAGES AND DOCUMENTATION

The IPU Secretariat will provide simultaneous interpretation in the IPU Assembly's working languages (Arabic, English, French and Spanish) at the meetings of all statutory bodies.

Four other interpretation channels have been reserved for Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese and Russian at sittings of the Assembly and the Governing Council, and for some sittings of the Standing Committees. These booths are provided free of charge and may be used by the interpretation teams for these languages.

Delegates may, exceptionally, use another language provided that they arrange for their speech to be interpreted into one of the IPU's official languages (English and French) by a person designated by them, 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) or 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

The texts of official statements delivered in the General Debate will be published on the Assembly webpage and will be part of the records of the Assembly. Due to technical limitations, only speeches in English, French and Spanish will be posted.

Documentation pertaining to the work of the Assembly, Governing Council, Standing Committees and other IPU bodies, as well as other events taking place during the 137th Assembly, will be available on the IPU website at: www.ipu.org/conf-e/137agnd.htm, as well as on the Assembly App.

In keeping with the decision by the IPU Governing Bodies to reduce the carbon footprint of the Organization and continue to curb paper waste, only a limited number of documentation sets will be printed for the various sittings of the Assembly.

ASSEMBLY APP

The 137th Assembly App will be available for downloading free of charge, in early September 2017.

An App Help Desk will be available at the Assembly venue. The Desk will assist delegates in downloading and using the App. It is located close to the Ekaterininsky Hall on the ground floor of the Tavrichesky Palace and will be open from 9 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. from 13 to 18 October 2017.

A short users' manual in English and French will be posted on the website and distributed, upon request, at the Registration and Information Desk.

The App is intended to allow the online consultation of official IPU documents as part of the IPU's paper smart policy and to facilitate delegates' participation in IPU Assemblies.

MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES

The following IPU bodies will also meet during the Assembly:

- Executive Committee (12, 13 and 17 October, *closed meeting*);
- Sub-Committee on Finance (11 October, *closed meeting*);
- Forum of Women Parliamentarians (14 October, *public sittings*);
- Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU (15 October, *public sitting*);
- Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU (15 October, *closed meeting*);
- Bureau of Women Parliamentarians (14 and 18 October, *closed meeting*);
- Gender Partnership Group (13 and 17 October, *closed meeting*);
- Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (13 to 17 October, *closed meeting*);
- Committee on Middle East Questions (14 and 16 October, *in camera*);
- Group of Facilitators for Cyprus (14 October, *closed meeting*);
- Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) (17 October, *closed meeting*);
- Open session of the IHL Committee (17 October, *public sitting*);
- Advisory Group on Health (17 October, *closed meeting*, English only).

The Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP) will meet at the Parliamentary Centre.

RESULTS OF THE ASSEMBLY

All delegations will receive two printed copies of the *Results* of the 137th Assembly. In addition, the document will become accessible on the IPU website two weeks after the close of the Assembly, when a complete electronic version can be downloaded in PDF format.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Further information concerning the session will be provided in the Assembly Guidebook that will be distributed to delegations upon registration in St. Petersburg. Delegates will also find the Assembly Journal every day in all meeting rooms and at the Registration and Information Desk, as well as on the

IPU website (www.ipu.org/conf-e/137agnd.htm) and on the Assembly App. The Journal provides the latest updates on the programme of meetings and other important information.

REGISTRATION AND VISAS

All delegations are requested to respect the registration deadline of 3 October 2017.

They should kindly use the IPU online registration system. **Annex 5** provides instructions on how to use the system, which will be operational as of 19 June 2017. It is recommended that only one person be designated as the delegation coordinator and have access to the system.

In the event of difficulties, delegations may contact the registration service at postbox@ipu.org. If for any reason a Parliament is unable to register online, the composition of its delegation may be transmitted by either e-mail or fax (+41 22 919 41 60).

The Registration and Information Desk will be open at the Tavrishesky Palace as of Wednesday, 11 October from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and from 12 to 17 October from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., as well as on Wednesday, 18 October from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Assembly badges will bear delegates' photos. Therefore, colour photographs with a resolution of 480x640 pixels or higher in JPEG (jpg) format, 300 dpi, for all individual participants should be sent via email to: info@ipu137russia.org by 1 September 2017. The file name must contain the name of the participant, as well as the participant's title and country name.

The General information document provided by the host Parliament contains detailed information concerning **visa applications**.

DELEGATES' STAY IN ST. PETERSBURG

For all logistical matters relating to delegates' stay in St. Petersburg, such as welcome service, hotel reservations, etc., delegations are invited to use the website set up by the Parliament of the Russian Federation for the 137th Assembly at: www.ipu137russia.org.

The General Information document, sent with the invitation by the Parliament of the Russian Federation, contains details on delegates' stay in St. Petersburg. Additional information, including options for online hotel reservations, is also available on the host Parliament's website. Requests for hotel reservations should be made as soon as possible. Delegations are reminded that, in keeping with IPU practice, the costs of international travel and hotel accommodation are to be borne by their respective institutions.


Additional information and assistance can be readily obtained from the National Secretariat of the Parliament of the Russian Federation at:

26, B. Dmitrovka str.,	Telephone	:	+ 7 495 697 59 52
Parliament Secretariat	Fax	:	+ 7 495 697 98 40
Moscow, 103426	E-mail	:	cfipo@yandex.ru
Russian Federation	Website	:	www.ipu137russia.org

The Russian Parliament shall provide assistance on matters regarding the booking of accommodation and visa applications. All communications concerning these matters should therefore be sent directly to the Parliament.

GENERAL TIMETABLE OF THE 137th ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS
St. Petersburg, 14 to 18 October 2017






Wednesday, 11 October 2017

	09.00 – 18.00	Beginning of Registration <i>Annexe building, next to main entrance to Tavrichesky Palace</i>
	11.00 – 13.00 15.00 – 18.00	Sub-Committee on Finance* <i>Reading Room (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>

Thursday, 12 October 2017

	10.00 – 13.00 15.00 – 18.00	Executive Committee* <i>Reading Room (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>
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Friday, 13 October 2017

	09.00 – 10.00	Gender Partnership Group* <i>Reading Room (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>
	09.30 – 13.00	Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians* <i>Hall no. 16 (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>
	10.00 – 13.00	Executive Committee* <i>Reading Room (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>
	14.30 – 18.00	Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians* <i>Hall no. 16 (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>
	15.00 – 18.00	Executive Committee* <i>Reading Room (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>

Saturday, 14 October 2017

	09.00 – 10.00	Bureau of Women Parliamentarians* <i>Reading Room (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>
	10.00 – 11.00	Meeting of Advisers and Secretaries to delegations <i>Hall no. 1 (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>
	10.00 – 11.30	Group of Facilitators for Cyprus* <i>Hall no. 115 (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>
	10.30 – 13.00	Forum of Women Parliamentarians <i>Dumsky Hall (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>
	11.30 – 13.00	Meeting with the Chairpersons of the Geopolitical Groups and the Presidents of the Standing Committees* <i>Hall no. 16 (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>
	14.30 – 17.30	Forum of Women Parliamentarians <i>Dumsky Hall (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>
	14.30 – 18.00	Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians* <i>Hall no. 16 (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>
	15.00 – 18.00	Committee on Middle East Questions* <i>Reading Room (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>
	19.30 – 20.30	Inaugural Ceremony <i>ExpoForum, St. Petersburg</i>

* *closed meeting*

Sunday, 15 October 2017

	08.00 – 09.00	Assembly Steering Committee* <i>Hall no. 6 (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>
	08.30 – 09.30	Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU* <i>Reading Room (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>
	09.00 – 11.00	Governing Council <i>Dumsky Hall (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>
	09.30 – 13.00	Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights Presentation and debate of draft resolution on <i>Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy</i> <i>Hall no.1 (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>
	10.00 – 13.00	Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU <i>Multi-functional Hall (2nd floor), Parliamentary Centre</i>
	10.00 – 11.30	Bureau of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs <i>Hall no. 16 (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>
	11.00 – 13.00	Assembly: Start of the General Debate on <i>Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue</i> <i>Dumsky Hall (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>
	13.00 – 14.30	Interactive session on <i>Ending AIDS through sexual and reproductive health: the need for urgent parliamentary action</i> <i>Reading Room (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>
	14.30 – 17.00	Assembly: General Debate <i>Dumsky Hall (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>
	14.30 – 18.30	Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs Panel discussions on - <i>The Role of the UN General Assembly in international governance: What path forward?</i> and - <i>The parliamentary dimension to the United Nations – 20 years in the making</i> <i>Multi-functional Hall (2nd floor), Parliamentary Centre</i>
	14.30 – 18.00	Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians* <i>Hall no. 16 (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>
	14.30 – 18.30	Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights Drafting in plenary of the draft resolution <i>Hall no.1 (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>
	15.00 – 18.00	Interactive session on the <i>Key findings from the 2017 Global Parliamentary Report on oversight</i> <i>English and French only</i> <i>Reading Room (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>
	17.00 – 18.30	Assembly: Decision on the emergency item <i>Dumsky Hall (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace</i>














* closed meeting

Monday, 16 October 2017

	09.00 – 10.30	Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade* <i>Reading Room (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>
	09.00 – 13.00	Assembly - Debate on the emergency item, and - Continuation of the General Debate <i>Dumsky Hall (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>
	09.30 – 13.00	Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights Conclusion of drafting in plenary of the draft resolution <i>Hall no.1 (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>
	09.30 – 13.00	Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians* <i>Hall no. 16 (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>
ASGP	11.00 – 12.30	ASGP Meeting <i>Event Hall (2nd floor), Parliamentary Centre</i>
	11.00 – 13.00	Committee on Middle East Questions* <i>Reading Room (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>
ASGP	14.30 – 17.30	ASGP Meeting <i>Event Hall (2nd floor), Parliamentary Centre</i>
	14.30 – 18.30	Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade - Briefing on <i>The Parliamentary contribution to the 2017 UN Climate Change Conference</i> - Debate on <i>Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy</i> <i>Multi-functional Hall (2nd floor), Parliamentary Centre</i>
	14.30 – 18.30	Assembly: Continuation of the General Debate <i>Dumsky Hall (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>
	14.30 – 18.30	Possible drafting committee on the emergency item* <i>Reading Room (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>
	14.30 – 16.30	Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights* <i>Hall no. 16 (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>
	15.00 – 17.00	Interactive session on <i>The way ahead towards a Nuclear Weapons-Ban Treaty</i> <i>Hall no.1 (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>
	17.00 – 18.30	Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law* <i>Hall no. 16 (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>

* *closed meeting*

Tuesday, 17 October 2017

	09.00 – 10.00	Gender Partnership Group* <i>Reading Room (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>
	09.00 – 10.30	e-Parliament interactive session <i>The digital tools that parliamentarians use to do their work</i> <i>Hall no. 1 (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>
	09.00 – 12.00	Advisory Group on Health (ENGLISH ONLY)* <i>Hall no. 115 (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>
	09.00 – 13.00	Standing Committee on Peace and International Security - Expert hearing on <i>Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving - sustainable development</i> and - Panel discussion on <i>The implementation of a previous resolution on cyber warfare</i> <i>Multi-functional Hall (2nd floor), Parliamentary Centre</i>
ASGP	10.00 – 12.30	ASGP Meeting <i>Event Hall (2nd floor), Parliamentary Centre</i>
	10.30 – 13.00	Executive Committee* <i>Reading Room (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>
	11.00 – 13.00	Open session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law on <i>Forty years since the adoption of the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions: How does the law still protect in contemporary war?</i> <i>Hall No. 1, Tavrishesky Palace</i>
	11.00 – 13.00	Parity debate on <i>Holding the purse strings: Exercising oversight for the common good</i> <i>Dumsky Hall (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>
	14.30 – 16.00	Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights Adoption of the draft resolution <i>Hall no. 1 (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>
	14.30 – 16.00	Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security * <i>Reading Room (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>
ASGP	14.30 – 17.30	ASGP Meeting <i>Event Hall (2nd floor), Parliamentary Centre</i>
	14.30 – 18.00	Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians* <i>Hall no. 16 (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>
	14.30 – 18.30	Assembly - Adoption of the resolution on the emergency item, and - Conclusion of the General Debate <i>Dumsky Hall (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>
	16.30 – 18.30	Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade Panel discussion on <i>Using science and research to achieve the highest health standards</i> <i>Hall no. 1 (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>
	16.30 – 18.30	Hearing with candidates for IPU President <i>Multi-functional Hall (2nd floor), Parliamentary Centre</i>

* closed meeting

Wednesday, 18 October 2017

	08.00 – 10.00	Bureau of Women Parliamentarians * <i>Reading Room (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>
	09.00 – 13.00	Governing Council <i>Dumsky Hall (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>
ASGP	10.00 – 12.30	ASGP Meeting <i>Event Hall (2nd floor), Parliamentary Centre</i>
	10.30 – 12.30	Standing Committee on Peace and International Security Panel discussion on <i>The role of parliament in monitoring the action of national armed forces participating in UN peacekeeping operations</i> <i>Hall no. 1 (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>
	14.30	Governing Council <i>Dumsky Hall (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>
	At the end of the Governing Council	Assembly - Adoption of resolutions - Reports of the Standing Committees - Outcome document of the General debate, and - Closing sitting <i>Dumsky Hall (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace</i>
ASGP	14.30 – 17.30	ASGP Meeting <i>Event Hall (2nd floor), Parliamentary Centre</i>

Legend:

Assembly /
Governing Council

Committees /
Panel discussions

Other Assembly events,
including *in camera*
sessions



* *closed meeting*



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

137th IPU Assembly

St. Petersburg, Russian Federation
14–18 October 2017



A/137/C.1
Annex 2

Election of the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union is the political head of the organization. The President chairs the Governing Council and the Executive Committee. The Council elects him or her for a mandate of three years at the second Assembly of the year. According to the IPU Statutes and Rules, *"the retiring President shall not be eligible for re-election for three years and shall be replaced by a person belonging to another Parliament. An endeavor will be made to ensure a regular rotation between the different geopolitical groups"*.

The provisions relating to the President are contained in Article 19 of the IPU Statutes and Rules 6 to 11 of the Council Rules. They are supplemented by practice as it has evolved over the years.

The principle of regional rotation is generally observed. Over the past twenty years, the Presidency of the IPU has been ensured by prominent MPs from Egypt (Arab Group, 1994-1997), Spain (Twelve Plus Group, 1997-1999), India (Asia-Pacific Group, 1999-2002), Chile (Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2002-2005), Italy (Twelve Plus Group, 2005-2008), Namibia (African Group, 2008-2011), Morocco (Arab Group, 2011-2014) and Bangladesh (Asia-Pacific Group, 2014-2017).¹

There are no formal criteria for the election of the IPU President, other than the fact that he/she is a sitting Member of Parliament expecting to remain an MP for the duration of the term of IPU President (in this case, 2017-2020). Historically, IPU Presidents have been outstanding political leaders, well respected nationally and internationally, firmly committed to the core IPU values and principles – in particular the promotion of democracy, human rights and the rule of law – and able to invest significant time and energy in effectively carrying out the high office of IPU President.

As the IPU is playing an increasingly important role in political dialogue and understanding within and among nations, the IPU President is expected to be a mediator and bridge-builder, exercising tact, credibility and respect for the IPU membership in all its diversity. He/she is called upon to regularly interact with Heads of State and Government, Speakers of Parliament, the UN Secretary-General and other high-level officials. He/she should ideally have a good command of at least one of the official languages of the IPU: English and French. As a gender-sensitive organization, the IPU also attaches great importance to gender equality and the political empowerment of women at all levels.

¹ The full list of IPU Presidents can be found at <http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/presdnt.htm>.

The election of the IPU President is announced formally in the convocation of the Council session at which the election will take place. It shall be communicated at least four months before the opening of the regular session of the Council (in this case, in mid-June 2017).

Worthy candidates are expected to express their interest in running for the position of IPU President through a formal letter addressed to the IPU Secretary General. The letter should underscore the key skills and competencies of the candidate and their vision of promoting the strategic plan of the IPU, and it should be accompanied by a brief CV. Candidatures may be submitted by the candidate directly, by a member Parliament or group of Parliaments, or by one or more Geopolitical Groups. There is no formal deadline for the submission of candidatures, although in practice it is important that these are submitted in good time, so as to allow for translation and distribution.

While not a formal requirement, in practice it is expected that the candidates for the post of President can count upon the financial and material support of their respective Parliament in the exercise of the IPU Presidency.

The candidates will present themselves to the IPU membership on the occasion of the 137th IPU Assembly, to be held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, on 14-18 October 2017. As per usual practice, they will be invited for hearings by the Geopolitical Groups, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU.

The election of the President takes place at the last sitting of the Council. Voting shall be conducted by secret ballot. Three delegates from each Member Parliament can cast a vote, provided that both genders are represented among them; if not, only two delegates can vote. This year, the vote will take place on 18 October.

The candidate who obtains an absolute majority of the votes cast shall be elected President. If no candidate obtains this majority during the first round of voting, the candidate who has received the least number of votes will be eliminated, and additional rounds will take place until one of the candidates obtains an absolute majority.

Geneva, 10 May 2017



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

137th IPU Assembly

St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 14–18 October 2017



A/137/C.1
Annex 3

SPEAKERS' PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

GENERAL DEBATE ON THE THEME

PROMOTING CULTURAL PLURALISM AND PEACE THROUGH INTER-FAITH AND INTER-ETHNIC DIALOGUE

(ITEM 3 OF THE AGENDA)

PARLIAMENT OR ORGANIZATION.....

	Please circle one title	Family name	Given name(s)	Is s/he presiding officer (Speaker) of parliament?
1	MR./ MS.			Yes / No
2*	MR./ MS.			Yes / No



*The second speaker is only applicable to IPU Member Parliaments and Associate Members

DATE:

SIGNATURE:

**PROVISIONAL TABLE SHOWING THE ALLOCATION OF VOTES
AT THE 137th ASSEMBLY**
(According to Article 15.2 of the Statutes)

MEMBERS		Votes under (a)	Population in millions	Votes under (b)	Total number of votes
1.	Afghanistan	10	24.1	4	14
2.	Albania	10	3.0	1	11
3.	Algeria	10	33.2	5	15
4.	Andorra	10	0.08	0	10
5.	Angola	10	25.7	4	14
6.	Argentina	10	41.0	6	16
7.	Armenia	10	3.4	1	11
8.	Australia	10	21.0	4	14
9.	Austria	10	8.4	2	12
10.	Azerbaijan	10	9.5	2	12
11.	Bahrain	10	1.2	1	11
12.	Bangladesh	10	153.0	10	20
13.	Belarus	10	10.2	3	13
14.	Belgium	10	11.2	3	13
15.	Benin	10	7.6	2	12
16.	Bhutan	10	0.7	0	10
17.	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	10	6.7	2	12
18.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	10	4.3	1	11
19.	Botswana	10	1.3	1	11
20.	Brazil	10	204.4	12	22
21.	Bulgaria	10	8.5	2	12
22.	Burkina Faso	10	10.4	3	13
23.	Burundi	10	10.1	3	13
24.	Cambodia	10	10.7	3	13
25.	Cameroon	10	12.9	3	13
26.	Canada	10	30.8	5	15
27.	Cape-Verde	10	0.3	0	10
28.	Central African Republic	10	5.1	2	12
29.	Chad	10	11.3	3	13
30.	Chile	10	15.1	3	13
31.	China	10	1,200.0	13	23
32.	Colombia	10	29.5	4	14
33.	Comoros	10	0.7	0	10
34.	Congo	10	1.9	1	11
35.	Costa Rica	10	3.3	1	11
36.	Côte d'Ivoire	10	15.5	3	13
37.	Croatia	10	4.8	1	11
38.	Cuba	10	10.2	3	13
39.	Cyprus	10	0.7	0	10
40.	Czech Republic	10	10.5	3	13
41.	Dem. People's Rep. of Korea	10	20.9	4	14
42.	Dem. Republic of the Congo	10	56.8	7	17
43.	Denmark	10	5.2	2	12
44.	Djibouti	10	0.79	0	10
45.	Dominican Republic	10	9.0	2	12
46.	Ecuador	10	14.0	3	13
47.	Egypt	10	85.7	9	19
48.	El Salvador	10	5.3	2	12
49.	Equatorial Guinea	10	1.0	1	11
50.	Estonia	10	1.5	1	11

MEMBERS		Votes under (a)	Population in millions	Votes under (b)	Total number of votes
51.	Ethiopia	10	87.9	9	19
52.	Federated States of Micronesia	10	0.10	0	10
53.	Fiji	10	0.80	0	10
54.	Finland	10	5.4	2	12
55.	France	10	65.8	8	18
56.	Gabon	10	1.0	1	11
57.	Gambia (The)	10	1.5	1	11
58.	Georgia	10	4.7	1	11
59.	Germany	10	81.3	9	19
60.	Ghana	10	25.0	4	14
61.	Greece	10	10.2	3	13
62.	Guatemala	10	8.2	2	12
63.	Guinea	10	10.6	3	13
64.	Guinea-Bissau	10	1.5	1	11
65.	Guyana	10	0.76	0	10
66.	Haiti	10	10.2	3	13
67.	Honduras	10	8.1	2	12
68.	Hungary	10	10.4	3	13
69.	Iceland	10	0.31	0	10
70.	India	10	1,000.3	13	23
71.	Indonesia	10	206.0	12	22
72.	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	10	60.5	8	18
73.	Iraq	10	26.7	4	14
74.	Ireland	10	4.5	1	11
75.	Israel	10	6.7	2	12
76.	Italy	10	57.0	7	17
77.	Japan	10	123.6	10	20
78.	Jordan	10	5.5	2	12
79.	Kazakhstan	10	17.0	3	13
80.	Kenya	10	38.6	5	15
81.	Kuwait	10	2.2	1	11
82.	Kyrgyzstan	10	5.5	2	12
83.	Lao People's Dem. Rep.	10	5.6	2	12
84.	Latvia	10	2.7	1	11
85.	Lebanon	10	2.4	1	11
86.	Lesotho	10	2.1	1	11
87.	Libya	10	3.9	1	11
88.	Liechtenstein	10	0.03	0	10
89.	Lithuania	10	3.9	1	11
90.	Luxembourg	10	0.4	0	10
91.	Madagascar	10	20.6	4	14
92.	Malawi	10	13.9	3	13
93.	Malaysia	10	22.7	4	14
94.	Maldives	10	0.35	0	10
95.	Mali	10	16.4	3	13
96.	Malta	10	0.3	0	10
97.	Mauritania	10	3.1	1	11
98.	Mauritius	10	1.02	1	11
99.	Mexico	10	104.0	10	20
100.	Monaco	10	0.03	0	10
101.	Mongolia	10	2.9	1	11
102.	Montenegro	10	0.62	0	10

MEMBERS		Votes under (a)	Population in millions	Votes under (b)	Total number of votes
103.	Morocco	10	31.5	5	15
104.	Mozambique	10	12.1	3	13
105.	Myanmar	10	60.3	8	18
106.	Namibia	10	1.5	1	11
107.	Nepal	10	26.4	4	14
108.	Netherlands	10	15.3	3	13
109.	New Zealand	10	4.4	1	11
110.	Nicaragua	10	5.1	2	12
111.	Niger	10	16.5	3	13
112.	Nigeria	10	140.4	10	20
113.	Norway	10	5.0	2	12
114.	Oman	10	2.5	1	11
115.	Pakistan	10	160.9	11	21
116.	Palau	10	0.02	0	10
117.	Palestine	10	3.9	1	11
118.	Panama	10	1.7	1	11
119.	Papua New Guinea	10	3.0	1	11
120.	Paraguay	10	5.7	2	12
121.	Peru	10	23.0	4	14
122.	Philippines	10	62.1	8	18
123.	Poland	10	38.5	5	15
124.	Portugal	10	10.3	3	13
125.	Qatar	10	0.88	0	10
126.	Republic of Korea	10	50.8	7	17
127.	Republic of Moldova	10	4.3	1	11
128.	Romania	10	23.0	4	14
129.	Russian Federation	10	148.8	10	20
130.	Rwanda	10	6.2	2	12
131.	Samoa	10	0.17	0	10
132.	San Marino	10	0.02	0	10
133.	Sao Tome and Principe	10	0.16	0	10
134.	Saudi Arabia	10	27.1	4	14
135.	Senegal	10	7.0	2	12
136.	Serbia	10	9.7	2	12
137.	Seychelles	10	0.08	0	10
138.	Sierra Leone	10	4.9	1	11
139.	Singapore	10	5.08	2	12
140.	Slovakia	10	5.2	2	12
141.	Slovenia	10	1.9	1	11
142.	Somalia	10	10.4	3	13
143.	South Africa	10	51.7	7	17
144.	Spain	10	39.4	5	15
145.	South Sudan	10	10.0	3	13
146.	Sri Lanka	10	17.0	3	13
147.	Sudan	10	33.4	5	15
148.	Suriname	10	0.4	0	10
149.	Swaziland	10	1.1	1	11
150.	Sweden	10	10.0	3	13
151.	Switzerland	10	6.7	2	12
152.	Syrian Arab Republic	10	12.5	3	13
153.	Tajikistan	10	5.1	2	12
154.	Thailand	10	60.1	8	18
155.	The fYR of Macedonia	10	2.3	1	11

MEMBERS		Votes under (a)	Population in millions	Votes under (b)	Total number of votes
156.	Timor-Leste	10	0.92	0	10
157.	Togo	10	5.4	2	12
158.	Tonga	10	0.10	0	10
159.	Trinidad and Tobago	10	1.22	1	11
160.	Tunisia	10	10.2	3	13
161.	Turkey	10	76.6	8	18
162.	Tuvalu	10	0.01	0	10
163.	Uganda	10	34.6	5	15
164.	Ukraine	10	50.1	7	17
165.	United Arab Emirates	10	2.5	1	11
166.	United Kingdom	10	60.2	8	18
167.	United Rep. of Tanzania	10	34.4	5	15
168.	Uruguay	10	3.2	1	11
169.	Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	10	30.0	5	15
170.	Viet Nam	10	90.3	9	19
171.	Yemen	10	10.5	3	13
172.	Zambia	10	10.9	3	13
173.	Zimbabwe	10	10.4	3	13



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137th IPU Assembly

St. Petersburg, Russian Federation
14–18 October 2017



A/137/C.1
Annex 5

Explanatory note on IPU online registration

The IPU Secretariat online registration system can be accessed through the IPU website, on the 137th Assembly page, simply by clicking on the Registration button. The system will be open from 19 June 2017 and will close on 3 October 2017, after which delegates should register with the IPU registration service: registration@ipu.org.

Important: It is recommended that all participants designate one delegation coordinator, who will be the sole user of the online registration system and will choose a password.

The registration process is as follows:

1. Sign up for an account and enter the requested details on this page. If you registered successfully for a recent Assembly, your identification information is still valid and may be used.

If the IPU Secretariat has opened an account on your behalf using your parliament's official e-mail address, you are invited to contact the IPU at registration@ipu.org for more information.

2. Once you have successfully created an account, sign in using your user name and password.
3. Click on "Register for this event" to register for the 137th Assembly.
4. Click on "Start registration" to register your delegation. In your capacity as delegation coordinator, do not forget to include yourself if you plan to attend the event.
5. Please ensure that:
 - All information relating to membership in **IPU governing bodies and committees** is included under: "Title or function within the IPU";
 - Details pertaining to your **national parliament** are included under: "Title/function in Parliament/Organization".
 - You **DO NOT** use ALL CAPITALS.
 - You click on the "+" **sign** to add committees (when there are more than one).
6. It will be possible to make changes to your data until 3 October 2017, after which you should contact the IPU directly at registration@ipu.org.

The registration process includes a **validation phase**, during which system administrators will examine your registration. Once your registration has been validated, you will be sent a confirmation e-mail. Otherwise, one of our administrators will contact you for any action that requires follow-up.

Should you have any questions on registration, please send them to Ms. Sally-Anne Sader, Conference Services Officer, at sas@ipu.org, with copies to the generic IPU e-mail addresses: postbox@ipu.org as well as registration@ipu.org

#IPU137



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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137th IPU Assembly

St. Petersburg, Russian Federation

14–18 October 2017



Standing Committee on
Peace and International Security

C-I/137/A.1
14 June 2017

Draft agenda

1. **Adoption of the agenda**
2. **Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session at the 136th IPU Assembly in Dhaka (April 2017)**
3. **Elections to the Bureau**

The Committee will fill the vacancies on the Bureau, based on nominations from the geopolitical groups.

4. **Expert hearing on *Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development***

The landmark 2016 resolution on Sustaining Peace and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are mutually reinforcing like two sides of the same coin. Indeed, sustainable development leads to peaceful and inclusive societies; and sustainable peace, in turn, guarantees an environment where people from all walks of life and with conflicting interests can work together for their country's development. The Committee wished to place this subject on its agenda with a view to adopting a resolution on the topic on the occasion of the 138th IPU Assembly. In preparation for that, the Committee will hold an expert hearing to share opinions with members about how both concepts have evolved and where the challenges and opportunities lie. There will also be a discussion about the measures and actions parliaments can envisage in terms of legislation, policy development, evaluation and oversight. The co-Rapporteurs will draw on the hearing and the subsequent debate in preparing the first draft of the resolution.

5. **Panel discussion on the implementation of a previous resolution on cyber warfare (Hanoi, 2015)**

In 2015 the IPU adopted a resolution entitled *Cyber warfare: a serious threat to peace and global security*. After two years, the Committee will hold a discussion on the implementation of this resolution by IPU Members. The discussion will also include a briefing on how to engage more actively in conflict prevention in cyberspace and ensure that cyberspace is used "for peaceful purposes" and "in the interests of all countries".

6. **Panel discussion on *The role of parliament in monitoring the action of national armed forces participating in UN peacekeeping operations***

The panel discussion will afford the Committee an opportunity to exchange views about challenges to implementing parliamentary monitoring and oversight of the actions of national armed forces participating in UN peacekeeping operations. Such actions are aimed at enforcing the democratic legitimacy of humanitarian interventions and peacekeeping missions.

7. **Any other business**

#IPU137



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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137th IPU Assembly

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Standing Committee on
Sustainable Development,
Finance and Trade

C-II/137/A.1
14 June 2017

Draft agenda

1. **Adoption of the agenda**
2. **Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held during the 136th IPU Assembly in Dhaka (April 2017)**
3. **Elections to the Bureau**

The Committee will fill the existing vacancies on the Bureau, based on proposals from the geopolitical groups.

4. **Parliamentary contribution to the 2017 UN Climate Change Conference**

On 12 November, a Parliamentary Meeting co-organized by the IPU, the Parliament of Fiji and the German Bundestag will take on the occasion of COP23 in Bonn. The Committee will be briefed on practical arrangements for the Meeting. Committee members will also exchange views on a draft outcome document.

5. **Debate on *Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy***

This debate will be organized around the theme of the Committee resolution, which is expected to be adopted at the 138th Assembly in Geneva. The debate will provide the Committee with an opportunity to exchange views on effective ways to engage the private sector in SDG implementation. Special emphasis will be placed on renewable energy as a sustainable, reliable, resilient and affordable way to ensure universal access to energy and fight climate change. The debate will also provide the co-Rapporteurs with initial information about how IPU Member Parliaments approach this issue.

6. **Panel discussion on *Using science and research to achieve the highest health standards***

Without scientific knowledge, it is hard to have public health legislation and policy that makes sense. However, it is increasingly recognized that the development of evidence-informed health policy is not only a technical problem of knowledge exchange or translation, but is also a political challenge. The panel will discuss ways in which parliaments can bridge this gap and ensure that health laws and policies, and their implementation, are continuously informed by robust scientific findings.

7. **Any other business**



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Standing Committee on
Democracy and Human Rights

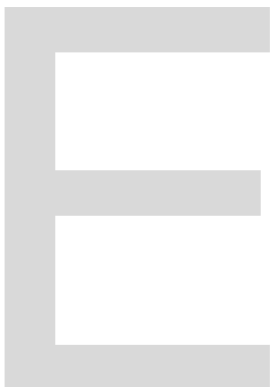
C-III/137/A.1
14 June 2017

Draft agenda

1. **Adoption of the agenda**
2. **Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held during the 136th IPU Assembly in Dhaka (April 2017)**
3. **Elections to the Bureau**

The Committee will fill the existing vacancies on the Bureau, based on proposals from the geopolitical groups.

4. ***Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy***
 - (a) Presentation of the draft resolution and the explanatory memorandum by the co-Rapporteurs
 - (b) Debate on the draft resolution
 - (c) Drafting and adoption of the draft resolution in plenary
 - (d) Appointment of a rapporteur to the 137th IPU Assembly
5. **Preparations for future Assemblies**
 - (a) Subject of the next resolution to be prepared by the Committee
 - (b) Committee agenda at the 138th IPU Assembly
6. **Any other business**



#IPU137



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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137th IPU Assembly

St. Petersburg, Russian Federation

14–18 October 2017



Standing Committee on
United Nations Affairs

C-IV/137/A.1
14 June 2017

Draft agenda

1. **Adoption of the agenda**
2. **Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held at the 136th IPU Assembly in Dhaka (April 2017)**
3. **Panel discussion: *The Role of the UN General Assembly in international governance: What path forward?***

As the principal deliberative and policy-making body of the United Nations, the General Assembly lies at the centre of the system of global governance. It has been defined a "parliament of nations" in which each country participates on an equal footing. Yet, the General Assembly is often seen as less relevant in the management of world affairs than the Security Council or of other, less representative bodies such as the G20. This panel will review recent reforms aimed at strengthening the authority of the General Assembly consistent with the vision of the UN Charter. Among other things, it will look into the modalities of work of the General Assembly, the role of the President of the General Assembly, as well as the legal weight of General Assembly resolutions and decisions. Background information is available at <http://www.un.org/en/ga/revitalization/index.shtml>.

4. **Panel discussion: *The parliamentary dimension to the United Nations – 20 years in the making***

As trade, finance, and national economies as a whole become more globalized than ever, and as issues such as climate change and poverty underscore the importance of international cooperation, the system of international governance managed by the United Nations and related organizations (World Trade Organization, World Bank etc.) has had to adjust, seeking ways to become more open and accountable.

As the world organization of national parliaments, the IPU has led the way in bringing the peoples' representatives closer to the decision-making processes of the United Nations. The idea underlying this is that international affairs are no longer the exclusive domain of the executive branch, in that involving parliaments in global talks and in the UN decision-making process will help strengthen democratic participation at the global level while facilitating implementation of international commitments within countries. Over the past twenty years, the role of national parliaments in international relations, filling the so-called "democracy gap", has gained strong recognition at the United Nations. This session will take stock of the progress made in, and current challenges to building the parliamentary dimension to the United Nations in the lead up to a new resolution of the General Assembly on *interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU* due in spring 2018. Background information is available at <http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/un.htm>.

5. **Any other business**

#IPU137



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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CL/201/C.1
14 June 2017

Convocation of the 201st session of the Governing Council of the IPU

St. Petersburg, 15 and 18 October 2017

Madam President,
Mr. President,

The Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union will hold its 201st session at the Tavrishesky Palace (*Dumsky Hall*), in St. Petersburg (Russian Federation).

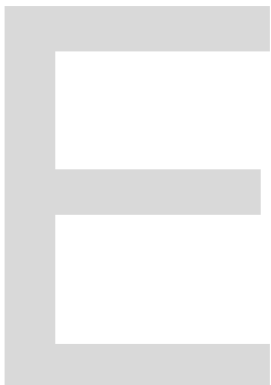
1. PARTICIPATION

The Governing Council is composed of three members from each parliament represented in the IPU. Each parliament's representation on the Governing Council must include both men and women. Single-gender delegations will be limited to two members (Rule 1.2 of the Rules of the Governing Council).

2. PROCEEDINGS OF THE SESSION

The first sitting of the Governing Council will take place on Sunday, 15 October, from 9 to 11 a.m., and will start by examining items 1 to 6 and, time permitting, item 7.

At its second and third sittings, to be held on Wednesday, 18 October, from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to approximately 5 p.m., the Governing Council will examine all other agenda items.



#IPU137

3 PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The provisional agenda for the session, established by the Executive Committee at its 275th session (March 2017), is as follows:

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Approval of the summary records of the 200th session of the Governing Council**

The summary records of the 200th session were posted on the IPU website on 19 May 2017. Members requesting corrections to the summary records of the 200th session are asked to notify the IPU Secretariat in writing before the opening of the 201st session.
- 3. Questions relating to IPU membership**
 - (a) Requests for affiliation and reaffiliation to the IPU
The Governing Council will consider the recommendation of the Executive Committee on any requests for (re)affiliation
 - (b) Situation of certain Members
 - (c) Observer status
- 4. Report of the President**
 - (a) On his activities since the 200th session of the Governing Council
 - (b) On the activities of the Executive Committee
- 5. Interim Report by the Secretary General on the activities of the IPU since the 200th session of the Governing Council**
 - (a) Oral report of the Secretary General
 - (b) Annual reporting exercise by Members
 - (c) International Day of Democracy 2017
- 6. Financial situation of the IPU**
- 7. Draft programme and budget for 2018**
- 8. Implementation of the IPU Strategy for 2017-2021**
- 9. Cooperation with the United Nations system**
- 10. Reports on recent IPU specialized meetings**
- 11. Activities of committees and other bodies**
 - (a) Forum of Women Parliamentarians
 - (b) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians
 - (c) Committee on Middle East Questions
 - (d) Group of Facilitators for Cyprus
 - (e) Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law
 - (f) Gender Partnership Group
 - (g) Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU
- 12. 138th IPU Assembly (Geneva, 24-28 March 2018)**
- 13. Future Inter-Parliamentary meetings**
 - (a) Statutory meetings
 - (b) Specialized meetings and other events

14. **Appointment of two Internal Auditors for the 2018 accounts**
(cf. Rules 41 of the Governing Council)
15. **Election of the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**
(Article 19 of the Statutes and Rules 6, 7 and 8 of the Rules of the Governing Council
The Governing Council will elect a new President to replace Mr. Saber Chowdhury (Bangladesh), whose term of office expires at the end of the 201st session.
16. **Elections to the Executive Committee**
(cf. Article 21 (k) of the Statutes and Rules 37, 38 and 39 of the Rules of the Governing Council)
The Governing Council will elect two members to replace Mr. I. Liddell-Grainger (United Kingdom) and Mr. N. Schrijver (Netherlands), whose terms expire at the end of the 201st session.
17. **Other business**

4. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

In conformity with Governing Council Rule 13, members of the Council may request the inclusion of supplementary items in the agenda. Such items must fall within the mandate of the Council which, according to Article 20 of the Statutes, determines and guides the activities of the IPU and controls their implementation.

Any requests for the inclusion of supplementary items will be immediately transmitted by the Secretariat to all Council members. After hearing the opinion of the Executive Committee, the Council shall decide on such a request by a majority of votes cast if the request is received by the IPU Secretariat at least 15 days before the opening of the session; otherwise by a two-thirds majority.

5. DOCUMENTS

To the extent possible, working documents regarding various items of the provisional agenda will be sent out to Members and posted on the IPU website in advance.

We look forward to fruitful discussions in the Governing Council next October and remain,

Yours sincerely,



Martin CHUNGONG
Secretary General
of the Inter-Parliamentary Union



Saber CHOWDHURY
President
of the Inter-Parliamentary Union



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

137th IPU Assembly
St. Petersburg, Russian Federation
14–18 October 2017



FEM/26/C.1
14 June 2017

**Convocation to the Forum of Women
Parliamentarians'
26th session**

St. Petersburg, 14 October 2017

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

The 26th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians will be held on the occasion of the 137th Assembly in Tavrishesky Palace in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation. The Forum will meet on Saturday, 14 October 2017, from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2.30 to 5.30 p.m. You will find enclosed the provisional annotated agenda, which was prepared by the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians at its session held in Dhaka in April 2017.

At its first sitting, the Forum will discuss its contribution to the work of the 137th Assembly and will provide gender-related input on Item 4 of the Assembly agenda *Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy*. At the second sitting, it will hold a discussion on marking the 5th anniversary of the Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments and hear the candidates for the office of President of the IPU.

The Forum will also hold a parity debate on Tuesday, 17 October 2017 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Dumsky Hall (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace. The debate will centre on the theme *Holding the purse strings: Exercising oversight for the common good* and will be open to all delegations members, both women and men.

The Forum of Women Parliamentarians is open to both women and men parliamentarians members of delegations to IPU Assemblies. I therefore urge you to encourage men and women members of your delegation to participate.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Chungong
Secretary General

encl: Annotated provisional agenda

#IPU137



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

137th IPU Assembly

St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 14–18 October 2017



FORUM OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS 26th SESSION

St. Petersburg, Saturday, 14 October 2017
(10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2.30 to 5.30 p.m.)

Forum of Women Parliamentarians
Agenda

FEM/26/A.1
14 June 2017

I. MEETING SCHEDULE AND SPEAKING ARRANGEMENTS

The 26th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians will be held in Dumsky Hall (ground floor), Tavrishesky Palace in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, on Saturday, 14 October 2017, from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2.30 to 5.30 p.m.

The Session is meant to elicit spontaneous and active debate. Speaking time may not exceed three minutes. There will be no formal list of speakers. In plenary, participants will be able to request the floor by completing the form to be found on the desks.

II. ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of the President of the 26th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians

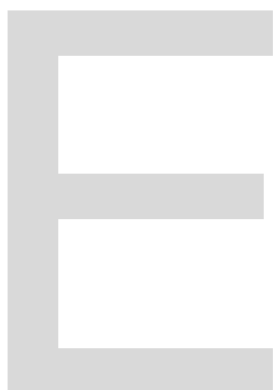
Welcome remarks

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Gender activities

- (a) Report of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians
Participants will be briefed about the Bureau's deliberations at its sessions in Dhaka on 1 April 2017 and in Saint Petersburg on 14 October 2017.
- (b) Report of the Gender Partnership Group
Participants find out about the work and recommendations of the Group.
- (c) Update on recent IPU activity on gender equality
Participants will be briefed about the IPU's recent activity on gender equality, including follow up on the Abu Dhabi Declaration, which was adopted by women Speakers at the Global Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament in December 2016, in the United Arab Emirates.
- (d) Celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Declaration on Democracy.

The discussion will conclude by 11.30 a.m.



#IPU137

4. Contributing to the work of the 137th Assembly from a gender perspective

Participants will be invited to discuss the following item on the agenda of the 137th Assembly:

- Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy (*Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights*)

Participants will split into two groups to discuss the following sub-themes:

Group 1: How can technology be at the service of democracy and gender equality?
Challenges and opportunities

The participants will be invited to discuss how to ensure that the whole population can enjoy the benefits that the Internet can bring to economic, social, cultural and environmental life. They will also share good practices developed to protect both freedom of speech and the right to physical and psychological integrity. They will discuss in particular means to stop online harassment and cyber-violence that targets women and girls as well as measures to combat trafficking in persons perpetrated through the Internet. The participants will also be invited to identify means and strategies to promote and increase the public participation of women and girls by using online means and tools.

Group 2: Educating for democracy and gender equality at all steps of the ladder: family, community and State

The participants will be invited to discuss how democratic values and principles can be furthered from generation to generation, focusing in particular on gender equality values and practices. They will share good practices experienced in education programmes on democracy in school curricula. They will also identify ways to anchor democratic and gender equality principles and values in family education. They will discuss in particular how to promote participation and empowerment in the learning experience of girls.

On the recommendation of its Bureau, the Forum will designate a chairperson and a rapporteur for each group. They will agree on recommendations that the rapporteurs will submit to the Forum of Women Parliamentarians at its afternoon sitting.

Each group will meet from 11.30 a.m. to 1p.m.

The Forum will resume its work at 2 p.m.

5. Panel discussion Marking the fifth anniversary of the Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments

A gender-sensitive parliament is one that responds to the needs and interests of both men and women in its structures, operations, methods and work. It is a parliament that embodies gender equality and that delivers on it.

The Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive parliaments was adopted by IPU Members at the 127th Assembly in Quebec, in 2012. As a tool to support parliaments in taking action to become more gender-sensitive institutions, the Plan of Action proposed concrete solutions to situations common to all countries while offering a wide range of options responding to individual situations.

Five years after the adoption of the Plan of Action, many parliaments have adopted measures to further equal representation of men and women on parliamentary committees membership, to open day care centers for members and staff's children or to enhance capacities to better address gender equality issues.

What has your Parliament done?

Participants in the Panel discussion are invited to share information on and lessons learned from advancements made and challenges encountered by their parliaments to enhance their gender sensitivity and their ability to deliver on gender equality.

The panel discussion will conclude by 4 p.m.

6. Hearing of the candidates for the post of IPU President

The participants will have an opportunity to hear the candidates for the post of IPU President. The hearing will begin at 4 p.m.

7. Reports of the discussion group rapporteurs

The discussion group rapporteurs will present their reports. The Forum will then ask them to consult with the President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and of the President of the Forum's 26th Session, and prepare amendments to be presented during the debate of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights (scheduled for Sunday 15 October from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2.30 to 6.30 p.m.).

8. Venue and date of the 27th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians

The Forum of Women Parliamentarians will host a Parity Debate on the theme "**Holding the purse strings: Exercising oversight for the common good**". The Parity Debate will take place on Tuesday, 17 October 2017 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Dumsky Hall (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace. It is open to all members of delegations, both male and female.



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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137th IPU Assembly

St. Petersburg, Russian Federation
14–18 October 2017



FORUM OF YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS

Sunday 15 October 2017, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Multi-functional Hall (2nd floor), Parliamentary Centre, St. Petersburg

FYP/137/A.1
14 June 2017

Draft Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Election of one Member of the Board of the Forum

One seat is vacant on the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians. It is to be filled by a man from the Eurasia Group for a term expiring in March 2019.

3. Country updates on youth participation

The Forum will discuss recent developments in youth participation in different countries. It will share information on successes and challenges, draw conclusions and make recommendations.

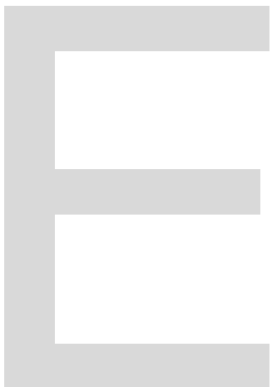
4. Contribution to the work of the 137th Assembly

The Forum will mark the 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy and examine from a youth perspective the draft resolution under consideration at the 137th Assembly on *Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy*.

The Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights will debate and amend the draft resolution. The members of the Forum may wish to formulate recommendations for presentation to the Committee. The Forum will also consider how to include a youth perspective in the other proceedings and outcomes of the 137th Assembly, particularly on the theme of the General Debate, *Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue*.

5. Hearing with candidates for IPU President

The members of the Forum will have an opportunity to hear the candidates for the post of IPU President.



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6. Connecting with Sochi!

The Forum will be briefed on the 19th World Festival of Youth and Students (WFYS) due to take place in Sochi (Russian Federation) from 14-22 October 2017. The WFYS will bring together young people from many countries to discuss cultural, economic and political issues.

7. Update and discussion on the Forum's workplan and activities (2017-2018)

The Forum will discuss IPU activities in support of youth participation which took place in 2017 and the ones planned for 2017 and 2018.

8. Q & A

The Forum will be briefed on the main findings and recommendations of the IPU-UNDP Global Parliamentary Report on *Parliamentary Oversight: Parliament's Power to Hold Government to Account*, due to be launched at the 137th Assembly. Members of the Forum will be able to ask questions and discuss parliamentary oversight from a youth perspective.

9. Preparations for the 138th Assembly (March 2018)

Pursuant to Rule 6 of the Forum's Rules and Working Modalities, the Forum will appoint rapporteurs to prepare a youth overview report with a view to contributing to the draft resolutions on *Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development (Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)* and on *Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy (Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade)*. The two resolutions will be on the agenda of the 138th Assembly (March 2018).

10. Any other business