



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# 131<sup>st</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 12 - 16.10.2014

Governing Council  
Item 3

CL/195/3(d)-R.1  
11 October 2014

## Questions relating to IPU membership and observer status

### (d) Report on the participation of Permanent Observers to IPU Assemblies

Every four years, the Executive Committee is called on to undertake a review of the situation of observers based on the analysis of their actual participation in IPU Assemblies during the period under consideration. At its session on 10 October, the Executive Committee examined the participation of observers in the work of the IPU and approved the recommendations below.

1. The Governing Council is called on to approve a list of Permanent Observers (Annex I) that would be invited automatically to all IPU Assemblies\*. The list would be amended in the future only when and if necessary. As for observers to be invited on a "one-off" basis in the light of Assembly agenda items, relevant invitations could be issued at the discretion of the IPU President, who would inform the Executive Committee accordingly.
2. Regional intergovernmental organizations attend IPU Assemblies very rarely, their delegations comprising at most one or two delegates. The IPU does not enjoy particularly close relations with them, certainly not on the level of its cooperation with the UN system. Many of these organizations have parliamentary bodies (for example, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe) that already engage with the IPU as Permanent Observers or Associate Members. The Governing Council would invite such organizations only on an ad hoc basis as necessary, for example during the second Assembly of the year held in Geneva, where several of the organizations concerned have permanent observer offices to the United Nations.
3. In addition, the Governing Council is invited to discontinue observer status for the following organizations that have not attended IPU Assemblies or engaged in any substantive dialogue or cooperation with the IPU for four or more consecutive years, and from which the IPU Secretariat has not been able to obtain any information confirming their interest in attending IPU meetings: the AMANI Forum - The Great Lakes Parliamentary Forum on Peace, the Indigenous Parliament of the Americas, the Inter-Parliamentary Council against Antisemitism, the Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty.

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\* In addition to Permanent Observers, the IPU also has 10 Associate Members enjoying enhanced rights: Andean Parliament, Central American Parliament, East African Legislative Assembly, European Parliament, Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic Monetary Union, Latin American Parliament, Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States, Parliament of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Arab Parliament.

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4. In order to provide greater clarity, a number of related amendments are proposed to the text of the Practical modalities of the rights and responsibilities of observers at IPU meetings. The proposed amendments, to be approved by the Governing Council, are visible as revision marks in Annex II.
5. The IPU should facilitate regular interaction with those parliamentary organizations, assemblies and networks that are represented at IPU Assemblies, with a view to discussing issues of common interest, including cooperation with the United Nations. It is proposed that such informal meetings be integrated into the overall work programme of IPU Assemblies as a permanent feature having no financial implications for the Organization.

## DRAFT REVISED LIST OF PERMANENT IPU OBSERVERS

United Nations

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH)

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

World Health Organization (WHO)

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI)

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)

World Bank

World Trade Organization (WTO)

African Union (AU)

League of Arab States

Organization of American States (OAS)

ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly

African Parliamentary Union (APU)

Amazonian Parliament

Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union

ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)

Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie

Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa (AWEPA)

Association of Senates, Shoura and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA)

Baltic Assembly

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC)

Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community (EURASEC)

Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS)

Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO)

Inter-Parliamentary Union of the Member States of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IPU-IGAD)

Maghreb Consultative Council

Nordic Council

Pan-African Parliament (PAP)

ParlAmericas

Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation (PABSEC)

Parliamentary Assembly of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (AP-CPLP)

Parliamentary Assembly of the Economic Cooperation Organization (PAECO)

Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM)

Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries (TURKPA)

Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean  
Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia  
Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)  
Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member States (PUIC)  
Southern African Development Community (SADC) Parliamentary Forum  
World Scout Parliamentary Union (WSPU)

Amnesty International  
Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria  
Human Rights Watch  
Penal Reform International  
World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)

Centrist Democrat International (CDI)  
Socialist International

Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)  
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)  
International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)  
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

**DRAFT REVISED PRACTICAL MODALITIES**  
**OF THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OBSERVERS AT IPU MEETINGS**

*Approved in April 1999 and amended in April 2003, May 2006 and April 2009*

- ~~As in the past, bodies to which observer status has been granted by the United Nations General Assembly and~~ international organizations **that** can be invited as observers to IPU meetings.— ~~International organizations~~ are understood to include: (a) organizations of the United Nations system **and organizations holding permanent observer status with the UN General Assembly**; (b) regional intergovernmental organizations; (c) regional, **subregional or and** geopolitical parliamentary assemblies or associations; (d) worldwide non-governmental organizations; (e) international political party federations; and (f) organizations with which the IPU shares general objectives and has established a close and mutually beneficial working relationship.
- ~~For The status of observer can only be granted to those~~ inter-parliamentary organizations and international political party federations, **observer status can be granted only to those that which** have an official status and whose general objectives and working methods are shared by the IPU.
- The current practice will be maintained whereby a distinction is made between those observers invited on a regular basis and others on a "one-off" basis in the light of the items placed on the agenda of an Assembly.
- Observers will be entitled to register a maximum of two delegates to Assemblies of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. However, each programme and organ of the United Nations will **normally** be allowed to send one delegate. Seating arrangements at Assemblies will be made accordingly.
- Observers will be entitled to register one speaker **only** in plenary debates of the IPU Assembly and its Standing Committees. However, each programme and organ of the United Nations will be allowed to register one speaker each.
- Observers will not enjoy the right of reply or the right to raise points of order.
- In the General Debate of the Assembly, the speaking time of observers will be limited to five minutes. Some flexibility will be shown to executive heads of organizations within the United Nations system who wish to address the IPU.
- Observers will not enjoy voting rights and the right to submit candidatures.
- Representatives of international organizations having particular expertise in a subject considered by the Assembly may be invited by the Presidents of Standing Committees, with the authorization of the Committee, to be present in an advisory capacity to provide technical advice, if need be, during the work of a drafting committee.
- Observers cannot present draft resolutions or amendments. They may, however, make information available on a table specially set aside for this purpose.
- International organizations having special competence in an item placed on the Assembly agenda may be invited by the Secretary General to provide an information document on the item.
- Observers may be invited by the **IPU** President to address the Governing Council in exceptional circumstances only.
- An evaluation of the situation of observers will be made every four years. Such a periodic review will be undertaken by the Executive Committee on a dual basis: (i) a factual note by the IPU Secretariat on the actual participation of each observer in the period under review, and (ii) the views of the observers themselves regarding their interest in being represented at IPU meetings.— ~~on the basis of a short enquiry designed to solicit their views.~~