



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
124th Assembly and related meetings
Panama City (Panama), 15 – 20 April 2011



C-III/124/C
21 January 2011

CONVOCAATION

THIRD STANDING COMMITTEE DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Panama

16, 17 and 19 April 2011

1. In conformity with the decision taken by the 123rd Assembly, the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights will meet during the 124th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to debate item 6 of the Assembly agenda.

Dates and place of meetings

2. The Committee will meet in the ATLAPA Convention Centre, the venue of the 124th Assembly and all other related meetings.

3. The Committee will meet on Saturday, 16 April, from 3.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. and on Sunday, 17 April, from 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. to debate the report and the preliminary draft resolution prepared by the co-Rapporteurs and appoint a drafting committee, which will meet on Monday, 18 April, from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. to prepare a final version of the draft resolution. The Bureau of the Standing Committee will meet on Monday, 18 April, from 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. The full Standing Committee will meet again on Tuesday, 19 April, from 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. to adopt the draft resolution.

Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Approval of the summary records of the Committee's session held in Bangkok on 28 and 31 March 2010
3. Transparency and accountability in the funding of political parties and election campaigns
 - (a) Presentation of the report and the preliminary draft resolution prepared by the co-Rapporteurs, followed by debate
 - (b) Preparation and adoption of a draft resolution
 - (c) Appointment of a Rapporteur to the 124th Assembly

4. Preparation of the 126th Assembly
 - (a) Proposals for a subject item to be considered by the Committee
 - (b) Proposals for two co-Rapporteurs
5. Election of the Bureau of the Third Standing Committee
6. Any other business

Representation and voting rights

4. In conformity with Rule 2 of the Rules of the Standing Committees, the Members of the Union shall be represented on each Standing Committee by one member and one substitute.
5. The substitute shall have the same speaking rights as the titular member, but shall only vote in the latter's absence (cf. Rule 29.1).

Organisation of the debate

6. The Union's governing bodies have decided to make a determined effort to ensure an interactive debate in the Standing Committees. The reading of prepared speeches is therefore discouraged. There will be no pre-registration of speakers. Instead, the President of the Standing Committee will recognise speakers requesting the floor once the debate has begun.
7. A panel discussion on the subject of *Transparency and accountability in the funding of political parties and election campaigns* already took place at 123rd IPU Assembly (Geneva, October 2010) and dealt with general aspects of the subject. The summary records of that panel discussion are available at the IPU website at <http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/123/SR3.pdf>. At the 124th Assembly the Third Standing Committee will be called upon to pursue the debate in a more detailed fashion, identifying issues and proposing appropriate solutions.

Speaking time

8. The Union's governing bodies have decided that delegates may take the floor several times but that no statement should exceed a maximum of four minutes. According to the provisions of Standing Committee Rule 24, the President of the Committee may review this question and take the necessary measures to ensure the smooth running of the debates, particularly since he may have to restrict the speaking time in view of the number of speakers and length of the session.

Documents

9. The preparation of the report and the preliminary draft resolution on the subject item placed on the Standing Committee's agenda is the responsibility of the co-Rapporteurs appointed by the 122nd Assembly.
10. Arrangements and deadlines for the preparation and finalisation of the report and the draft resolution are contained in section 9 of the Convocation of the 124th Assembly (document A/124/C.1). Please note that, in accordance with Rule 17.1 of the Rules of the Assembly and Rule 12.2 of the Rules of the Standing Committees, amendments to the draft resolution must be deposited with the Secretariat of the Assembly no later than 15 days before the opening of the Assembly, i.e. Friday, 1 April 2011. Sub-amendments may be submitted up until the Standing Committee adopts the draft resolution intended for the Assembly (Assembly Rule 17.2).

Election of the Bureau

11. It is to be recalled that each Standing Committee has a Bureau composed of a President and five Vice-Presidents - one from each of the six geopolitical groups. For each titular member of the Bureau there is also a substitute member representing the same geopolitical group.

12. The role of the Bureau is vitally important for the normal functioning of the Standing Committee. The Bureau meets at every Assembly and fulfils a number of statutory tasks, including the consideration of proposals submitted by the Members of the Union for the subject items and of candidatures for the co-Rapporteurs for future Assemblies. It is therefore imperative that members of the Bureau be knowledgeable about specific issues falling within the field of competence of the respective Standing Committee and that every effort be made to ensure that members of the Bureau participate in all statutory Assemblies during their terms of office so that each geopolitical group is represented at every session of the Bureau, through either its titular or substitute member.

13. In conformity with Rule 7.2 of the Rules of the Standing Committees, officers of the Committee shall be elected or re-elected at the first annual session of the Assembly by an absolute majority of the votes cast.

14. Only those members of the current Bureau of the Third Standing Committee (titular and substitute) who are marked in the table below as "eligible" (cf. Rule 8.1) can stand for re-election at the session in Panama.

President:	<i>Mr. J.C. Mahía (Uruguay) - eligible</i>	<i>Latin American Group</i>
First Vice-President:	<i>Mr. Y. Zhumabayev (Kazakhstan) – not eligible</i>	<i>Eurasia Group</i>
Vice-Presidents:	<i>TITULAR</i>	<i>SUBSTITUTE</i>
<i>African Group</i>	<i>Mr. O. Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu (Ghana) - eligible</i>	<i>Mrs. P. Fouty-Soungou (Congo) - eligible</i>
<i>Arab Group</i>	<i>Mr. M. El Fakki (Egypt) - eligible</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Asia-Pacific Group</i>	<i>Mr. S.S. Ahluwalia (India) - eligible</i>	<i>Mr. T.J. Wan Junaidi (Malaysia) – not eligible</i>
<i>Eurasia Group</i>	<i>Current First Vice-President</i>	<i>Mr. S. Gavrilov (Russian Federation) - eligible</i>
<i>Latin American Group</i>	<i>Current President</i>	<i>Ms. D. Castañeda (Panama) - eligible</i>
<i>Twelve Plus Group</i>	<i>Ms. R.M. Albernaz (Portugal) - not eligible</i>	<i>Mr. J. Winkler (Germany) - eligible</i>

15. The statutory election of Committee officers will take place at the last sitting of the Committee on Tuesday, 19 April.

Proposals for the subject item and the co-Rapporteurs for the 126th Assembly

16. The Members of the Union are invited to submit to the IPU Secretariat their proposals for the subject item to be discussed by the Third Standing Committee at the 126th Assembly.

17. As far as possible, each proposal should be accompanied by the names of two prospective co-Rapporteurs who should be knowledgeable about the proposed subject and ready to assume the responsibility for drafting the corresponding report and draft resolution. When nominating the candidatures of co-Rapporteurs, it is important to keep in mind that, in order to facilitate the work of the IPU Secretariat and ensure timely distribution of the drafts to the Members of the Union, all texts should be transmitted to the Secretariat by the co-Rapporteurs in either English or French, the two official written languages of the IPU.

18. From the start of the Assembly, the Bureau of the Third Standing Committee will be expected to carry out consultations with the geopolitical groups and the Bureaux of the other Standing Committees concerning the choice of subject items for the 126th Assembly. At its meeting on Monday, 18 April, the Bureau of the Third Standing Committee will consider relevant proposals taking into account the opinions of the geopolitical groups, and will decide upon a consolidated proposal, which it will then submit for approval to the full Committee at its final sitting on 19 April. The Committee's proposal for the subject item and the candidatures of co-Rapporteurs for the 126th Assembly will then be submitted for approval by the 124th Assembly at its last sitting in the afternoon of Wednesday, 20 April.