



119th ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 13-15.10.2008

A/119/C.1
20 June 2008

CONVOCAATION OF THE 119th ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Madam President,
Mr. President,

It is our pleasure to inform you that the 119th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and related meetings will be held at the *Centre international de Conférences de Genève* (CICG), Geneva (Switzerland) from Monday, 13 to Wednesday, 15 October 2008.

1. AGENDA

The agenda of the Assembly is as follows:

1. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 119th Assembly
2. Consideration of possible requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
3. Panel discussions on the subject items chosen for debate by the three Standing Committees during the 120th Assembly in April 2009 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia):
 - (i) Advancing nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and securing the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty: The role of parliaments
 - (ii) Climate change, sustainable development models, and renewable energies
 - (iii) Freedom of expression and the right to information
4. Report of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs
5. Amendments to the Statutes and Rules of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

2. PANEL DISCUSSIONS

There will be three panel discussions on the subject items that have been selected for debate at the 120th Assembly. Based on the first experience in 2007, the time set aside for each of these panels has been increased to three hours.

The format and conduct of the panels will be largely informal, with focus on debate and interaction. They will be moderated by two or more experts. The co-Rapporteurs will also make very brief (maximum five minutes) introductions of their draft report.

The aim of the panels is to help raise the awareness of IPU Members of the subjects included in the agenda of the 120th Assembly. There will be no negotiations as such and all prepared speeches setting out formal positions are largely discouraged.

The panels also offer the participants an opportunity to provide comments and suggestions on the preliminary draft reports that have been prepared by the co-Rapporteurs. This will provide the co-Rapporteurs with an intermediary checkpoint halfway through the drafting process and help them to enrich their reports and recommendations.

There will be no formal outcome of the panels apart from a record of their proceedings.

3. TIMETABLE *

The timetable of the Assembly is set out in [Annex I](#). The closing sitting of the 119th Assembly will take place on Wednesday, 15 October, from **4 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.** During this sitting, the report on the eventual emergency item included in the Assembly agenda will be presented and the draft resolution submitted for adoption. Delegations are kindly requested to bear this in mind when making their travel arrangements.

4. EMERGENCY ITEM

According to Assembly Rule 11 and Article 14.2 of the Statutes, any Member of the Union may request the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda. If the Assembly decides to include an emergency item in its agenda, this will be debated by the Assembly on Monday, 13 October 2008. Provision has also been made on the following day for an eventual meeting of a drafting committee to prepare a draft resolution.

5. PARTICIPATION

Each IPU Member may appoint a maximum of five delegates to the second annual session of the Assembly, or seven for parliaments of countries with a population of one hundred million inhabitants or more. Any delegation that, for three consecutive sessions of the Assembly, is composed exclusively of parliamentarians of the same sex shall, however, automatically be reduced by one person.

Please note that the number of additional MPs accompanying delegations as Advisers must not exceed two.

IPU Members whose arrears equal or exceed the amount of the contributions due from them for the preceding two full years may not be represented by more than two delegates at meetings of the Union (Article 5.2 of the Statutes).

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See detailed General Timetable of the Assembly and related meetings in [Annex I](#).

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 entitled to send a maximum of two delegates.

6. STEERING COMMITTEE

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. The Presidents of the Standing Committees may take part in its work 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 normal functioning of the Assembly proceedings.

7. TABLE SHOWING THE ALLOCATION OF VOTES

A provisional table showing the votes allocated to delegations at the 119th Assembly is contained in Annex II.

Members are kindly requested to check the figures concerning them and, if necessary, inform in writing the IPU Secretariat in Geneva of any modifications required, preferably in advance. The final table showing the allocation of votes at the Assembly will be distributed at the opening of the session.

8. LANGUAGES

The Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union will provide simultaneous interpretation into and from the two official languages of the Union: English and French, as well as Arabic and Spanish, at the meetings of all statutory bodies.

Four other interpretation channels have been reserved for Chinese, Italian, Japanese and Russian at sittings of the Assembly, the Governing Council, and for the Panel discussions.

Delegates may, exceptionally, use another language provided that they arrange for their speech to be interpreted into one of the IPU's official languages, and that copies of the speech be given to the Chief Interpreter (Ms. F. Steinig-Huang) well in advance and no later than two hours before it is to be delivered.

9. MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES

Other bodies will hold meetings during the Assembly; their members will be convened by way of a separate letter. They include:

- The Governing Council (13, 14 and 15 October, public sittings);
- The Executive Committee (10, 11 and 15 October, *in camera*);
- The Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians (12 October, *in camera*);
- The Gender Partnership Group (10 and 11 October, *in camera*);
- The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (11, 12, 13 and 14 October, *in camera*);
- The Committee on Middle East Questions (12 and 13 October, *in camera*);
- The IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs (13 and 15 October, public sittings).

The Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP) will also meet at the CICG during the Assembly. It will be convened by its President.

POST-ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

IPU/ASGP/IFLA Conference on parliamentary information

On Thursday, 16 October 2008, a Conference on parliamentary information, organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP), and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) will take place at the CICG.

Attached is the Conference Convocation, as well as the draft agenda, registration form and information document. Should you intend to participate in the Conference, the registration form should be filled out and duly returned to the IPU Secretariat.

Parliamentary Seminar on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Also on 16 October, the Fifth Annual Parliamentary Seminar, organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations, will be held at the CICG. Information on the Seminar will be sent out shortly to all Members.

10. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE SESSION

Further information concerning the session will be provided in the Assembly Guidebook and in the "Additional information" document, which will be distributed to delegations upon registration.

Journal

Every day during the Assembly, participants will find in all meeting rooms and at the Registration and Information desk the "Journal", which provides the latest updates on the programme of meetings and other important information designed to facilitate their participation in the proceedings of the session.

11. RESULTS OF THE ASSEMBLY

All delegations will receive two printed copies of the *Results* of the 119th Assembly and a diskette containing the Results can be sent on request. In addition, the document will be accessible on the IPU website (www.ipu.org) within 10 days following the close of the Assembly, and a complete electronic version of the *Results* can be downloaded from the IPU site in PDF format.

12. REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES

All participants must respect the registration deadline of 15 September 2008. Please return the registration form for delegations annexed to this Convocation to the IPU Secretariat by that date. The address is as follows:

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|-----------------------------|-----------|--|
| ► Inter-Parliamentary Union | Telephone | : +41 22 919 41 50 |
| 5, chemin du Pommier | Fax | : +41 22 919 41 60 |
| case postale 330 | E-mail | : registration@mail.ipu.org |
| 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva | | |
| Switzerland | | |

The Registration and Information service, available on the premises of the CICG, will be open as follows:

- 12 noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday, 11 October;
- 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. from Sunday, 12 October to Tuesday 14 October; and
- 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, 15 October.

Delegates are also informed that this service will only hand over identity badges and documentation to representatives from their Permanent Missions in Geneva if a signed letter of authorization has been received from the Member Parliament to this effect.

Important:

Particular attention is drawn to the fact that, even if identity badges have been collected by delegations' Permanent Missions, upon their arrival at the CICG, delegations are kindly requested to check-in immediately at the Registration and Information service to ensure that the information in the List of Participants concerning their delegation is accurate.

13. HOTEL ACCOMODATION

Delegations from countries with a Permanent Mission in Geneva are kindly requested to make their hotel reservations through their respective Mission. The Permanent Missions in Geneva are all informed of the holding of the 119th Assembly and are accustomed to receiving national delegations to United Nations meetings and to handling hotel reservations for them. Many of them have signed agreements and obtained preferential rates with hotels close to the Palais des Nations area and the CICG.

Delegations from countries that do not have a diplomatic representation in Geneva may reserve their rooms either via their preferred tourist operator or through the Geneva Tourism Office. Should delegations wish to use the services offered by the Geneva Tourism Office, they are kindly requested to contact the IPU Secretariat, which will subsequently send them a hotel reservation form. However, attention is drawn to the fact that, in keeping with the practice of all hotels in Geneva, **only reservation forms returned with details of a credit card as a guarantee will be confirmed**. The hotel reservation form should be returned directly to the Geneva Tourism Office by no later than **1 September 2008**, with copy to the IPU Secretariat.

14. VISAS

Strict regulations are in force regarding entry into Switzerland and entry is refused to persons not holding the required visa. Delegates requiring an entry visa must obtain one from the Swiss consulate or diplomatic mission in their country of residence.

Please note that Geneva Airport is located on the Swiss-French border and also has a French entry point. Some flights arriving from Paris or other French airports to Geneva are therefore considered as domestic flights. Delegates travelling via France must therefore also check with the competent French authorities to ascertain if a French or European Union visa is required for travel through a French airport en route to Geneva.

In recent years, it has been noted that more and more delegations request assistance with entry visas for Switzerland and often such requests are sent at a very late stage. While the IPU will continue to assist delegates, your attention is drawn to the fact that the Swiss authorities require that a clear time frame be respected.

Any delegations in need of assistance must therefore send their requests as soon as possible, and in any case no later than **three weeks prior** to the date of arrival. The following details should be provided: full name, date and place of birth, nationality, type of national passport and number (date of issue and expiry), date of arrival and flight number. There is no guarantee that last-minute requests, especially those falling over weekends when the corresponding Swiss services are closed, can be dealt with in a timely manner.

Please also take due note that **only in very exceptional cases**, if a delegate has been unable to obtain a visa from the Swiss consulate or diplomatic country in his/her country of residence, can a visa be obtained upon arrival at Geneva Airport. This is only possible if the IPU Secretariat in Geneva has received the delegate's registration form and has been advised accordingly by e-mail (postbox@mail.ipu.org) or via facsimile (+4122 919 41 60) well ahead of time, thereby respecting the deadline stated above.

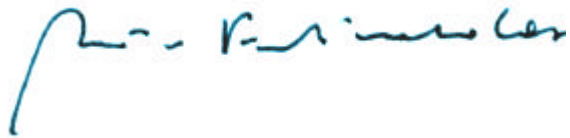
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We hope that your Parliament will be represented at the 119th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and that the delegation, under your leadership, will take an active part in the proceedings.

Yours sincerely,



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



Pier Ferdinando CASINI
President
of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

GENERAL TIMETABLE OF THE ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

(Geneva, 13 to 15 October 2008)

Date		Plenary sittings	Committees	<i>In camera</i> sittings	Other events
Friday, 10 October 2008	MORNING			10.00 - 13.00 Executive Committee <i>Main meeting room, IPU Headquarters</i>	
	AFTERNOON			15.00 - 17.00 Executive Committee <i>Main meeting room, IPU Headquarters</i> 17.00 - 18.00 Gender Partnership Group <i>Main meeting room, IPU Headquarters</i>	
Saturday, 11 October 2008	MORNING			09.30 - 13.00 Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians <i>Small meeting room, IPU Headquarters</i>	
				10.00 - 13.00 Executive Committee <i>Main meeting room, IPU Headquarters</i>	
	AFTERNOON			14.30 - 18.00 Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians <i>Small meeting room, IPU Headquarters</i>	
				15.00 - 17.00 Executive Committee <i>Main meeting room, IPU Headquarters</i>	
				17.00 - 18.00 Gender Partnership Group <i>Main meeting room, IPU Headquarters</i>	

Date		Plenary sittings	Committees	<i>In camera</i> sittings	Other events
Sunday, 12 October 2008	MORNING			09.00 - 13.00 Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians <i>Room 18, level -1, CICG</i>	
				09.30 - 13.00 Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians <i>Small meeting room, IPU Headquarters</i>	
	AFTERNOON			14.30 - 18.00 Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians <i>Small meeting room, IPU Headquarters</i>	15.00 - 18.00 ASGP Executive Committee, <i>Room 20, level 3, CICG</i>
				15.30 - 17.30 Committee on Middle East Questions <i>Room 18, level -1, CICG</i>	
Monday, 13 October 2008	MORNING	09.30 - 12.00 Governing Council <i>Room 1, level 1, CICG</i> 12.00 - 13.00 Assembly: opening and adoption of an emergency item <i>Room 1, level 1, CICG</i>	09.00 - 13.00 IPU Committee on UN Affairs: plenary <i>Room 2, level 0, CICG</i>	08.30 - 09.00 Assembly Steering Committee <i>IPU President's Office, level 3, CICG</i> 09.30 - 13.00 Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians <i>Small meeting room, IPU Headquarters</i>	09.00 - 10.00 ASGP Executive Committee <i>Room 20, level 3, CICG</i> 11.00 - 13.00 ASGP Meeting <i>Rooms 5 & 6, level 3, CICG</i>
	AFTERNOON	14.30 - 18.00 Assembly: debate on the emergency item <i>Room 1, level 1, CICG</i>	14.30 - 18.00 IPU Committee on UN Affairs: plenary <i>Room 2, level 0, CICG</i>	14.30 - 16.30 Committee on Middle East Questions <i>Room 18, level -1, CICG</i>	14.30 - 18.00 ASGP Meeting <i>Rooms 5 & 6, level 3, CICG</i>

Date		Plenary sittings	Committees	<i>In camera</i> sittings	Other events
Tuesday, 14 October 2008	MORNING	09.00 – 12.30 Panel discussion on the subject to be discussed by the First Standing Committee during the 120 th Assembly in April 2009: <i>Advancing nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and securing the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty: The role of parliaments</i> Room 1, level 1, CICG	09.00 – 12.30 Panel discussion on the subject to be discussed by the Second Standing Committee during the 120 th Assembly in April 2009: <i>Climate change, sustainable development models, and renewable energies</i> Room 2, level 0, CICG	09.00 - 13.00 Drafting committee on emergency item Room 18, level -1, CICG	09.00 - 10.00 ASGP Executive Committee Room 20, level 3, CICG 10.00 - 13.00 ASGP Meeting Rooms 5 & 6, level 3, CICG
	AFTERNOON	14.00 – 17.00 Panel discussion on the subject to be discussed by the Third Standing Committee during the 120 th Assembly in April 2009: <i>Freedom of expression and the right to information</i> Room 2, level 0, CICG	12.30 – 13.30 Meeting between women parliamentarians and candidates for the IPU Presidency Rooms 3 & 4, level 0, CICG 15.00 – 16.30 Democracy event (title to be confirmed by Norah) Rooms 3 & 4, level 0, CICG	14.00 - 18.00 Drafting committee of IPU Committee on UN Affairs Room 18, level -1, CICG 15.00 - 18.00 Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians Small meeting room, IPU Headquarters	14.30 - 18.00 ASGP Meeting Rooms 5 & 6, level 3, CICG
		17.00 - 18.30 Governing Council Room 1, level 1, CICG			
Wednesday, 15 October 2008	MORNING	11.00 - 13.00 Governing Council Room 1, level 1, CICG	09.00 – 12.30 IPU Committee on UN Affairs: plenary - close of debate and adoption of outcome document Room 2, level 0, CICG	09.00 - 10.30 Executive Committee Room 18, level -1, CICG	09.00 - 10.00 ASGP Executive Committee Room 20, level 3, CICG 10.00 - 13.00 ASGP Meeting Rooms 5 & 6, level 3, CICG
	AFTERNOON	14.00 - 16.00 Governing Council Room 1, level 1, CICG 16.00 - 17.30 Assembly: closing session Room 1, level 1, CICG			14.30 - 18.00 ASGP Meeting Rooms 5 & 6, level 3, CICG

PROVISIONAL TABLE SHOWING THE ALLOCATION OF VOTES AT THE 119th 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	8.3	2	12
6.	Argentina	10	33.0	5	15
7.	Armenia	10	3.4	1	11
8.	Australia	10	21.0	4	14
9.	Austria	10	7.8	2	12
10.	Azerbaijan	10	7.3	2	12
11.	Bahrain	10	0.7	0	10
12.	Belarus	10	10.2	3	13
13.	Belgium	10	9.9	2	12
14.	Benin	10	7.6	2	12
15.	Bolivia	10	6.7	2	12
16.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	10	4.3	1	11
17.	Botswana	10	1.3	1	11
18.	Brazil	10	146.0	10	20
19.	Bulgaria	10	8.5	2	12
20.	Burkina Faso	10	10.4	3	13
21.	Burundi	10	5.2	2	12
22.	Cambodia	10	10.7	3	13
23.	Cameroon	10	12.9	3	13
24.	Canada	10	30.8	5	15
25.	Cape-Verde	10	0.3	0	10
26.	Chile	10	13.4	3	13
27.	China	10	1,200.0	13	23
28.	Colombia	10	29.5	4	14
29.	Congo	10	1.9	1	11
30.	Costa Rica	10	3.3	1	11
31.	Côte d'Ivoire	10	15.5	3	13
32.	Croatia	10	4.8	1	11
33.	Cuba	10	10.2	3	13
34.	Cyprus	10	0.7	0	10
35.	Czech Republic	10	10.5	3	13
36.	Dem. People's Rep. of Korea	10	20.9	4	14
37.	Dem. Republic of the Congo	10	56.8	7	17
38.	Denmark	10	5.2	2	12
39.	Dominican Republic	10	9.0	2	12
40.	Ecuador	10	9.6	2	12
41.	Egypt	10	64.8	8	18
42.	El Salvador	10	5.3	2	12
43.	Estonia	10	1.5	1	11
44.	Ethiopia	10	67.5	8	18
45.	Finland	10	5.4	2	12
46.	France	10	58.3	7	17
47.	Gabon	10	1.0	1	11
48.	Gambia	10	1.5	1	11
49.	Georgia	10	4.7	1	11

MEMBERS		Votes under (a)	Population in millions	Votes under (b)	Total number of votes
50.	Germany	10	81.3	9	19
51.	Ghana	10	16.5	3	13
52.	Greece	10	10.2	3	13
53.	Guatemala	10	8.2	2	12
54.	Guinea	10	7.3	2	12
55.	Hungary	10	10.4	3	13
56.	Iceland	10	0.27	0	10
57.	India	10	1,000.3	13	23
58.	Indonesia	10	206.0	12	22
59.	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	10	60.5	8	18
60.	Iraq	10	26.7	4	14
61.	Ireland	10	3.5	1	11
62.	Israel	10	6.7	2	12
63.	Italy	10	57.0	7	17
64.	Japan	10	123.6	10	20
65.	Jordan	10	5.5	2	12
66.	Kazakhstan	10	17.0	3	13
67.	Kenya	10	24.0	4	14
68.	Kuwait	10	2.2	1	11
69.	Kyrgyzstan	10	4.5	1	11
70.	Lao People's Dem. Rep.	10	5.6	2	12
71.	Latvia	10	2.7	1	11
72.	Lebanon	10	2.4	1	11
73.	Lesotho	10	2.1	1	11
74.	Liberia	10	2.8	1	11
75.	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	10	3.9	1	11
76.	Liechtenstein	10	0.3	0	10
77.	Lithuania	10	3.9	1	11
78.	Luxembourg	10	0.4	0	10
79.	Madagascar	10	18	3	13
80.	Malaysia	10	22.7	4	14
81.	Maldives	10	0.35	0	10
82.	Mali	10	8.0	2	12
83.	Malta	10	0.3	0	10
84.	Mauritania	10	3.1	1	11
85.	Mauritius	10	1.02	1	11
86.	Mexico	10	104.0	10	20
87.	Monaco	10	0.03	0	10
88.	Mongolia	10	2.0	1	11
89.	Montenegro	10	0.62	0	10
90.	Morocco	10	26.5	4	14
91.	Mozambique	10	12.1	3	13
92.	Namibia	10	1.5	1	11
93.	Nepal	10	22.9	4	14
94.	Netherlands	10	15.3	3	13
95.	New Zealand	10	3.3	1	11
96.	Nicaragua	10	5.1	2	12
97.	Niger	10	10.7	3	13
98.	Nigeria	10	111.7	10	20
99.	Norway	10	4.3	1	11
100.	Pakistan	10	130.6	10	20

MEMBERS		Votes under (a)	Population in millions	Votes under (b)	Total number of votes
101.	Palau	10	0.02	0	10
102.	Panama	10	1.7	1	11
103.	Papua New Guinea	10	3.0	1	11
104.	Paraguay	10	5.7	2	12
105.	Peru	10	23.0	4	14
106.	Philippines	10	62.1	8	18
107.	Poland	10	38.5	5	15
108.	Portugal	10	10.3	3	13
109.	Qatar	10	0.88	0	10
110.	Republic of Korea	10	45.5	6	16
111.	Republic of Moldova	10	4.3	1	11
112.	Romania	10	23.0	4	14
113.	Russian Federation	10	148.8	10	20
114.	Rwanda	10	6.2	2	12
115.	Samoa	10	0.17	0	10
116.	San Marino	10	0.02	0	10
117.	Sao Tome and Principe	10	0.16	0	10
118.	Saudi Arabia	10	16.9	3	13
119.	Senegal	10	7.0	2	12
120.	Serbia	10	9.7	2	12
121.	Singapore	10	2.9	1	11
122.	Slovakia	10	5.2	2	12
123.	Slovenia	10	1.9	1	11
124.	Somalia	10	10.4	3	13
125.	South Africa	10	40.4	6	16
126.	Spain	10	39.4	5	15
127.	Sri Lanka	10	17.0	3	13
128.	Sudan	10	35.0	5	15
129.	Suriname	10	0.4	0	10
130.	Sweden	10	8.7	2	12
131.	Switzerland	10	6.7	2	12
132.	Syrian Arab Republic	10	12.5	3	13
133.	Tajikistan	10	5.09	2	12
134.	Thailand	10	60.1	8	18
135.	The fYR of Macedonia	10	2.3	1	11
136.	Timor-Leste	10	0.92	0	10
137.	Togo	10	5.4	2	12
138.	Tunisia	10	10.2	3	13
139.	Turkey	10	64.5	8	18
140.	Uganda	10	17.0	3	13
141.	Ukraine	10	50.1	7	17
142.	United Arab Emirates	10	2.5	1	11
143.	United Kingdom	10	60.2	8	18
144.	United Rep. of Tanzania	10	34.4	5	15
145.	Uruguay	10	3.2	1	11
146.	Venezuela	10	18.1	3	13
147.	Viet Nam	10	63.7	8	18
148.	Yemen	10	10.5	3	13
149.	Zambia	10	10.9	3	13
150.	Zimbabwe	10	10.4	3	13