



Governing Council  
Item 14

CL/193/14-P.2  
5 October 2013

AMENDMENTS TO THE IPU STATUTES AND RULES

RULES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

*Amendments deriving from the Governing Council decision (CL/192/8(b)-P.1)  
and sub-amendments submitted within the statutory deadline by the delegations of  
Belgium, Pakistan and United Arab Emirates*

Rule 6.1

**Amendment 2.1**

*Amend the existing Rule as follows:*

1. Standing Committees shall ~~normally~~ **meet during each session of the Assembly and shall normally** debate and prepare **one reports and** draft resolutions **per year** on ~~their respective~~ a subject items placed on the agenda of the Assembly (cf. Assembly, Rule 15.3).

**Sub-amendment 1**

*To avoid a discrepancy between English and French versions of the amendment, modify the French version by aligning it to the English one (the sub-amendment does not affect the English text).*

*(Belgium)*

**Sub-amendment 2**

*Modify the original amendment as follows:\**

1. Standing Committees shall ~~normally~~ **meet during each session of the Assembly and shall normally** debate and prepare **one reports and** draft resolutions **per year** on ~~their respective~~ a subject items placed on the agenda of the Assembly (cf. Assembly, Rule 15.3). **The draft resolution should duly take into account the views of different Members.**

*(United Arab Emirates)*

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\* The text highlighted in grey represents the proposed sub-amendments.

New Rule 6.1bis

**Amendment 2.1**

*Add a new rule after the existing Rule 6.1 to read as follows:*

**6.1bis. A system of rotation among the Standing Committees shall be put in place to determine the order in which the resolutions are prepared.**

New Rule 6.1ter

**Amendment 2.1**

*Add a new rule after Rule 6.1bis to read as follows:*

**6.1ter. The Standing Committees shall establish their own work plans and set their agendas.**

**Sub-amendment 1**

*Modify the original amendment as follows:*

**6.1ter. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 6.1 and Article 6.2, the Standing Committees shall establish their own work plans and set their agendas.**

Explanation

*Couched in general terms, as in the proposed amendment, this provision is inaccurate. In fact, the committees are not entirely autonomous in determining their agenda and work plan. They cannot "refuse" to examine questions entrusted to them by the Assembly or the Council and the rules concerning the examination of subject items on the Assembly agenda have an impact on their work plan, which they cannot avoid during the sessions when these subjects are examined.*

*(Belgium)*

**Sub-amendment 2**

*If the preceding sub-amendment relating to Rule 6.1ter is accepted, place Rule 6.2 right after Rule 6.1bis.*

Explanation

*This order appears to be more logical.*

*(Belgium)*

New Rule 6.1quater

**Amendment 2.1**

*Add a new rule after Rule 6.1ter to read as follows:*

**6.1quater. In addition to the consideration of explanatory memoranda and draft resolutions prepared by the rapporteurs on the subject item placed on the agenda of the Assembly (cf. Assembly, Rules 10.1 and 15.3, and Standing Committees, Rules 12.1 and 12.2), the Standing Committees may inter alia commission research, discuss reports on good practices, review implementation of and follow-up action on previous IPU resolutions, organise field missions and hold hearings on subjects related to their field of competence.**

### Sub-amendment

*Modify the original amendment as follows:*

**6.1quater. In addition to the consideration of explanatory memoranda and draft resolutions prepared by the rapporteurs on the subject item placed on the agenda of the Assembly (cf. Assembly, Rules 10.1 and 15.3, and Standing Committees, Rules 12.1 and 12.2), the Standing Committees may inter alia commission research, discuss reports on good practices, review implementation of and follow-up action on previous IPU resolutions, organise field missions and hold hearings on subjects related to their field of competence, whenever possible in cooperation with the United Nations and other official organizations.**

*(United Arab Emirates)*

### Rule 6.2

#### **Amendment 2.1**

*Amend the existing Rule as follows:*

**25.** The **Standing Committees** may also be instructed by the Governing Council to study an item included in the latter's agenda and make a report.

### Rule 7.1

#### **Amendment 4.1**

*Amend the existing Rule as follows:*

## **OFFICERS-BUREAU**

### **RULE 7**

1. Each Standing Committee shall elect a Bureau composed of a **minimum of two representatives of each of the existing geopolitical groups. Similar to the system established for the composition of the Executive Committee (cf. Statutes, Art. 23.4), medium-sized geopolitical groups will be entitled to one additional seat on the Bureau, whereas larger groups will be entitled to two additional seats. The Standing Committees shall elect a President and a Vice-Presidents, one of whom shall be elected as First Vice-President. from among the members of their Bureau.** They shall represent the existing geopolitical Groups and the number of Bureau members shall be equivalent to the number of geopolitical Groups. Each member shall have a substitute. An effort shall be made to ensure gender balance.

### **Sub-amendment 1**

*Modify the original amendment as follows:*

1. Each Standing Committee shall elect a Bureau composed of a **minimum of two representatives of each of the existing geopolitical groups. Similar to the system established for the composition of the Executive Committee (cf. Statutes, Art. 23.4), m\*** Medium-sized geopolitical groups will be entitled to one additional seat on the Bureau, whereas larger groups will be entitled to two additional seats. **The Governing Council shall determine, based on the proposal of the Executive Committee, the number of seats to which each geopolitical group is entitled.\*\*** ~~The Standing Committees shall elect a President and a Vice-Presidents, one of~~

whom shall be elected as First Vice-President. ~~from among the members of their Bureau.~~ \*\*\* They shall represent the existing geopolitical Groups and the number of Bureau members shall be equivalent to the number of geopolitical Groups. Each member shall have a substitute. An effort shall be made to ensure gender balance.

Explanation

\* *This wording is misleading. Any similarity between the two situations is limited to the fact that the number of seats to which the geopolitical groups are entitled is different. But in the case of the Executive Committee, the number of seats to be distributed is determined in advance (15), and these seats are distributed in application of the mathematical rule of proportional distribution according to the number of votes to which the total number of members of the groups are entitled at the Assembly. That is not the case here. The system is much more approximate and based on an intuitive distinction between small groups, medium-sized groups and large groups, with these three categories not clearly defined (it is not even clear if account is taken of the number of members of each geopolitical group or their collective number of votes at the Assembly). Moreover, the total number of seats on the Committee Bureaux depends on the actual distribution of the geopolitical groups among these groups and can thus change. The distribution proposed in the document adopted in Quito (§15) gives a total number of 18 seats, but were it to change one day, that could result in Bureaux having more or fewer members.*

\*\* *Since the concepts of "medium-sized groups" and "larger groups" are not clearly defined (see preceding sub-amendment), the distribution of seats must result from a specific decision of a competent body. The Executive Committee and the Governing Council seem to be the most credible organs to take such a decision. It should be recalled that the provisions of Article 25.2 of the Statutes must be respected in this context.*

\*\*\* *Move the last sentence of the sub-amendment to the beginning of Article 7.3 as there is no logical connection with the rest of Article 7.1 but rather with Article 7.3.*

(Belgium)

**Sub-amendment 2**

Modify the original amendment as follows:

1. Each Standing Committee shall elect a Bureau composed of ~~a minimum of two representatives of each of the existing geopolitical groups, the first as a titular member and the second as a substitute. Similar to the system established for the composition of the Executive Committee (cf. Statutes, Art. 23.4), medium-sized geopolitical groups will be entitled to one additional seat on the Bureau, whereas larger groups will be entitled to two additional seats.~~ **The Standing Committees shall elect a President and a Vice-Presidents, one of whom shall be elected as First Vice-President, from among the members of their Bureau.** They shall represent the existing geopolitical Groups and the number of Bureau members shall be equivalent to the number of geopolitical Groups. Each member shall have a substitute. ~~An effort shall be made to ensure gender balance.~~

(United Arab Emirates)

New Rule 7.1bis

**Amendment 4.2**

*Add a new rule after the existing Rule 7.1 to read as follows:*

**7.1bis. Geopolitical groups entitled to two seats on a Bureau shall designate one male and one female candidate, while those entitled to three or four seats shall designate not more than two candidatures of the same sex. Every effort shall be made to include young parliamentarians and encourage candidatures from new Members of the Union as well as Members that do not hold other offices in the Union.**

New Rule 7.1ter

**Amendment 4.3**

*Add a new rule after Rule 7.1bis to read as follows:*

**7.1ter. Candidatures for a Bureau shall be submitted by the respective geopolitical group (cf. Statutes, Art. 25.2) and should have expertise in the area of work of the given Standing Committee.**

**Sub-amendment 1**

*Modify the original amendment as follows:*

**7.1ter. Candidatures for a Bureau shall be submitted by the respective geopolitical group (cf. Statutes, Art. 25.2) and should have expertise in the area of work of the given Standing Committee. They shall receive assurances from their respective parliaments that they will enjoy the necessary assistance in exercising their mandate as a member of the Bureau and that they will be able to participate in IPU Assemblies for the duration of their mandate.**

Explanation

*The proposed amendment is significantly weaker than the one the Council adopted in Quito (§20 – see description of the modification 4.3). It contents itself with goodwill and does not specify who should make the effort in question. The Members of the Union have always been very reluctant to impose restrictions on the way parliaments decide on the composition of their delegations to Assemblies. It is therefore proposed that the desired requirement be formulated as a sort of condition for eligibility, and thus as an obligation that falls to the individuals submitting their candidature for such an office. A written declaration by the parliament is not necessary. The candidate's commitment suffices. If, however, subsequently, it turns out that the individual does not participate (either because he/she omitted to obtain the necessary assurances or he/she has obtained it but is nevertheless absent without a valid reason), then it is the individual's responsibility, which would justify invoking the sanction provided for under Article 9bis.2.*

*(Belgium)*

## Sub-amendment 2

*Modify the original amendment as follows:*

**7.1ter.** Candidatures for a Bureau shall be submitted by the respective geopolitical group (cf. Statutes, Art. 25.2) and should have expertise and specialization as far as possible in the area of work of the given Standing Committee.

*(United Arab Emirates)*

New Rule 7.1quater

### Amendment 4.3

*Add a new rule after Rule 7.1ter to read as follows:*

**7.1quater.** Elected members of the Bureau shall be supported by their respective parliament in carrying out their function as members of the Bureau. Every effort shall be made to ensure their participation in IPU Assemblies for the duration of their mandate as members of the Bureau.

### Sub-amendment

*Delete this rule because the relevant idea has already been added in Rule 7.1ter (see sub-amendment 1 relating to the new Rule 7.1ter above).*

*(Belgium)*

Rule 7.2

### Amendment 4.1

*Amend the existing Rule as follows:*

2. ~~Officers~~ **Members of the Bureau** shall be elected or re-elected ~~at the first annual session of each Committee~~ by an absolute majority of the votes cast.

Rule 7.3

### Amendment 4.1

*Amend the existing Rule as follows:*

3. The posts of **President and** Vice-President shall be filled at a single election.

### Sub-amendment

*Modify the original amendment as follows:*

3. **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 be filled at a single election.

Explanation

*As indicated in Article 7.1, this sentence has no logical connection with the rest of Article 7.1 but rather with Article 7.3.*

*(Belgium)*

Rule 8.1

**Amendment 4.1**

*Amend the existing Rule as follows:*

1. ~~A **Members of the Bureau** Committee officer shall not be elected for a two-year period, renewable once. eligible for re-election to the same post, either as titular or substitute, after four years in office.~~

**Sub-amendment**

*Modify the original amendment as follows:*

1. ~~A **Committee officer** **Members of the Bureau** shall not be elected for a term of two years and may be re-elected for a further period of two years~~ eligible for re-election to the same post, either as titular or substitute, after four years in office.

*(Pakistan)*

Rule 8.2

**Amendment 4.1**

*Amend the existing Rule as follows:*

2. When a **member of a Bureau** ~~Committee officer~~ has served for four consecutive years, two years must elapse before that person may again be elected to the ~~post held previously~~ **same Bureau.**

Rule 9.1

**Amendment 4.1**

*Amend the existing Rule as follows:*

1. In order to ensure as far as possible a fair distribution of these posts among the Members of the Union, representatives of a Member shall not simultaneously hold more than one post as President or Vice-President **of Standing Committees (cf. Rule 7.3)**, or hold a post in the same body for more than four consecutive years (cf. Rule 8.2). **The geopolitical groups shall coordinate among themselves so as to ensure, to the extent possible, an equitable distribution of leadership functions within the Bureaux.**

**Sub-amendment 1**

*Modify the original amendment as follows:*

1. In order to ensure as far as possible a fair distribution of these posts among the Members of the Union, representatives of a Member shall not simultaneously hold more than one post as President or Vice-President **of Standing Committees (cf. Rule 7.3)**, or hold a post in the same body for more than four consecutive years (cf. Rule 8.2). **The geopolitical groups shall coordinate among themselves so as to ensure, to the extent possible, an equitable distribution of leadership functions within the Bureaux** the posts of President and Vice-Presidents of Standing Committees.

Explanation

*The explanation applies only to the French version of the sub-amendment.*

*(Belgium)*

## Sub-amendment 2

*If the preceding sub-amendment relating to Rule 9.1 is adopted, the last sub-amended sentence should be moved to the end of Rule 7.3, because this sentence is no longer linked with the opening sentence of Rule 9.1.*

*(Belgium)*

### Rule 9.2

#### **Amendment 4.2**

*Amend the existing Rule as follows:*

2. Members of the Executive Committee shall not simultaneously hold office as ~~President or Vice-President~~ **Bureau members** of a Standing Committees (cf. Statutes, Art. 23.9 and Standing Committees, Rule 10.2).

### Rule 9.3

#### **Amendment 4.2**

*Amend the existing Rule as follows:*

3. There shall be no candidates for the post of President **or Vice-President** of a Standing Committee from a Member of the Union represented on the Executive Committee.

### New Rule 9bis.1

#### **Amendment 4.4**

*Under the new Rule 9bis, add a first rule to read as follows:*

**9bis.1. Members of the Bureau who are unable to participate in a session may be replaced by other duly mandated representatives from the same Member of the Union for the duration of that session only.**

## Sub-amendment

*Modify the original amendment as follows:*

**9bis.1. Members of the Bureau who are unable to participate in a session may be replaced by other duly mandated representatives from the same Members of the Union for the duration of that session only.**

*(United Arab Emirates)*

### New Rule 9bis.2

#### **Amendment 4.4**

*Under the new Rule 9bis, add a second rule to read as follows:*

**9bis.2. Members of the Bureau who are absent for two consecutive sessions without a valid reason may lose their seat on the Bureau by a decision of the latter. In such cases, a new election will be held at the next session of the Standing Committee to fill the respective vacancy.**



### **Sub-amendment**

*Modify the original amendment as follows:*

**9bis.2. Members of the Bureau who are absent for two consecutive sessions without a valid reason ~~may~~ shall\* lose their seat on the Bureau by a decision of the ~~latter~~ corresponding Committee\*\*. In such cases, a new election shall be held at the next session of the Standing Committee to fill the respective vacancy.**

#### Explanation

\* *There is no longer any need to increase the number of precautions (also see the text adopted in Quito, §24, which is more affirmative than the description of the modification 4.4). The text already provides for a loss of mandate in the absence of a valid reason, which gives the member in question a chance to justify himself/herself. If indeed there is no valid reason to explain the absence, what other valid consideration could there be for not losing one's seat?*

\*\* *Since the members of the Bureau are elected by the Committee (see Art. 7.2), it falls to this same body to declare a loss of seat, where necessary. Taking the question to the Committee instead of leaving it within the Bureau will open up lengthy discussions on the reasons for the absence. But should this argument of convenience prevail over what seems to be a solid principle? Furthermore, there is a good chance that a member who refuses to be removed from his/her seat (or delegation) would appeal to the Committee, requesting it to revoke the decision of its Bureau. Finally, if the preceding sub-amendment is accepted, there will be one less thing to discuss.*

*(Belgium)*

#### New Rule 9ter

##### **Amendment 4.5**

*Add a new rule after Rule 9bis to read as follows:*

##### **RULE 9ter**

**The Bureau of each Standing Committee shall normally meet at both annual sessions of the Assembly to prepare and review implementation of the Committee's work plans and consider proposals for subject items to be discussed at future Assemblies.**

#### New Rule 9quater

##### **Amendment 4.6**

*Add a new rule after Rule 9ter to read as follows:*

**The Bureau of a Standing Committee may meet and deliberate irrespective of the number of Bureau members present. However, a vote may take place only if at least half of the Bureau members or their duly mandated replacements (cf. Rule 9bis.1) are in attendance. The quorum shall be determined by the Committee President at the opening of the session of the Bureau.**

### **Sub-amendment**

*Modify the original amendment as follows:*

**The Bureau of a Standing Committee may meet and deliberate irrespective of the number of Bureau members present. However, a vote may take place only if at least half of the Bureau members or their duly mandated replacements (cf. Rule 9bis.1) are in attendance. ~~The quorum shall be determined by the Committee President at the opening of the session of the Bureau.~~**

#### Explanation

*This sentence is superfluous and may even cause confusion given that the number of members of the Bureau is determined by new Article 7.1bis and that the quorum is defined as "at least half of the Bureau members or their duly mandated replacements". Contrary to what obtains for the quorum in the Committees (cf. point 10.2 - Art. 34.2 of the Rules of the Standing Committees), the quorum of the Bureaux does not depend on actual presence. It will therefore be known in advance and there will be no need to determine it on a case-by-case basis. Of course the number of members of the Bureaux, and therefore also the quorum, may change, as explained above (see point 4.1), but will always be based on Article 7.1bis. The Committee President will in no way be responsible for this.*

(Belgium)

#### Rule 10.1

##### **Amendment 4.1**

*Amend the existing Rule as follows:*

1. The ~~First~~ Vice-President shall act for the President of a Standing Committee in the latter's absence.

#### Rule 10.2

##### **Amendment 4.1**

*Amend the existing Rule as follows:*

2. In case of resignation, loss of parliamentary mandate or death of the President of a Standing Committee, or if the affiliation of the Member of the Union to which the President belongs is suspended, the President's duties shall be exercised by the ~~First~~ Vice-President, until such time as the Committee holds its next elections. A similar procedure shall be followed when the President of a Standing Committee is elected to the Executive Committee or to the Presidency of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (cf. Rule 9.2).

#### Rule 12.1

##### **Amendment 2.2**

*Amend the existing Rule as follows:*

1. The Assembly shall appoint rapporteurs for each **subject item proposed by the** Standing Committees, who will prepare a **succinct action-oriented draft resolution and an accompanying explanatory memorandum** ~~report or reports~~ on the item placed on their Committee's agenda. Members of the Union may contribute to **the drafting process** ~~such reports~~

by submitting their **brief written inputs in one of the official languages of the IPU (cf. Assembly, Rule 37.1)** suggestions and comments to the rapporteurs. The arrangements for the submission of such suggestions and comments **inputs** shall be indicated in the convocation of the Assembly. The **explanatory memorandum final report** shall remain the responsibility of its authors (cf. Assembly Rule 13).

### **Sub-amendment**

*Modify the original amendment as follows:*

1. The Assembly shall appoint rapporteurs for each **subject item proposed by the Standing Committees**. ~~who~~ **These rapporteurs** will prepare a **succinct, action-oriented draft resolution and an accompanying explanatory memorandum** ~~report or reports~~ on the item placed on their Committee's agenda. Members of the Union may contribute to **the drafting process** ~~such reports~~ by submitting their **brief written inputs in one of the official languages of the IPU (cf. Assembly, Rule 37.1)** suggestions and comments to the rapporteurs. The arrangements for the submission of such suggestions and comments **inputs** shall be indicated in the convocation of the Assembly. The **explanatory memorandum final report** shall remain the responsibility of its authors (cf. Assembly Rule 13).

#### Explanation

*It is easier to read the sentence if it is split in two. This is, in fact, necessary, at least in the French-language version, because the fact that "Standing Committees" appears in the plural creates a grammatical ambiguity as the relative pronoun should refer to the rapporteurs and not to the Committee.*

*(Belgium)*

### Rule 12.2

#### **Amendment 2.2**

*Amend the existing Rule as follows:*

2. The rapporteurs shall also prepare a draft resolution on the subject to be debated in their Committee, which the Secretariat of the IPU shall send **the draft resolution and the explanatory memorandum** to the Members in advance of the session. Members may propose amendments to the draft resolution no later than 15 days before the opening of the Assembly. However, the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians shall be permitted to submit amendments which incorporate a gender perspective to the draft resolutions at any time prior to the closure of the first sitting of the respective Standing Committee. ~~This Rule shall apply to the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians at the second Assembly of the year.~~ The Committee will finalise the draft resolution and submit it to the Assembly for adoption (cf. Assembly Rule 17.1).

### New Rule 12.3

#### **Amendment 6.1**

*Add a new rule after the existing Rule 12.2 to read as follows:*

**12.3. The appointment of rapporteurs shall take into account the principles of gender equality and equitable geographical distribution. Every effort shall be made to include young parliamentarians among the rapporteurs.**

New Rule 12.4

**Amendment 6.2**

*Add a new rule after Rule 12.3 to read as follows:*

**12.4. If at least one rapporteur is not appointed before the end of the Assembly preceding the one where the subject is to be discussed, the President of the IPU shall be entrusted with pursuing consultations with a view to appointing these rapporteurs at the earliest possible opportunity.**

Rule 15.1

**Amendment 2.3**

*Amend the existing Rule as follows:*

1. ~~The Bureau of a~~ **Resolutions shall normally be finalised in the Standing Committees. A Standing Committee may, if necessary, set up a drafting committee.**

**Sub-amendment**

*Modify the original amendment as follows:*

1. ~~The Bureau of a~~ **Resolutions shall normally be finalised in the Standing Committees. A Standing Committee may, if necessary, set up a drafting committee, whose members shall be competent and specialize in the subject under study.**

*(United Arab Emirates)*

New Rule 16bis

**Amendment 5.1**

*Add a new rule after the existing Rule 16 to read as follows:*

**SELECTION OF SUBJECT ITEMS**

**RULE 16bis**

**Any Member of the Union may submit a proposal for a subject item to be discussed by a Standing Committee at a future Assembly. Such proposals shall be deposited with the Secretariat of the Union no later than 15 days before the opening of the Assembly preceding the one where the subject will be discussed.**

New Rule 16ter

**Amendment 5.2**

*After Rule 16bis, add a new rule comprising three paragraphs to read as follows:*

**RULE 16ter**

**16ter.1. A Standing Committee shall decide on the subject item to be proposed for discussion at the next Assembly (cf. Assembly, Rule 15.3) after hearing the recommendation of its Bureau.**

**16ter.2.** When the Committee is called upon to take a decision on the subject item to be proposed for discussion at the next Assembly, the only proposals in order, other than those included in the recommendation of its Bureau, shall be earlier proposals submitted within the statutory deadlines (cf. Rule 16bis.1) but not accepted by the Bureau.

**16ter.3.** If a Standing Committee receives a request from a Member of the Union to consider a proposal that was not accepted by the Bureau, the Standing Committee shall first decide whether to consider such a request.

#### New Rule 16quater

#### **Amendment 5.3**

*After Rule 16ter, add a new rule comprising four paragraphs to read as follows:*

#### **RULE 16quater**

**16quater.1.** The Bureau shall consider all duly submitted proposals for subject items to be discussed at future Assemblies and shall formulate its recommendation to the Standing Committee.

**16quater.2.** The authors of proposals (cf. Rule 16bis.1) shall be invited to present them to the Bureau.

**16quater.3.** A member of the Bureau cannot present a proposal on behalf of a delegation.

**16quater.4.** When considering the proposals for subject items to be discussed at future Assemblies, the Bureau may choose one of the proposals, combine two or more of them into a single item, put forward another subject item or decide to submit more than one proposal to the Standing Committee.

#### **Sub-amendment 1**

*Modify the original amendment relating to paragraph 16quater.4 as follows:*

**16quater.4.** When considering the proposals for subject items to be discussed at future Assemblies, the Bureau may choose one of the proposals, combine two or more of them **dealing with the same subject or related subjects** into a single item, put forward another subject item or decide to submit more than one proposal to the Standing Committee.

#### Explanation

*In the past, Committee Bureaux sometimes combined unrelated subject items in a bid to please a maximum number of delegations, which is understandable but detracts from the coherence of the final resolution. The proposed addition is sufficiently vague to allow the necessary flexibility, but at least the Bureaux will have to justify why they group different proposals together.*

*(Belgium)*

## Sub-amendment 2

*Modify the original amendment relating to paragraph 16quater.4 as follows:*

**16quater.4. When considering the proposals for subject items to be discussed at future Assemblies, the Bureau may ~~choose~~ recommend one of the proposals, combine two or more of them into a single item, put forward another subject item or decide to submit more than one proposal to the Standing Committee.**

*(United Arab Emirates)*

### New Rule 16quinquies

#### **Amendment 5.4**

*Add a new rule after Rule 16quater to read as follow:*

#### **RULE 16quinquies**

**The Bureau of one Standing Committee may convey to the Bureau of another Standing Committee its suggestions for subject items to be discussed by that Standing Committee at future Assemblies.**

### Rule 30.1

#### **Amendment 4.6**

*Amend the existing Rule as follows:*

1. **Decisions of Standing Committees and their Bureaux** ~~decisions~~, with the exception of elections which are held in conformity with the provisions of Rule 7, shall be taken either by show of hands or by roll call.

### Rule 34.1

#### **Amendment 10.2**

*Amend the existing Rule as follows:*

1. A Standing Committee may meet and deliberate whatever the number of members present. However, a vote may take place only if at least half of the Members of the Union participating in the Assembly are represented in the Standing Committee. The quorum shall be determined ~~by the Secretary General~~ **on the basis of the number of Members of the Union present at the Assembly** at the **time of its opening** ~~of each Assembly~~.

### Rule 34.2

#### **Amendment 10.2**

*Amend the existing rule as follows:*

2. The quorum shall be considered as attained and a vote taken by a Standing Committee as valid, whatever the number of members present or participating therein if, before the voting, the President has not ~~verified whether there is a quorum and/or has not been called upon to do so~~ by a member of the Standing Committee **to verify whether there is a quorum.**

Rule 34.3

**Amendment 10.2**

*Delete the existing rule.*

~~3. When, before the vote, the presence of a quorum has been noted, that vote shall be considered as valid whatever the number of members participating therein.~~

Rule 35.1

**Amendment 4.6**

*Amend the existing rule as follows:*

1. Decisions **of Standing Committees and their Bureaux** shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast, except as stipulated in Rule 7.2 of these Rules.