



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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# 149th IPU Assembly

Geneva  
13–17 October 2024



Assembly  
Item 8  
Governing Council  
Item 9

A/149/8-P.1  
CL/214/9-P.1  
10 July 2024

## Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

As decided by the governing bodies, a Working Group on amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules was established in March 2024 composed of the following Executive Committee members:

Ms. N.B.K. Mutti (Zambia, African Group), Mr. A.R. Al Nuaimi (United Arab Emirates, Arab Group), Ms. A. Sarangi (India, Asia-Pacific Group), Ms. S. Mikayilova (Azerbaijan, Eurasia Group), Mr. C. Cajado Sampaio (Brazil, GRULAC), Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka (Poland, Twelve Plus Group), Ms. C. López Castro (President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians) and Mr. D. Carden (President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians).

The Working Group met three times, in Geneva on 26 March 2024, and online on 30 April 2024 and 27 May 2024. The Working Group elected Ms. Mutti as its Chair and was supported in its work by the Secretary General and the IPU Secretariat.

The Working Group considered a series of amendments proposed by the geopolitical groups, IPU bodies and Member Parliaments in 2023 and accepted several of those proposals, which it then submitted to the Executive Committee for consideration at its session in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania, on 19 June 2024.

The Executive Committee agreed that the following proposals should be submitted to the membership by the statutory deadline (Article 30.1 of the Statutes) of three months before the 149th Assembly, for potential approval :

- M1) Inclusion of Standing Committee Presidents in the Assembly Steering Committee as full-fledged members (previously invited in an advisory capacity) (African Group)
- M2) Clarification of “Member Parliament” and “member” throughout the Statutes and Rules (Twelve Plus Group)
- M3) Lowering the age below which parliamentarians are considered “young” from 45 to 40 years old (Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians)
- M4) Encouraging gender rotation for the position of IPU President (Mexico)
- M5) Improving participation of persons with disabilities in the work of the IPU (based on a request from Türkiye)
- M6) Formalizing participation of the President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and the President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians in the Governing Council (Morocco)

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In addition, the Working Group and the Executive Committee also considered a series of amendments proposed by the Secretariat, aimed at clarifying existing provisions and formalizing established practices, and agreed that the following proposals should be submitted to the membership:

- S1) Harmonization of procedures and nomenclature relating to the Forums of Women and Young Parliamentarians
- S2) Clarification of representation and voting procedures in the Governing Council
- S3) Clarification of the role of Vice-President in various contexts
- S4) Correction of terminology used by the Sub-Committee on Finance
- S5) Provisions to establish an oversight body to investigate complaints made under the Code of Conduct for Governance Officials and anti-harassment policy
- S6) Provision for the adoption of motions by the Standing Committees
- S7) Introduction of references to the IPU Strategy
- S8) Provision relating to gender balance and geopolitical rotation of the positions of President and Vice-President of the Standing Committees
- S9) Provision to ensure that IPU emergency item resolutions are in line with the principles and values of the IPU, and that in the preparation of resolutions by the Standing Committees a human rights-based approach and gender mainstreaming shall be duly applied.
- S10) Provision to ensure that draft resolutions and other outcome documents are accompanied by a brief evaluation of their budget and programme implications for the Organization
- S11) Provision to formalize the joint meeting of the Chairs of the geopolitical groups and Presidents of the Standing Committees, and include the Chairs of the other IPU bodies
- S12) Modification of the deadline for submission of amendments to Standing Committee resolutions

In its discussions, the Executive Committee agreed on two further amendments:

- E1) Elimination of the possibility for a former IPU President to run for re-election (currently permitted after a three-year gap but never implemented in practice)
- E2) Formalization of the responsibility of the IPU President to report regularly to the Governing Council on his/her activities

**The proposed amendments accepted by the Working Group and the Executive Committee are detailed in the annex to this document in the order in which they appear in the Statutes and Rules.**

#### **Amendments still under consideration**

In parallel with the amendments submitted by the membership, the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians submitted a request to amend the Statutes and Rules to “**make gender parity in participation and leadership the new norm**”. The Bureau of Women Parliamentarians is currently discussing language proposals to translate this general objective into specific amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules. Once the Bureau has formulated its proposals, the Working Group will discuss them when it resumes its work in the second half of 2024, in view of possible adoption at the 150th IPU Assembly in April 2025. It should be noted that the Statutes and Rules already contain numerous provisions to ensure gender parity.

In addition, several new ideas for potential amendments emerged from the Executive Committee's discussions in June 2024, notably for the Vice-President of the IPU (according to the new definition) to be elected by the whole membership rather than the Executive Committee and to serve the same three-year term as the IPU President, instead of the current one-year term. The Executive Committee also discussed the possibility of adopting more than one emergency item on the occasion of IPU Assemblies. The Working Group will consider these proposals later in 2024.

### **Amendments not approved by the Working Group**

Following the failure of the membership to agree on a subject for an **emergency item** at the 147th and 148th Assemblies, several proposals were submitted by Member Parliaments for amendments relating to the emergency item procedure. Three Member Parliaments proposed changing the majority required for adoption of an emergency item subject from two-thirds to a simple majority. The Working Group did not approve these proposals, on the basis that the current provision was aimed at ensuring a strong consensus on the subject matter of the emergency item in advance of the resolution drafting process, making it more likely that the final resolution would be adopted. One of the geopolitical groups proposed introducing a deadline for emergency item proposals 30 days in advance of the Assembly. The Working Group did not approve this proposal, on the basis that it would undermine the topical and urgent nature of the subjects chosen for emergency item resolutions.

As an alternative, the Working Group and the Executive Committee approved a change in the emergency item process – not requiring an amendment to the Statutes and Rules (cf. Assembly Rule 15.3, which allows for an “ad hoc procedure” for the emergency item) – consisting of adjusting the Assembly timetable so that the vote on the emergency item subject (and by extension the subsequent debate and adoption of the resolution) would take place one day later to allow time for more extensive in-person consultation among the geopolitical groups. This proposal will be implemented for the 149th Assembly accordingly.

A proposal was received from several parliaments to introduce **Portuguese as a working language** of the IPU. The Working Group did not approve this proposal as it would incur significant costs that could not be accommodated in the IPU's budget. Instead, the Working Group encouraged the parliaments in question to continue and expand their existing arrangements to provide Portuguese interpretation at IPU Assemblies and other events, and also encouraged the Secretariat to continue exploring advances in artificial intelligence technology as a possible avenue for the provision of language services in a wider range of languages in future.

The Working Group did not approve a proposal to create a **Standing Committee on Health**, also on the basis of cost and lack of time in the Assembly programme. Instead, the Working Group supported a compromise proposal, not requiring an amendment to the Statutes and Rules, to upgrade the IPU's existing Advisory Group on Health to a “Committee on Health”, with a status akin to the Committee on Middle East Questions or the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians.

The Working Group did not approve a proposal to **increase the membership of the Executive Committee** from 15 to 17 to allow for a minimum of two representatives of each geopolitical group (two of which, the Arab Group and Eurasia Group, currently only have one member), in the interests of gender parity. The Working Group did not approve the proposal on the grounds that the current composition of the Executive Committee had been carefully negotiated and an increase in the number of seats held by any geopolitical group would require a corresponding increase in the number of seats held by all other geopolitical groups, resulting in a potential negative effect on the Committee's current efficient functioning.

### **Amendments to the Statutes (for approval by the Assembly)**

- (M2) Throughout the Statutes, where applicable, change “Member” to “Member Parliament” (Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 15, 18, 19, 21, 25, 27, 28 and 30)

#### Article 10 (composition of the Assembly)

- (M5) Amend sub-paragraph 1 as follows:

1. The Assembly shall be composed of parliamentarians designated as delegates by the Member **Parliaments** of the IPU. Member **Parliaments** shall include men and women parliamentarians in their delegation and shall strive to ensure their equal representation. **Member Parliaments shall also strive to include in their delegations young parliamentarians, as well as parliamentarians representing vulnerable and under-represented groups, such as minorities and persons with disabilities.**

- (M3) Amend the footnote to sub-paragraph 3 as follows:

3. In these Statutes, whenever the words "young parliamentarians" are used, they should be construed as referring to parliamentarians who are below the age of **45 40** years.

#### Article 11 (Vice-Presidents of the Assembly)

- (S3) Amend sub-paragraph 1 as follows:

1. The Assembly shall be opened by the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union or, in his/her absence, by the Vice-President of the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Inter-Parliamentary Union** designated in conformity with Rule 5.2 of the Rules of the Executive Committee.

- (S3) Amend sub-paragraph 3 as follows:

3. ~~The number of Vice-Presidents shall be equal to that of the Members of the IPU represented at the Assembly.~~ **Every Member Parliament of the IPU attending an Assembly is entitled to designate a Vice-President of the Assembly. In the event that the President of the Assembly is unavailable to chair a sitting, a replacement shall be invited to chair from among the designated Vice-Presidents, and efforts shall be made to ensure geopolitical and gender balance among those serving in this capacity during a given Assembly.**

#### Article 18

- (S2) Delete sub-paragraph 3:

~~3. In case of the death or resignation of a representative, or a representative's inability to attend, the IPU Member concerned shall appoint a substitute.~~

#### Article 19 (Governing Council –IPU President)

- (M4 & E1) Amend sub-paragraph 2:

2. 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 endeavour will be made to ensure a regular rotation between the different geopolitical groups, **as well as between men and women parliamentarians.**

- (S3) Amend sub-paragraph 4 as follows:

4. In case of the resignation, loss of parliamentary mandate or death of the President, the functions of the President shall be exercised by the Vice-President ~~of the Executive Committee appointed by the latter~~ **of the Inter-Parliamentary Union designated in conformity with Rule 5.2 of the Rules of the Executive Committee**, until such time as the Governing Council

elects a new President. The same provision shall apply in the case of the suspension of the rights or affiliation of the Member of the IPU to which the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union belongs.

(S3) Amend sub-paragraph 5 as follows:

5. The President shall also be assisted in his/her work between the statutory sessions by a group of six ~~vice-presidents~~ **Vice-Presidents of the Executive Committee** representing each of the geopolitical groups and appointed from among the members of the Executive Committee for a renewable term of one year (**cf. Rule 5.2bis of the Rules of the Executive Committee**).

(E2) Add a new sub-paragraph 5bis:

**5bis. The President shall report at each ordinary session of the Governing Council on his/her activities since the previous session, in conjunction with the report on the activities of the Executive Committee (cf. Article 26.2g).**

Article 21 (functions of the Governing Council)

(S7) Add a new sub-paragraph (g)bis:

**(g)bis. Adopt the IPU Strategy and oversee its implementation;**

Article 24 (Bureau of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians)

(S1) Amend Article 24 as follows:

24. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU shall meet on the occasion of both annual sessions of the Assembly and shall report on its work to the Governing Council. The Forum shall establish its own Rules, which shall be approved by the Governing Council. **The Forum is assisted by a Bureau, which shall meet during both annual sessions of the Assembly.**

Article 25

(S1) Change all instances of “Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians” to “Bureau of Young Parliamentarians”

Article 28.2 (functions of the IPU Secretariat)

(S7) Add a new sub-paragraph (f)bis as follows:

**(f)bis. Ensure the implementation of the IPU Strategy, as adopted by the Governing Council;**

Articles 27-30

(S5) Reorder the sub-sections of the Statutes as follows:

VI. IPU Secretariat (formerly VII)

**VII. Oversight and Ethics Committee** (new – see below)

VIII. Geopolitical Groups (formerly VI)

IX. Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (formerly VIII)

X. Amendments to the Statutes (formerly IX)

New sub-section VII

(S5) Add a new sub-section (“Oversight and Ethics Committee”), with one Article as follows:

**An Oversight and Ethics Committee shall be established with a view to ensuring compliance with the *Code of Conduct for IPU Governance Officials* and the *Policy to prevent and address harassment, including sexual harassment, at IPU Assemblies and other IPU events* (cf. Rules of the Oversight and Ethics Committee [link]).**

## Amendments to the Rules of the Assembly (for approval by the Assembly)

- (M2) Throughout the Rules, where applicable, change “Member” to “Member Parliament” (Rules 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 29, 36, 39 and 40, and Special Rules for virtual sessions 1, 2 and 6)

### Rule 7

- (S3) Amend sub-paragraph 1 as follows:

1. The Assembly shall be opened by the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union or, in his/her absence, by the Vice-President of the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Inter-Parliamentary Union** designated in conformity with Rule 5.2 of the Rules of the Executive Committee.

- (S3) Amend sub-paragraph 3 as follows:

3. ~~The number of Vice-Presidents shall be equal to that of the Members of the IPU represented at the Assembly.~~ **Every Member Parliament of the IPU attending an Assembly is entitled to designate a Vice-President of the Assembly. In the event that the President of the Assembly is unavailable to chair a sitting, a replacement shall be invited to chair from among the designated Vice-Presidents, and efforts shall be made to ensure geopolitical and gender balance among those serving in this capacity during a given Assembly.**

### Rule 9

- (M1 & S9) Amend sub-paragraph 1 as follows:

1. The Steering Committee of the Assembly shall be composed of the President of the Assembly, the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, ~~and the Vice-President of the Executive Committee~~ **Inter-Parliamentary Union** designated in conformity with Rule 5.2 of the Rules of the Executive Committee. ~~and the Presidents of the Standing Committees may take part in its work in an advisory capacity.~~ **The President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and the President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians, or their representatives shall be invited to take part in the work of the Steering Committee in an ex officio capacity.**

- (S11) Add a new sub-paragraph 2bis as follows:

**2bis. With a view to ensuring a smooth and cohesive functioning of the IPU and the effective implementation of its decisions, at each Assembly the IPU President and Secretary General shall hold a joint meeting with the Chairs of the geopolitical groups and the Presidents of the Standing Committees. The Presidents of the subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council, the President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and the President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians may also be invited to take part in this meeting.**

### Rule 9

- (S3) Amend sub-paragraph 1 as follows:

1. The Steering Committee of the Assembly shall be composed of the President of the Assembly, the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Vice-President of the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Inter-Parliamentary Union** designated in conformity with Rule 5.2 of the Rules of the Executive Committee. The Presidents of Standing Committees may take part in its work in an advisory capacity

### Rule 11

- (S9) Modify sub-paragraph 1 as follows:

1. Any Member of the IPU may request the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda. Such a request must be accompanied by a brief explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution, which clearly define the scope of the subject covered by the request, **and indicate how it is in line with the principles and values of the IPU and its Strategy.** The IPU Secretariat shall communicate the request and any such documents immediately to all Members.

Rule 13

(S9) Modify Rule 13 as follows:

13. As a rule, the Assembly will appoint two rapporteurs for each subject item proposed by a Standing Committee. These rapporteurs will prepare a succinct, action-oriented draft resolution and an accompanying explanatory memorandum. Members of the IPU may contribute to the drafting process by submitting their brief written inputs in one of the official languages of the IPU (cf. Assembly, Rule 37.1). The arrangements for the submission of such written inputs shall be indicated in the convocation of the Assembly (cf. Standing Committees, Rule 13.1). **Throughout the process, a human rights-based approach and gender mainstreaming shall be duly applied.**

Rule 17

(S12) Amend sub-paragraph 1 as follows:

1. Any delegate may submit amendments relating to the draft resolutions prepared by the rapporteurs on the subject item included in the agenda approved by the Assembly. They shall be deposited with the IPU Secretariat no later than ~~15~~ **21** days before the opening of the Assembly. However, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians shall be permitted to submit amendments incorporating a gender perspective at any time prior to the closure of the first sitting of the respective Standing Committee (cf. Standing Committees, Rule 13.2).

Rule 22

(M3) Amend the footnote related to Rule 22, as follows:

In these Statutes, whenever the words "young parliamentarians" are used, they should be construed as referring to parliamentarians who are below the age of ~~45~~ **40** years.

## Amendments to the Rules of the Governing Council (for approval by the Governing Council)

- (M2) Throughout the Rules, where applicable, change “Member” to “Member Parliament” (Rules 1, 9, 10, 36, 43 and 45, and Special Rules for virtual sessions 2, 3, 9 and 10)

### Rule 2

- (S2) Delete the entire Rule:

~~2. — A member of the Governing Council who is unable to attend may be replaced by another representative of the IPU Member in question duly authorized for that purpose (cf. Statutes, Art. 18.3 and Governing Council, Rule 1.1).~~

### Rule 3

- (M6) Amend sub-paragraph 2 as follows:

2. The Presidents of the Standing Committees may participate in Council meetings in an advisory capacity when questions concerning the work of their Committees are being discussed (cf. Standing Committees, Rule 17.2). **The President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and the President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians may also participate in Council meetings in an advisory capacity when questions concerning the work of their respective Forums are being discussed.**

### Rule 9

- (S3) Amend sub-paragraph 1 as follows:

1. If the President is absent, he/she shall be replaced by the Vice-President of the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Inter-Parliamentary Union**, designated in conformity with Rule 5.2 of the Rules of the Executive Committee.

- (S3) Amend sub-paragraph 2 as follows:

2. In case of resignation, loss of parliamentary mandate or death, the President's functions shall be exercised by the Vice-President of the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Inter-Parliamentary Union** until such time as the Governing Council elects a new President. The same provision shall apply when the rights or affiliation of the Member of the IPU to which the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union belongs are suspended (cf. Statutes, Art. 19.4).

### Rule 28

- (S2) Add a new sub-paragraph 2bis:

**2bis. For expediency, on procedural and organizational questions and upon the proposal of the President, a vote on a one-country-one-vote basis may be conducted by show of hands.**

### Rule 44

- (S7) Amend Rule 44 as follows:

44. The Secretary General shall submit to each ordinary session of the Governing Council a written report on the state and work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, **including progress made with the objectives of its Strategy.**



**Amendments to the Rules of the Executive Committee (for approval by the Executive Committee)**

- (M2) Throughout the Rules, where applicable, change “Member” to “Member Parliament” (Rules 2 and 5)

Rule 1 & 2

- (S1) Change all instances of “Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians” to “Bureau of Young Parliamentarians”

Rule 5

- (S3) Amend sub-paragraph 2 as follows:

2. A Vice-President of the ~~Executive Committee~~ **Inter-Parliamentary Union** shall be appointed by the Executive Committee each year at its last session to replace the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in case of the latter's absence, or to exercise the latter's functions until such time as a new President is elected by the Governing Council in case of resignation, loss of parliamentary mandate, death or of the suspension of the rights or affiliation of the Member of the IPU to which the President belongs.

Add a new sub-paragraph 2bis as follows:

**2bis. The Executive Committee shall appoint six Vice-Presidents of the Executive Committee, nominated by each of the geopolitical groups respectively, who shall assist the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in his/her work between statutory sessions.**

Rule 13

- (S4) Amend sub-paragraph 2 as follows:

2. The Executive Committee shall adopt and amend the ~~Terms of Reference~~ **Rules** of the Sub-Committee on Finance.

Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee on Finance

- (S4) Change the title as follows:

~~Terms of Reference~~ **Rules** of the Sub-Committee on Finance

Rule 3 of the Sub-Committee on Finance

- (S4) Amend sub-paragraph 2 as follows:

2. The Sub-Committee shall elect a ~~Chairperson~~ **President** from among its members.

## Amendments to the Rules of the Standing Committees (for approval by the Governing Council)

- (M2) Throughout the Rules, where applicable, change “Member” to “Member Parliament” (Rules 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 18, 19, 39, 42 and 43, and Special Rules for virtual sessions 1 and 5)

### Rule 6

- (S6) Add a new sub-paragraph 5bis:

**5bis. At sessions when they are not adopting resolutions, the Standing Committees may adopt short motions expressing an opinion or calling for action on issues of relevance to their mandates. Motions thus adopted shall be submitted to the Assembly for information.**

### Rule 7

- (S1) Amend sub-paragraph 1 as follows:

1. Each Standing Committee shall elect a Bureau composed of three representatives of each of the existing geopolitical groups, which shall designate to each Bureau not more than two candidates of the same sex. The President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and the President of the ~~Board of the Forum~~ **Bureau** of Young Parliamentarians, **or their representatives**, shall be ex officio members of each Bureau. Every effort shall be made to include young parliamentarians and encourage candidatures from new Member **Parliaments** of the IPU as well as Member **Parliaments** that do not hold other offices in the IPU.

- (S8) Amend sub-paragraph 5 as follows:

5. The Standing Committees shall elect a President and a Vice-President from among the members of their Bureau. The posts of President and Vice-President shall normally be filled at a single election. The geopolitical groups shall coordinate among themselves so as to ensure, ~~to the extent possible,~~ **gender parity and an equitable distribution between the geopolitical groups** of the posts of President and Vice-President of **the** Standing Committees.

### Rule 13

- (S12) Amend sub-paragraph 2 as follows:

2. The IPU Secretariat shall send the draft resolution and the explanatory memorandum to the Member **Parliaments** in advance of the session. Member **Parliaments** may propose amendments to the draft resolution no later than ~~45~~ **21** days before the opening of the Assembly. However, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians shall be permitted to submit amendments which incorporate a gender perspective into the draft resolutions at any time prior to the closure of the first sitting of the respective Standing Committee. The Committee will finalize the draft resolution and submit it to the Assembly for adoption (cf. Assembly Rule 17.4).

### Rule 16

- (S10) Add a new subparagraph 3bis as follows:

**3bis. When a draft resolution is tabled for consideration by the Standing Committees, it shall be accompanied by a brief evaluation of its programme and budget implications, prepared by the Secretariat.**

**Amendments to the Rules of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians (for approval by the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the Governing Council)**

- (M2) Throughout the Rules, where applicable, change “Member” to “Member Parliament” (Rules 6, 11, 21, 23, 32, 36 and 39)

**Amendments to the Rules and Working Modalities of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU (for approval by the Forum of Young Parliamentarians)**

- (S1) Change the title as follows:  
Rules and Working Modalities of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU
- (M2) Throughout the Rules, where applicable, change “Member” to “Member Parliament” (Rules 4 and 7)
- (S1) Throughout the Rules, change all occurrences of “Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians” to “Bureau of Young Parliamentarians” and all occurrences of “Board” to “Bureau”
- Rule 4
- (M3) Amend sub-paragraph 1 to read as follows:
1. The Member **Parliaments** of the IPU shall be represented at the meetings of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians by their delegates who are below the age of ~~45~~ **40** years.