



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
105th Conference and related meetings

Havana, 1 - 7 April 2001



CL/168/C.1
15 December 2000

CONVOCATION

168th SESSION OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL

(Havana, 2 and 7 April 2001)

Madam/Sir,

1. We have pleasure in informing you that the Inter-Parliamentary Council will hold its 168th session at the **Palacio de Convenciones** (International Conference Centre), the venue for the 105th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Delegates are requested to take note that the first sitting will be held **from 9.30 a.m. to 11.15 a.m. on Monday, 2 April**. The second sitting will be held **from 9.30 a.m. to approximately 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. onwards, if necessary, on Saturday, 7 April**.

A. PARTICIPATION

2. The Council is composed of two members from each parliament represented in the IPU. The list of Council members may be found in the Directory of the Union's Members, who **are asked to confirm the names of their representatives to the Council by 1 April 2001 at the latest**.

3. In accordance with Council Rule 2, "a member of the Council who is unable to attend may be replaced by another member of the Group in question duly authorised for that purpose". The IPU Secretariat should be notified accordingly.

B. PROVISIONAL AGENDA*

4. The provisional agenda for the session prepared by the Executive Committee at its 231st session (October 2000) is as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council will be required to adopt its agenda at the beginning of its proceedings.

2. Approval of the summary records of the 167th session of the Council

Members requesting corrections to the summary records of the 167th session (CL/167/SR.1) are requested to notify the Union's Secretariat in writing before the opening of the 168th session.

3. Proposals for the election of the President of the 105th Conference

In accordance with the Union's practice, a member of the host Parliament will be proposed by the Council for election as President of the Conference.

4. Questions relating to IPU membership

(a) Requests for affiliation and reaffiliation to the Union

(b) Situation of certain members

The Council will have before it the report of the Executive Committee on any requests for affiliation and reaffiliation and on the situation of certain Members.

5. Report of the President

(a) On her activities since the 167th session of the Council

(b) On the activities of the Executive Committee

The Council will have before it the President's report on her activities and will hear an oral report on the activities of the Executive Committee, including the session of the enlarged Committee held in New Delhi in December 2000.

6. Annual report by the Secretary General on the activities of the Union for 2000

The Council will have before it the annual report of the Secretary General on the activities of the Union for 2000 and the first quarter of 2001 and on various other questions.

7. Financial Results for 2000

The Council will have before it the report of the Auditors on the Union's accounts for 2000.

8. Cooperation with the United Nations system

The Council will receive a progress report on the cooperation between the IPU and the UN system, and in particular on the stage reached in negotiations concerning the establishment of a new and strengthened relationship between the Union and the General Assembly of the United Nations and its subsidiary bodies.

9. Amendments to the Statutes and Rules of the Union

The Council will have to express an opinion concerning modifications to the Union's Statutes and Rules presented by the Executive Committee, to reflect more clearly that the IPU is the world Organisation of National Parliaments.

* The Executive Committee will supplement this provisional agenda, if necessary, at its 233rd session to be held in Havana in March/April 2001.

10. Reform of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The Council will have before it a report submitted by the Executive Committee setting out its thoughts on possible structures and functioning of the Union in the future.

11. Construction of new headquarters for the Union in Geneva

The Council will receive a progress report on plans for the new IPU headquarters in Geneva.

12. Action by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen democracy and parliamentary institutions in the world

Under this item, the Council will be able to assess and discuss all of the Organisation's activities in this field, including technical assistance to national parliaments provided under its cooperation agreement with UNDP.

13. Activities of plenary bodies and specialised committees

The Council will examine the reports of the following bodies and committees and will hold elections to fill the vacant seats:

- (a) Meeting of Women Parliamentarians
- (b) Meeting of Representatives of Parties to the CSCM Process
- (c) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians
 - (i) Election of two titular members and one substitute member
 - (ii) Report of the Committee
- (d) Committee for Sustainable Development
 - (i) Election of a titular member
 - (ii) Report of the Committee
- (e) Committee on Middle East Questions
 - (i) Election of one titular member
 - (ii) Report of the Committee

In this report, the Council will be informed of the follow-up to the initiative agreed by the Union in Jakarta to endeavour to organise a meeting between the delegations of Palestine and the Israeli Knesset.

- (f) Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law
- (g) Group of facilitators for Cyprus
- (h) Gender Partnership Group

This report will cover the results of the consultation of IPU Members on three ideas for amending the Statutes and Rules so as to strengthen the gender balance in the composition of delegations.

14. 106th Inter-Parliamentary Conference

(Ouagadougou, 9 – 15 September 2001)

- (a) Establishment of the agenda
- (b) Approval of the list of international organisations and other bodies invited to follow the work of the Conference as observers

The Council will have before it on 7 April the proposals of the Executive Committee concerning these two items.

15. Future Inter-Parliamentary meetings

- (a) Statutory meetings
- (b) Specialised meetings and other events

The Council will have before it the list of meetings included in the Union's programme, as well as any proposals for the holding of future events. In particular, it will have before it proposals relating to the objectives and modalities of the organisation of the parliamentary meeting on international trade, in Geneva, as well as proposals on the parliamentary contribution to several major international events due to take place in 2001: Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries; 2nd Global Forum on Fighting Corruption, and World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

C. SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

5. In conformity with Council Rule 13, members of the Council may request the inclusion of supplementary items in the agenda. Such items must fall within the competence of the Council which, according to Article 21.1 of the Statutes, determines and guides the activities of the Union and controls their implementation.

6. 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 was received by the Secretariat at least 15 days before the opening of the session; otherwise by a two-thirds majority.

D. DOCUMENTS

7. Working documents regarding various items of the provisional agenda will be sent out at a later date.

E. GENERAL INFORMATION

8. The Convocation of the 105th Conference (CONF/105/C.1) contains diverse information relating to the Havana session of the Union. Moreover, the invitation of the Parliament of Cuba provides all necessary details relating to the registration of delegates and accommodation.

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Yours sincerely,

Najma Akbarali HEPTULLA
President
of the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Anders B. JOHNSON
Secretary General
of the Inter-Parliamentary Union