



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

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AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES AND RULES

The draft amendments outlined below were submitted to the Governing Council for information on 1 April 2010. These amendments will be submitted for adoption to the Governing Council at its 187th session in October 2010.

On the occasion of its 186th session held in Bangkok, on 1 April 2010, the Governing Council had before it two proposals for amendments, one relating to the Rules of the Standing Committees and the other one to the Rules of the Secretariat.

RULES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Rule 38.1 of the Rules of the Standing Committees states that "*the Governing Council shall adopt and amend the Standing Committee's Rules*". Furthermore Rule 38.2 indicates that "*Proposals for amending the Standing Committees' Rules shall be formulated in writing and sent to the Secretariat of the Union at least three months before the next meeting of the Governing Council. The Secretariat shall communicate such proposals immediately to all Members of the Union. It shall communicate any proposal for sub-amendments at least one month before the meeting of the Governing Council*".

In accordance with the Rules, the proposed amendments are as follows:

RULE 8

1. A Committee officer shall not be eligible for re-election to the same post, **either as titular or substitute**, after four years in office.
2. When a Committee officer has served for four consecutive years, two years must elapse before that person may again be elected to the post held previously.

RULE 9

1. In order to ensure as far as possible a fair distribution of these posts among the Members of the Union, representatives of a Member shall not simultaneously hold more than one post as President or Vice-President, **or hold a post in the same body for more than four consecutive years (cf. Rule 8).**
2. Members of the Executive Committee shall not simultaneously hold office as President or Vice-President of a Standing Committee (cf. Statutes, Art. 23.8 and Standing Committees, Rule 10.2).
3. There shall be no candidates for the post of President of a Standing Committee from a Member of the Union represented on the Executive Committee.

RULES OF THE SECRETARIAT

Rule 3

1. **In accordance with the recruitment procedure appended to these Rules, the Secretary General shall be elected or re-elected by the Governing Council on the proposal of the Executive Committee for a four-year term, renewable twice (cf. Statutes Art. 21(l), 24.2(h) and 26.1). The terms of the Secretary General's appointment shall be fixed by the Executive Committee.**
2. **The Executive Committee may propose to the Governing Council that it waive the procedure set out in paragraph (1) above and vote on the re-appointment of the incumbent Secretary General.**

PROCEDURE FOR SELECTING THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Vacancy announcement

The selection process for the post of Secretary General will commence ten months before the expiry of the current term of the Secretary General.

A vacancy announcement containing a description of the functions of the Secretary General and the skills and qualifications required of candidates will at that time be circulated to all Member Parliaments of the IPU.

The announcement will also be placed on IPU's website and shared with the United Nations system. All parliaments will be invited to publicize the announcement in the manner they deem fit.

At the same time as it finalizes the vacancy announcement, the Executive Committee will agree on a set of minimum requirements that have to be met by candidates in order to be retained during the initial selection process.

Presentation of candidatures

Candidatures can be submitted by the candidates themselves or by one or more Members of the IPU.

Candidatures shall be submitted within a period of four months from the date of the official vacancy announcement.

Each candidature shall be submitted in one of the two working languages of the IPU – English and French – and shall consist of a letter of motivation accompanied by a curriculum vitae.

Each application will be received in confidence and recorded by the Director of Support Services, who will act as registrar and will also respond to enquiries from candidates.

Shortlisting of candidates

At the end of the period for presenting candidatures, the President of the IPU, assisted by the registrar, will examine all candidatures to ensure that they meet the minimum requirements for the post contained in the vacancy announcement. Any candidate who does not meet these requirements will be eliminated from the process.

The complete documentation submitted by all candidates who meet the minimum requirements will be reviewed by the President of the IPU and the Vice-President of the Executive Committee who will together draw up an initial shortlist consisting of the twenty best qualified candidates.

The complete documentation of these candidates will be shared with each member of the IPU Executive Committee together with a report from the President on the conduct and outcome of the pre-selection procedure.

After studying the candidatures, each member of the Committee will indicate up to a maximum of five candidates which he or she proposes to maintain on the shortlist.

The Committee members will communicate their preferences to the Secretariat through a confidential procedure within a month of receiving the documentation.

The five candidates who receive the largest number of preferences will be shortlisted.

Interviews of selected candidates

The five shortlisted candidates will be invited to the Assembly where the final selection will take place.

The Executive Committee will devote one extra day during that Assembly to interviewing the candidates. Each candidate will be interviewed for an equal length of time. They will be invited to present their candidature for ten minutes and will then take questions from the members.

Before starting the interviews, the Executive Committee will have agreed upon a set of questions which will be addressed to all candidates. Members of the Executive Committee will also be able to address follow up questions to the candidates as well as questions relating to the candidate's individual presentations.

After the interviews the members of the Executive Committee will exchange views on the candidatures. They will seek to determine if one or more of the candidates can be excluded at this stage of the procedure on the grounds that they either clearly do not meet the requirements of the post or fail to muster sufficiently wide support. To this end the Executive Committee may resort to straw polls or similar techniques.

At the end of its deliberations the Executive Committee will forward two or more candidatures for consideration by the IPU membership present at the Assembly.

Presentation of candidatures during the Assembly

Each candidate retained by the Executive Committee will have equal opportunities to present his/her candidature to each of the geopolitical groups, in accordance with procedures set by them.

The candidates will also be heard by the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, in accordance with a procedure determined by its Coordinating Committee.

The candidates will present their candidature during the last sitting of the Governing Council. They will each be given five minutes for this purpose.

Election

The Governing Council will elect the Secretary General by secret ballot.

For the purpose of identifying the candidate most capable of securing a broad if not all-inclusive consensus among the Members, the Governing Council will elect the Secretary General with an absolute majority of the votes cast, as per Council Rule 35.1(b).

If there are more than two candidates and none receives the required majority in the first round of voting, the candidate who received the least support will be eliminated and a new round of voting held.

This procedure will be repeated until such time as one candidate receives an absolute majority of the votes cast.

The winning candidate will be appointed by the Governing Council for a four year term.