



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

135th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 23 – 27.10.2016

Convocation

A/135/C.1
15 June 2016

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

The 135th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and related meetings will be held at the International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG), Switzerland, from Sunday, 23 to Thursday, 27 October 2016.

We are pleased to enclose detailed information on these meetings. We very much hope that your Parliament will be represented at the 135th Assembly and that the delegation, under your leadership, will take an active part in the proceedings.

Yours sincerely,

Martin CHUNGONG
Secretary General

Saber CHOWDHURY
President

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#IPU135

INFORMATION ON THE ASSEMBLY

AGENDA

1. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 135th Assembly
2. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
3. General Debate on *Human rights abuses as precursors of conflict: Parliaments as early responders*
4. The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective (*Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights*)
5. Reports of the Standing Committees on Peace and International Security; Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade; and United Nations Affairs
6. Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 137th IPU Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs

TIMETABLE

The Timetable of the Assembly and related meetings is set out in **Annex 1**.

The Governing Council will convene on 24 and 27 October and will consider and take decisions on matters relating to the functioning and activities of the IPU. The convocation of the 199th session of the IPU Governing Council is attached.

The Assembly will start its General Debate on 24 October with the high-level segment reserved for Speakers of Parliament. At its sittings on 26 and 27 October, the Assembly will adopt resolutions on the emergency item and on the subject item taken up Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights. The Assembly is expected to conclude its business by 6 p.m. on Thursday, 27 October.

EMERGENCY ITEM

According to Assembly Rule 11.1 and Article 14.2 of the Statutes, any Member of the IPU may request the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda. If the Assembly so decides, the emergency item will be debated by the Assembly in the morning of Tuesday, 25 October 2016. Provision has also been made later that day for a drafting committee to meet in order to prepare a draft resolution.

Members are reminded that all requests for the inclusion of an emergency item must relate to a recent major event of international concern on which it appears necessary for the IPU to express an opinion. All proposals for an emergency item should be accompanied by a brief explanatory memorandum and a draft resolution, which clearly define the scope of the subject covered by the request.

STANDING COMMITTEES

All four Standing Committees will meet during the 135th IPU Assembly.

The Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights will discuss and adopt a resolution on the issue of *The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective*.

The other three Standing Committees will hold hearings and panel discussions on the basis of recommendations from their respective Bureaux. The draft agendas of the Standing Committees are attached.

Members are invited to actively participate in the proceedings of the Standing Committees. Members are also kindly reminded that Bureau members and other IPU office-holders should be included in the national delegations to the Assembly.

PARTICIPATION

IPU Members may appoint a maximum of eight delegates, or 10 for parliaments of countries with a population of 100 million inhabitants or more. The number of additional MPs accompanying delegations as Advisers must not exceed two.

All Member Parliaments are encouraged to strive for gender parity in the composition of their delegations. Any delegation which, for three consecutive sessions of the Assembly, is composed exclusively of parliamentarians of the same sex, shall automatically be reduced by one person.

Member Parliaments are also encouraged to include young members of parliament in their delegation. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU will meet on 24 October 2016. Among other things, the Forum will formulate and provide input to the deliberations of the Assembly.

In addition to the Secretaries General who will be attending the regular session of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP), Members are also encouraged to include professional parliamentary staff (IPU focal points) in the delegation, with a view to ensuring adequate support during and in follow-up to the Assembly (in particular in terms of meeting the statutory obligation by Members to prepare and disseminate reports on action undertaken on IPU decisions and resolutions).

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

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 a maximum of two delegates.

The Plenary Hall, where the meetings of the Assembly and Governing Council are held, has limited seating capacity. Depending on actual attendance at the 135th Assembly, the Secretariat will endeavour to allocate an adequate number of seats for all delegations. At a minimum, each delegation will be allocated a sufficient number of seats required for a possible vote by the Assembly or Governing Council.

STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee of the Assembly is 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 smooth running of the Assembly proceedings. The first sitting of the Steering Committee is scheduled for the early morning of Monday, 24 October 2016.

VACANCIES TO BE FILLED DURING THE 135th ASSEMBLY

A provisional list of vacancies for IPU bodies will be posted on the IPU website prior to the opening of the Assembly.

Member Parliaments are invited to consider submitting candidatures for the main committees and bodies of the IPU (<http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/comtees.htm>). Candidates should have the expertise, as far as possible, in the areas of work of the given bodies, and should be supported by their respective parliament in carrying out their functions as IPU office-holders. New Members of the IPU and Members currently not holding IPU offices are encouraged to submit candidatures.

A meeting of the Chairpersons of the Geopolitical Groups is foreseen on Sunday, 23 October, from 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Both the Chairpersons and Secretaries of the Geopolitical Groups are invited to attend this important meeting.

PREPARATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS AND SELECTION OF AGENDA ITEMS

The deadlines pertaining to the preparation of the resolution for Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights are the following:

1 July 2016	Deadline for the co-Rapporteurs to submit the draft resolution and explanatory memorandum to the IPU Secretariat.
9 October 2016	Deadline for Member Parliaments to submit written amendments to the draft resolution.
24 to 27 October 2016	Committee debates, amends and adopts the draft resolution. Co-Rapporteurs present the draft resolution and provide advice during the drafting process.
27 October 2016	135 th IPU Assembly formally adopts the resolution.

All Members may contribute to the drafting of the resolution by submitting a brief written input (Article 13.1 of the Rules of the Standing Committees). The deadline for written input to the Third Standing Committee has passed (10 April 2016). Members are encouraged to submit input for the draft resolutions to be adopted by the First and Second Standing Committees at the 136th IPU Assembly (April 2017) no later than 30 September 2016.

In accordance with the Rules of the Standing Committees, proposals for subject items to be taken up by Standing Committees should be submitted no later than 15 days before the opening of the Assembly preceding the one where the subject will be discussed. As such, Members are encouraged to submit to the IPU Secretariat no later than 10 October 2016 their proposals for subject items to be taken up by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights.

These will serve as the basis for consultations by the respective Standing Committee Bureau before a final decision is taken by the Standing Committee. When considering the proposals for subject items to be discussed at future Assemblies, the Bureau may recommend 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.

GENERAL DEBATE (Item 3 of the agenda)

The General Debate at the 135th Assembly will focus on the overall theme of *Human rights abuses as precursors of conflict: Parliaments as early responders*. A concept note on this theme is attached, for ease of reference.

In accordance with the Assembly Rules and unless the Steering Committee decides otherwise, every delegation is entitled to a speaking time of eight minutes in the General Debate. When two speakers from the same delegation are registered for the Debate, the eight minutes will be shared as appropriate. By decision of the IPU Governing Council, the speaking time for Observers will be five minutes.

In light of the growing membership of the IPU (and implicitly the growing number of speakers in the General Debate), as well as of the difficulties in time management experienced at recent Assemblies, it is expected that the Steering Committee will consider limiting speaking time in the General Debate to seven minutes for Members and four minutes for Permanent Observers.

Registration of speakers will take place at the desk situated just outside the main entrance to the Plenary Hall (Room 1) on the first floor of the CICG. This desk will open 24 hours before the beginning of the first plenary of the Assembly, on Sunday, 23 October at 11 a.m.

Members may also send the names of their speaker(s) in advance to the IPU Secretariat by e-mail or fax, using the attached Speakers pre-registration form (**Annex 2**). As per established practice, the order of speakers will be determined by a public drawing of lots at 6 p.m. on Sunday, 23 October 2016.

VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE ASSEMBLY

According to Assembly Rule 7.3, all delegations from Member Parliaments are entitled to designate one of their members as a Vice-President of the Assembly. Some of them will be called upon to replace the President of the Assembly during a sitting or part of a sitting.

Upon arrival at the IPU Registration Desk in Geneva, delegations are invited to indicate the name of the parliamentarian nominated as a Vice-President of the Assembly. Alternatively, names may be communicated to the Documents Submission and Control Service (office 224/225, on the second floor of the CICG), no later than Monday, 24 October 2016.

TABLE SHOWING THE ALLOCATION OF VOTES

A provisional table showing the votes allocated to delegations to the 135th Assembly is contained in **Annex 3**.

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

LANGUAGES AND DOCUMENTATION

The IPU Secretariat will provide simultaneous interpretation into and from its two official languages: 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, Japanese, Portuguese and Russian at sittings of the Assembly and the Governing Council, and for some sessions of the Standing Committees. These booths are provided free of charge and may be used by the interpretation teams of these languages, if the parliaments concerned choose to avail themselves of these facilities.

Delegates may, exceptionally, use another language provided that they arrange for their speech to be interpreted into one of the IPU's official languages by a person designated by them, who will be given access to an interpretation booth. To allow for all necessary arrangements to be made in good time, delegations should contact well in advance the Chief Interpreter (Ms. F. Steinig-Huang) or the English booth interpreters assigned to the meeting at which the speech will be delivered. Moreover, eight copies of the translation of the speech into one of the IPU's official languages should be given to the Chief Interpreter or to the English booth for distribution to the other interpreters.

Official statements made in the General Debate will be posted on the Assembly webpage and will be part of the records of the Assembly. For this purpose, as well as to ensure accurate simultaneous interpretation into the other working languages, delegations are invited to send an electronic copy of their address in the General Debate to interpreters@ipu.org, at least three hours before the speech is to be made.

Documentation pertaining to the work of the Assembly, Governing Council, Standing Committees and other IPU bodies, as well as to other events taking place during the 135th Assembly, will be made available on the IPU website at: www.ipu.org/conf-e/135agnd.htm.

In keeping with the decision by the IPU governing bodies to reduce the carbon footprint of the Organization and continue to curb paper waste, only a limited number of documentation sets will be printed for the various sessions of the Assembly.

MEETINGS OF OTHER BODIES

The following IPU bodies will also meet during the Assembly:

- Executive Committee (21, 22 and 26 October, *in camera*);
- Sub-Committee on Finance (20 October, *in camera*);
- Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (22 to 26 October, *in camera*);
- Forum of Women Parliamentarians (23 and 26 October, *public sittings*);
- Bureau of Women Parliamentarians (23 and 27 October, *in camera*);
- Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU (24 October, *public sitting*);
- Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU (24 October, *in camera*);
- Gender Partnership Group (22 and 26 October, *in camera*);

- Committee on Middle East Questions (23 and 25 October, *in camera*);
- Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (26 October);
- Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (23 October, *in camera*).

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

RESULTS OF THE ASSEMBLY

All delegations will receive two printed copies of the *Results* of the 135th Assembly. In addition, the document will become accessible on the IPU website two weeks after the close of the Assembly, when a complete electronic version can be downloaded in PDF format.

ASSEMBLY APP

On 1 October 2016, an IPU Assembly App will be launched, on a trial basis, and will be available for download free of charge. More information will be sent out on the launch day.

Initially, the core features will only be available in English. However, as of 2017, they will also exist in French and Spanish. With a view to helping non-native English speakers, a short users' manual will be posted on the website and distributed, upon request, at the Registration Desk.

The purpose of the App is to facilitate the online consultation of official IPU documents, as part of the IPU's paper smart policy, and to enhance delegates' participation in IPU Assemblies.

Delegates are invited to provide feedback and comments, via the online survey, which will be published at the end of the 135th Assembly.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Further information concerning the session will be provided in the Assembly Guidebook, distributed to delegations upon registration in Geneva. During the Assembly, a daily Journal will also be available, providing the latest updates on the programme of meetings and other important information. Both documents will also be available online.

REGISTRATION

All delegations are requested to respect the registration deadline of 3 October 2016.

All delegations are encouraged to use the IPU online registration system. **Annex 4** provides instructions on how to use the system, which will be operational as of 1 July 2016. It is recommended that only one person be designated as the delegation coordinator and have access to the system.

Should you encounter any difficulties, please contact the registration service at postbox@ipu.org. If for any reason your Parliament is unable to register online, the composition of your delegation may be transmitted by either e-mail or fax (+41 22 919 41 60).

The Registration and Information Service will be open at the CICG as of Saturday, 22 October 2016 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and from 23 to 26 October from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., as well as on Thursday, 27 October 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Important: As part of the online registration procedure, delegates are requested to provide their individual e-mail addresses. By doing so, they tacitly accept to be added to the IPU's mailing list and will receive regular updates on the work of the IPU.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

October is a particularly busy month for hotels in Geneva. Delegates are therefore advised to make their hotel reservations as soon as possible. Those delegations from countries with a Permanent Mission in Geneva are invited to contact their respective Mission, as they are accustomed to receiving delegations to UN meetings and handling hotel reservations. Many of them have agreements for preferential rates with hotels close to the Palais des Nations area and the CICG.

For those Members without diplomatic representation in Geneva, as well as Associate Members and official observers, the IPU Secretariat has pre-booked a limited number of rooms at the following hotels:

- **Mövenpick** <http://www.movenpick.com/en/europe/switzerland/geneva/hotel-geneva> (5-star, located close to the airport, offers a shuttle service morning and evening to the CICG), prices from CHF 230 for a classic room with breakfast. Please contact camille.mouret@moevenpick.com, quoting IPU Assembly, to make your reservations.
- **Warwick** <http://warwickhotels.com/geneva> (4-star, located opposite main train station in downtown Geneva), prices from CHF 230 for a classic room without breakfast. Please contact resa.group@warwickhotels.com, quoting IPU Assembly, to make your reservations.
- **Ibis Centre Genève Nations** <http://www.ibis.com/fr/hotel-8069-ibis-geneve-centre-nations/index.shtml> (3-star, 10-15 minute walk to the CICG), prices from CHF 136 for a standard single room with breakfast. Please contact H8069-re@accor.com, quoting IPU Assembly to make your reservations.
- **Citadines** <http://www.citadines.com/en/france/ferney-voltaire/geneve.html> (3-star Apart'hotel, located across the border in Ferney-Voltaire, France), prices from EUR 123 (studio) to EUR 175 (2-bed apartment), without breakfast. Contact ferney@citadines.com, quoting IPU Assembly, to make your reservations.

In general, the preferential negotiated rates are available until 23 September 2016, after which the rooms will be released.

In keeping with the practice of hotels in Geneva, only reservations made with a credit card guarantee will be confirmed. It is also possible to make reservations online via the Tourist Office's website at: www.geneve-tourisme.ch/en/accommodation.

VISAS

Switzerland is an Associate Member of the Schengen Agreement and part of the Schengen area. The Visa Information System (VIS) was introduced in the Schengen area in October 2011, which stores biometric data (fingerprints and facial image) of the Schengen visa applicant. All Swiss embassies and consulates are gradually being connected to the VIS system.

All visa applicants are required to make an appointment with the Swiss embassy/consulate and submit and register their biometric data in person. This data remains valid in the VIS system for a period of five years.


An official document explaining the implementation of the VIS system, registration of biometric data and the rollout timetable for Swiss embassies/consulates connected to the VIS system is available at www.bfm.admin.ch/content/bfm/en/home/themen/einreise/einfuehrung_vis.html.

The time needed to obtain a visa depends greatly on local circumstances. In addition, Switzerland has signed agreements with certain countries where it is not represented by a diplomatic or consular entity. Under certain conditions these agreements allow for the issuing of visas by a Schengen State in a country where Switzerland is not represented. It is therefore highly recommended that applicants enquire directly with the Swiss embassy/consulate in their country of residence or consult the appropriate website. Appointments for submitting and registering biometric data must therefore be taken well in advance, according to the information provided by the Swiss authorities. Following Switzerland's entry into the Schengen area, visas are no longer issued upon arrival at Geneva International Airport.

GENERAL TIMETABLE OF THE 135th ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 20 to 27 October 2016

Thursday, 20 October 2016

	11.00 – 13.00	Sub-Committee on Finance*
	15.00 – 18.00	Main meeting room, IPU Headquarters

Friday, 21 October 2016

	10.00 – 13.00	Executive Committee*
	15.00 – 18.00	Main meeting room, IPU Headquarters

Saturday, 22 October 2016













	09.00 – 10.00	Gender Partnership Group*
		Main meeting room, IPU Headquarters
	09.00 – 19.00	Beginning of Registration
		Lobby, CICG
	09.30 – 13.00	Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians*
		Salle Lausanne, CCV Annexe
	10.00 – 13.00	Executive Committee*
		Main meeting room, IPU Headquarters
	14.30 – 18.00	Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians*
		Salle Lausanne, CCV Annexe
	15.00 – 18.00	Executive Committee*
		Main meeting room, IPU Headquarters

Sunday, 23 October 2016

	08.30 – 10.30	Bureau of Women Parliamentarians*
		Salle Genève, CCV Annexe
	11.00 – 12.30	Meeting with the Chairpersons of the Geopolitical Groups*
		Room 18, level -1, CICG
	11.00 – 13.00	Forum of Women Parliamentarians
		Room 2, level 0, CICG
	14.00 – 15.00	Meeting of Advisers and Secretaries to delegations
		Rooms 5 & 6, level 3, CICG
	14.30 – 17.30	Forum of Women Parliamentarians
		Room 2, level 0, CICG
	14.30 – 18.00	Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians*
		Salle Lausanne, CCV Annexe
	15.00 – 18.00	Committee on Middle East Questions*
		Salle Genève, CCV Annexe

* in camera

Monday, 24 October 2016

	08.00 – 09.00	Assembly Steering Committee* <i>VIP Lounge, level 3, CICG</i>
	08.00 – 09.00	Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU* <i>Room 18, level -1, CICG</i>
	09.00 – 10.45	Governing Council <i>Room 1, level 1, CICG</i>
	09.00 – 13.00	Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU <i>Room 2, level 0, CICG</i>
	09.30 – 13.00	Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights Presentation and debate of draft resolution on <i>The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective</i> <i>Rooms 3 & 4, level 0, CICG</i>
ASGP	11.00 – 12.30	ASGP Meeting <i>Rooms 5 & 6, level 3, CICG</i>
	11.00 – 13.00	Assembly: Start of the General Debate on <i>Human rights abuses as precursors of conflict: parliaments as early responders</i> <i>Room 1, level 1, CICG</i>
	14.30 – 17.00	Assembly: General Debate <i>Room 1, level 1, CICG</i>
	14.30 – 17.30	Standing Committee on Peace and International Security Experts hearing on <i>The role of parliament in preventing outside interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States</i> <i>Room 2, level 0, CICG</i>
	14.30 – 17.30	Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (ENGLISH ONLY)* <i>Room 15, level -1, CICG</i>
ASGP	14.30 – 17.30	ASGP Meeting <i>Rooms 5 & 6, level 3, CICG</i>
	14.30 – 18.00	Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians* <i>Salle Lausanne, CCV Annexe</i>
	14.30 – 18.30	Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights Drafting in plenary of the draft resolution <i>Rooms 3 & 4, level 0, CICG</i>
	17.00 – 18.30	Assembly: Decision on the emergency item <i>Room 1, level 1, CICG</i>

* *in camera*

Tuesday, 25 October 2016

	09.00 – 10.30	Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade* <i>Room 18, level -1, CICG</i>
	09.00 – 13.00	Assembly - Debate on the emergency item, and - Continuation of the General Debate <i>Room 1, level 1, CICG</i>
	09.30 – 12.30	Information Session on IPU's work and activities Open to all delegates (English and French only) <i>Room 2, level 0, CICG</i>
	09.30 – 13.00	Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights Conclusion of drafting in plenary of the draft resolution <i>Rooms 3 & 4, level 0, CICG</i>
	09.30 – 13.00	Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians* <i>Salle Lausanne, CCV Annexe</i>
ASGP	10.00 – 12.30	ASGP Meeting <i>Rooms 5 & 6, level 3, CICG</i>
	11.00 – 13.00	Committee on Middle East Questions* <i>Salle Genève, CCV Annexe</i>
	14.30 – 16.00	Bureau of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs* <i>Room 18, level -1, CICG</i>
ASGP	14.30 – 17.30	ASGP Meeting <i>Rooms 5 & 6, level 3, CICG</i>
	14.30 – 18.00	Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade - Segment on the <i>Parliamentary contribution to the 2016 UN Climate Change Conference</i> , and - Debate on <i>Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the SDGs, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development</i> <i>Room 2, level 0, CICG</i>
	14.30 – 18.30	Assembly: Continuation of the General Debate <i>Room 1, level 1, CICG</i>
	14.30 – 18.30	Possible drafting committee on the emergency item* <i>Salle Genève, CCV Annexe</i>
	14.30 – 18.30	Informal Panel discussions (English and French only) <i>Rooms 3 & 4, level 0, CICG</i>
	16.30 – 18.30	Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights* <i>Room 18, level -1, CICG</i>







* *in camera*

Wednesday, 26 October 2016

	09.00 – 10.00	Gender Partnership Group* <i>Salle Genève, CCV Annexe</i>
	09.00 – 11.00	Parity debate organized by the Forum of Women Parliamentarians <i>Room 2, level 0, CICG</i>
	09.00 – 12.00	Standing Committee on Peace and International Security Panel discussions on: - <i>Promoting democratic accountability of the private security sector and on</i> - <i>Comprehensive Disarmament</i> <i>Room 1, level 1, CICG</i>
	09.00 – 13.00	Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs - Debate on <i>Funding the United Nations</i> and - Panel discussion on <i>The UN response to allegations of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse by UN peacekeepers</i> <i>Rooms 3 & 4, level 0, CICG</i>
ASGP	10.00 – 12.30	ASGP Meeting <i>Rooms 5 & 6, level 3, CICG</i>
	10.30 – 13.00	Executive Committee* <i>Salle Genève, CCV Annexe</i>
	11.30 – 13.00	Informal Panel discussion <i>Room 2, level 0, CICG</i>
	14.30 – 16.00	Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights Adoption of the draft resolution <i>Rooms 3 & 4, level 0, CICG</i>
	14.30 – 16.30	Open session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law <i>Salle Genève, CCV Annexe</i>
ASGP	14.30 – 17.30	ASGP Meeting <i>Rooms 5 & 6, level 3, CICG</i>
	14.30 – 18.00	Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians* <i>Salle Lausanne, CCV Annexe</i>
	14.30 – 18.30	Assembly - Adoption of the resolution on the emergency item, and - Conclusion of the General Debate <i>Room 1, level 1, CICG</i>
	16.30 – 18.30	Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade Panel discussion on <i>The role of parliaments in countering the activities of vulture funds</i> <i>Room 2, level 0, CICG</i>
	17.00 – 18.30	Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law* <i>Salle Genève, CCV Annexe</i>

* *in camera*

Thursday, 27 October 2016

	08.00 – 10.00	Bureau of Women Parliamentarians * <i>Salle Genève, CCV Annexe</i>
	09.30 – 13.00	Governing Council <i>Room 1, level 1, CICG</i>
ASGP	10.00 – 12.30	ASGP Meeting <i>Rooms 5 & 6, level 3, CICG</i>
	10.30 – 12.30	Informal Panel discussion <i>Rooms 3 & 4, level 0, CICG</i>
	14.00 – 16.00	Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security* <i>Room 18, level -1, CICG</i>
	14.30	Governing Council <i>Room 1, level 1, CICG</i>
	At the end of the Governing Council	Assembly - Adoption of resolutions - Reports of the Standing Committees - Outcome document of the General debate, and - Closing sitting <i>Room 1, level 1, CICG</i>

Legend:

Assembly /
Governing Council



Committees /
Panel discussions



Other Assembly events,
including *in camera*
sessions





Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

135th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 23 – 27.10.2016

Assembly
Item 3

A/135/3-Inf.1
15 June 2016

Concept note

General Debate on *Human rights abuses as precursors of conflict: Parliaments as early responders*

No country is immune to human rights violations. Across the world, marginalization, political exclusion, undue restrictions to fundamental freedoms such as the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, religious intolerance and poverty are prevalent.

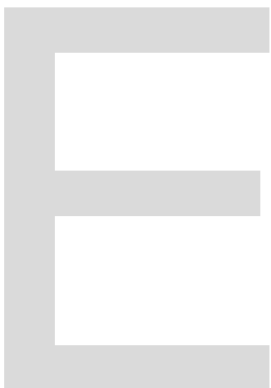
States continue to fall short of fully implementing the civil and political, as well as economic, social and cultural rights to which they have subscribed through their constitutions and by signing up to international treaties.

Failure to address human rights challenges not only runs counter to national and international obligations, but if abuses become more widespread and serious, also creates a fertile breeding ground for violent conflict. It is clear that a pervasive lack of respect for human dignity and an airtight lid on the free flow of information and ideas - indispensable for democracy to flourish - are bound to increase the appeal of those bent on advocating the use of violence to achieve their own objectives. These situations are often compounded by poor governance, resulting in injustice, whether real or perceived.

Parliaments are the guardians of human rights by their very nature as they work for the well-being of the people that they represent. Parliamentarians are also the "eyes and ears" of ordinary citizens and are familiar with their concerns. They are well-placed to articulate those concerns in parliament and to place them in the context of the greater good for the country as a whole. Parliaments should therefore be at the forefront in raising the alarm and taking action when very serious human rights challenges arise.

The General Debate is designed to look at specific ways in which parliaments can best fulfil their obligation to protect the population and their human rights by responding to the following questions:

- What are good examples of parliamentary mechanisms and processes to:
(i) promote respect for human rights; (ii) monitor human rights developments; and
(iii) respond to serious and evolving patterns of human rights violations and their underlying causes?
- How to ensure that parliaments are part of the solution, not the problem, in responding to increased patterns of human rights violations? What role does good governance play in preventing or halting violent conflict?
- How to counter the tendency to give respect for human rights even lower priority by the time violent conflict erupts, although the opposite would do much to de-escalate the situation?



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- How can parliaments better draw on women's involvement and leadership in resolving human rights challenges and potential violent conflict? What is the role of civil society and marginalized groups?
- How can regional and international parliamentary diplomacy signal and act on potentially violent human rights situations, bearing in mind the global political commitment - *Responsibility to Protect (R2P)* - to prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity?
- What mechanisms can the IPU set up to help address human rights situations likely to lead to violent conflict?
- How to ensure greater parliamentary engagement with and integration into early warning and early response efforts by the United Nations and regional organizations, bearing in mind the UN Secretary General's Human Rights Up Front Initiative?



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135th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 23 – 27.10.2016

Standing Committee on
Peace and International Security

C-I/135/A.1
15 June 2016

Draft agenda

1. **Adoption of the agenda**
2. **Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held during the 134th IPU Assembly in Lusaka (March 2016)**
3. **Elections to the Bureau**

The Committee will fill the existing vacancies on the Bureau, based on proposals from the geopolitical groups.

4. **Expert hearing on *The role of parliament in preventing outside interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States***

Non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States is one of the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations. However, it is frequently interpreted in unreliable ways. The Committee wished to place this subject on their agenda with the intention of adopting a resolution on the topic at the 136th IPU Assembly. To prepare for that, the Committee will hold an expert hearing to share opinions with members about how the concept has evolved and where the challenges and opportunities lie. The development of the concepts of humanitarian intervention and responsibility to protect will be of particular interest. There will also be a discussion about the measures and actions parliaments can plan for in terms of legislation, policy development, evaluation and oversight. The co-Rapporteurs will draw on the hearing and the subsequent debate as they write the first draft of the resolution.

5. **Panel discussion on *Promoting democratic accountability of the private security sector***

The security landscape is changing and new actors are emerging, such as private military and security companies (PMSCs). Their range of services is becoming increasingly diversified while their nature and role often remain unclear. Participants will discuss possible measures that parliaments could take to regulate and oversee the activities of these companies.

6. **Panel discussion on *Comprehensive Disarmament***

The panel discussion will provide the Committee with an opportunity to exchange views about challenges that stand in the way of implementing disarmament in a holistic manner taking into account the broader spectrum of issues. It will address the need to link weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) disarmament and non-proliferation with conventional weapons control strategies. Comprehensive disarmament will also be discussed in the light of stability and security dynamics as well as less traditional aspects such as development and socio-economic needs.

7. **Any other business**



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135th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 23 – 27.10.2016

Standing Committee on
Sustainable Development,
Finance and Trade

C-II/135/A.1
15 June 2016

Draft agenda

1. **Adoption of the agenda**
2. **Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held during the 134th IPU Assembly in Lusaka (March 2016)**

3. **Elections to the Bureau**

The Committee will fill the existing vacancies on the Bureau, based on proposals from the geopolitical groups.

4. **Parliamentary contribution to the 2016 UN Climate Change Conference**

On 13 November, a Parliamentary Meeting co-organized by the IPU and the Moroccan Parliament will take place in conjunction with COP22/CMP12. The Committee will be briefed on practical arrangements for the Meeting in Marrakesh. Committee members will exchange views on a pre-draft of the outcome document.

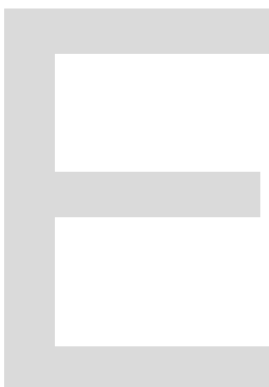
5. **Debate on *Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the SDGs, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development***

This debate will be organized around the theme of the Committee resolution that is expected to be adopted at the 136th Assembly in Dhaka. The debate will provide the Committee with an opportunity to exchange views about challenges that stand in the way of implementing the SDGs from the viewpoint of the financial inclusion of women. It will also provide the co-Rapporteurs with initial information about how IPU Member Parliaments approach this issue.

6. **Panel discussion on *The role of parliaments in countering the activities of vulture funds***

A vulture fund is a hedge fund or private equity fund that invests in debt considered to be very weak or in default. Vulture funds profit from the difficult circumstances of heavily indebted States in order to make profits that are disproportionate to what was initially invested. The panel will discuss ways in which parliaments can control and counter the activities of these funds.

7. **Any other business**



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135th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 23 – 27.10.2016

Standing Committee on
Democracy and Human Rights

C-III/135/A.1
15 June 2016

Draft agenda

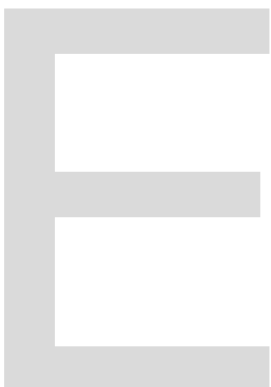
1. **Adoption of the agenda**
2. **Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held during the 134th IPU Assembly in Lusaka (March 2016)**

3. **Elections to the Bureau**

The Committee will fill the existing vacancies on the Bureau, based on proposals from the geopolitical groups.

The Committee will also elect a President and Vice-President, taking into account the distribution of roles as discussed by the geopolitical groups.

4. **Debate on and adoption of a resolution on *The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective***
5. **Any other business**



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135th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 23 – 27.10.2016

Standing Committee on
United Nations Affairs

C-IV/135/A.1
15 June 2016

Draft agenda

1. **Adoption of the agenda**
2. **Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held during the 134th IPU Assembly in Lusaka (March 2016)**
3. **Elections to the Bureau**

The Committee will fill the existing vacancies on the Bureau based on proposals from the geopolitical groups.

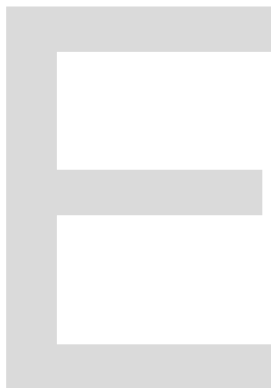
4. **Panel discussion on Funding the United Nations**

In 2014, total funding for the UN stood at US\$ 46.2 billion. Of that, 62 per cent was for development-related operational activities (including humanitarian assistance), 21 per cent for policy and advocacy work, and 17 per cent for peacekeeping. Proper and consistent funding of the UN is critical to its success, particularly because the UN must deliver on the huge agenda of the Sustainable Development Goals and because of the additional difficulties of growing conflicts and humanitarian crises. However, there is general reluctance to increase UN funding. Moreover, a growing share of the UN budget depends on non-core, extra-budgetary funding. It is usually earmarked and involves a variety of overheads and hidden costs. Partly as a result of that, the UN is increasingly under pressure to look for private-sector partners to help carry out some of its activities.

This session will review the ways in which parliaments can play a role in the oversight of UN funding, while helping to ensure that the UN has the resources it needs. That will allow the UN to be more effective in dealing with current and future challenges.

5. **Panel discussion on the UN response to allegations of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse by UN peacekeepers**

UN peacekeepers are dispatched under the authority of the Security Council, on behalf of the international community. They are charged with protecting civilians while a political solution to a brewing conflict is mediated. The overwhelming majority of peacekeepers act by the highest ethical and professional code of conduct. In 2015 the international community was shaken by reports that many women and children had been sexually exploited or abused by military, police and civilian personnel assigned to UN peacekeeping forces in the Central Africa Republic. Subsequent investigations unveiled a history of abuse that goes back many years. Nationals from some 20 countries were implicated in a total of 99 allegations in 2015, and in 80 allegations in 2014. Twenty-six new allegations have emerged to date in 2016.



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The December 2015 report of an independent review panel concluded that the UN was poorly prepared to deal with these allegations and that important reforms were needed to protect victims and to hold those responsible fully to account. Among other things, the report called on the UN to deal with allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse as a human rights violation in its own right and not as a mere disciplinary matter, regardless of whether the peacekeepers are operating under UN command.

In response to the original violations and further to the recommendations of the independent panel, the UN Secretary-General reaffirmed a zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse. He took steps to improve the Organization's prevention and remedial action in order to promote greater accountability. In February 2016, the UN Secretary-General appointed a Special Coordinator to help improve the UN response to this issue. In March, the Security Council adopted a resolution that, among other things, gives the UN Secretary-General greater authority to dismiss troops. It also reaffirms that troop-contributing countries have a responsibility to investigate and prosecute each allegation as appropriate.

This session will take stock of UN actions so far. It will seek to identify further steps that may be needed, both to prevent new cases of sexual exploitation and abuse, and also to strengthen the accountability framework for international peacekeepers.

6. Any other business



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135th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 23 – 27.10.2016

A/135/C.1
Annex 2

SPEAKERS' PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

GENERAL DEBATE ON THE THEME

***HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AS PRECURSORS OF CONFLICT: PARLIAMENTS AS
EARLY RESPONDERS***

(ITEM 3 OF THE AGENDA)

**PARLIAMENT OR
ORGANIZATION**

	Please circle one title	Family name	Given name(s)	Is s/he presiding officer (Speaker) of parliament?
1	MR./ MS.			Yes / No
2*	MR./ MS.			Yes / No



*The second speaker is only applicable to IPU Member Parliaments and Associate Members

DATE: **SIGNATURE:**

***Kindly fill out this form and return it by 6 p.m. (Geneva time) at the latest on 17 October 2016
to the IPU Secretariat at either:***

E-mail: postbox@ipu.org or fax number: + 41 22 919 41 60

**PROVISIONAL TABLE SHOWING THE ALLOCATION OF VOTES
AT THE 135th 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	41.0	6	16
7.	Armenia	10	3.4	1	11
8.	Australia	10	21.0	4	14
9.	Austria	10	8.4	2	12
10.	Azerbaijan	10	9.5	2	12
11.	Bahrain	10	0.7	0	10
12.	Bangladesh	10	153.0	10	20
13.	Belarus	10	10.2	3	13
14.	Belgium	10	11.2	3	13
15.	Benin	10	7.6	2	12
16.	Bhutan	10	0.7	0	10
17.	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	10	6.7	2	12
18.	Bosnia and Herzegovina	10	4.3	1	11
19.	Botswana	10	1.3	1	11
20.	Brazil	10	204.4	12	22
21.	Bulgaria	10	8.5	2	12
22.	Burkina Faso	10	10.4	3	13
23.	Burundi	10	10.1	3	13
24.	Cambodia	10	10.7	3	13
25.	Cameroon	10	12.9	3	13
26.	Canada	10	30.8	5	15
27.	Cape-Verde	10	0.3	0	10
28.	Chad	10	11.3	3	13
29.	Chile	10	15.1	3	13
30.	China	10	1,200.0	13	23
31.	Colombia	10	29.5	4	14
32.	Comoros	10	0.7	0	10
33.	Congo	10	1.9	1	11
34.	Costa Rica	10	3.3	1	11
35.	Côte d'Ivoire	10	15.5	3	13
36.	Croatia	10	4.8	1	11
37.	Cuba	10	10.2	3	13
38.	Cyprus	10	0.7	0	10
39.	Czech Republic	10	10.5	3	13
40.	Dem. People's Rep. of Korea	10	20.9	4	14
41.	Dem. Republic of the Congo	10	56.8	7	17
42.	Denmark	10	5.2	2	12
43.	Djibouti	10	0.79	0	10
44.	Dominican Republic	10	9.0	2	12
45.	Ecuador	10	14.0	3	13
46.	Egypt	10	85.7	9	19
47.	El Salvador	10	5.3	2	12
48.	Equatorial Guinea	10	1.0	1	11
49.	Estonia	10	1.5	1	11

MEMBERS		Votes under (a)	Population in millions	Votes under (b)	Total number of votes
50.	Ethiopia	10	87.9	9	19
51.	Federated States of Micronesia	10	0.10	0	10
52.	Fiji	10	0.80	0	10
53.	Finland	10	5.4	2	12
54.	France	10	65.8	8	18
55.	Gabon	10	1.0	1	11
56.	Gambia	10	1.5	1	11
57.	Georgia	10	4.7	1	11
58.	Germany	10	81.3	9	19
59.	Ghana	10	25.0	4	14
60.	Greece	10	10.2	3	13
61.	Guatemala	10	8.2	2	12
62.	Guinea	10	10.6	3	13
63.	Guinea-Bissau	10	1.5	1	11
64.	Guyana	10	0.76	0	10
65.	Haiti	10	10.2	3	13
66.	Honduras	10	8.1	2	12
67.	Hungary	10	10.4	3	13
68.	Iceland	10	0.31	0	10
69.	India	10	1,000.3	13	23
70.	Indonesia	10	206.0	12	22
71.	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	10	60.5	8	18
72.	Iraq	10	26.7	4	14
73.	Ireland	10	4.5	1	11
74.	Israel	10	6.7	2	12
75.	Italy	10	57.0	7	17
76.	Japan	10	123.6	10	20
77.	Jordan	10	5.5	2	12
78.	Kazakhstan	10	17.0	3	13
79.	Kenya	10	38.6	5	15
80.	Kuwait	10	2.2	1	11
81.	Kyrgyzstan	10	5.5	2	12
82.	Lao People's Dem. Rep.	10	5.6	2	12
83.	Latvia	10	2.7	1	11
84.	Lebanon	10	2.4	1	11
85.	Lesotho	10	2.1	1	11
86.	Libya	10	3.9	1	11
87.	Liechtenstein	10	0.3	0	10
88.	Lithuania	10	3.9	1	11
89.	Luxembourg	10	0.4	0	10
90.	Madagascar	10	20.6	4	14
91.	Malawi	10	13.9	3	13
92.	Malaysia	10	22.7	4	14
93.	Maldives	10	0.35	0	10
94.	Mali	10	16.4	3	13
95.	Malta	10	0.3	0	10
96.	Mauritania	10	3.1	1	11
97.	Mauritius	10	1.02	1	11
98.	Mexico	10	104.0	10	20
99.	Monaco	10	0.03	0	10
100.	Mongolia	10	2.9	1	11
101.	Montenegro	10	0.62	0	10

MEMBERS		Votes under (a)	Population in millions	Votes under (b)	Total number of votes
102.	Morocco	10	31.5	5	15
103.	Mozambique	10	12.1	3	13
104.	Myanmar	10	60.3	8	18
105.	Namibia	10	1.5	1	11
106.	Nepal	10	26.4	4	14
107.	Netherlands	10	15.3	3	13
108.	New Zealand	10	4.4	1	11
109.	Nicaragua	10	5.1	2	12
110.	Niger	10	16.5	3	13
111.	Nigeria	10	140.4	10	20
112.	Norway	10	5.0	2	12
113.	Oman	10	2.5	1	11
114.	Pakistan	10	160.9	11	21
115.	Palau	10	0.02	0	10
116.	Palestine	10	3.9	1	11
117.	Panama	10	1.7	1	11
118.	Papua New Guinea	10	3.0	1	11
119.	Paraguay	10	5.7	2	12
120.	Peru	10	23.0	4	14
121.	Philippines	10	62.1	8	18
122.	Poland	10	38.5	5	15
123.	Portugal	10	10.3	3	13
124.	Qatar	10	0.88	0	10
125.	Republic of Korea	10	50.8	7	17
126.	Republic of Moldova	10	4.3	1	11
127.	Romania	10	23.0	4	14
128.	Russian Federation	10	148.8	10	20
129.	Rwanda	10	6.2	2	12
130.	Samoa	10	0.17	0	10
131.	San Marino	10	0.02	0	10
132.	Sao Tome and Principe	10	0.16	0	10
133.	Saudi Arabia	10	27.1	4	14
134.	Senegal	10	7.0	2	12
135.	Serbia	10	9.7	2	12
136.	Seychelles	10	0.08	0	10
137.	Sierra Leone	10	4.9	1	11
138.	Singapore	10	5.08	2	12
139.	Slovakia	10	5.2	2	12
140.	Slovenia	10	1.9	1	11
141.	Somalia	10	10.4	3	13
142.	South Africa	10	51.7	7	17
143.	Spain	10	39.4	5	15
144.	South Sudan	10	10.0	3	13
145.	Sri Lanka	10	17.0	3	13
146.	Sudan	10	33.4	5	15
147.	Suriname	10	0.4	0	10
148.	Sweden	10	8.7	2	12
149.	Switzerland	10	6.7	2	12
150.	Syrian Arab Republic	10	12.5	3	13
151.	Tajikistan	10	5.1	2	12
152.	Thailand	10	60.1	8	18
153.	The fYR of Macedonia	10	2.3	1	11
154.	Timor-Leste	10	0.92	0	10

MEMBERS		Votes under (a)	Population in millions	Votes under (b)	Total number of votes
155.	Togo	10	5.4	2	12
156.	Tonga	10	0.10	0	10
157.	Trinidad and Tobago	10	1.22	1	11
158.	Tunisia	10	10.2	3	13
159.	Turkey	10	76.6	8	18
160.	Uganda	10	17.0	3	13
161.	Ukraine	10	50.1	7	17
162.	United Arab Emirates	10	2.5	1	11
163.	United Kingdom	10	60.2	8	18
164.	United Rep. of Tanzania	10	34.4	5	15
165.	Uruguay	10	3.2	1	11
166.	Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	10	30.0	5	15
167.	Viet Nam	10	90.3	9	19
168.	Yemen	10	10.5	3	13
169.	Zambia	10	10.9	3	13
170.	Zimbabwe	10	10.4	3	13



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135th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 23 – 27.10.2016

A/135/C.1
Annex 4

Explanatory note on IPU online registration

The IPU Secretariat online registration system can be accessed through the IPU website, on the 135th Assembly page, simply by clicking on the Registration button. The system will be open from 1st July and will close on 3 October 2016, after which delegates should register with the IPU registration service: registration@ipu.org.

Important: It is recommended that all participants designate one delegation coordinator, who will be the sole user of the online registration system and will choose a password.

The registration process is as follows:

1. Sign up for an account and enter the requested details on this page. If you registered successfully for a recent Assembly, your identification information is still valid and may be used.

If the IPU Secretariat has opened an account on your behalf using your parliament's official e-mail address, you are invited to contact the IPU at registration@ipu.org for more information.

2. Once you have successfully created an account, sign in using your user name and password.
3. Click on "Register for this event" to register for the 135th Assembly.
4. Click on "Start registration" to register your delegation. In your capacity as delegation coordinator, do not forget to include yourself if you plan to attend the event.
5. Please ensure that:
 - All information relating to membership in **IPU governing bodies and committees** is included under: "Title or function within the IPU";
 - Details pertaining to your **national parliament** is included under: "Title/function in Parliament/Organization".
6. It will be possible to make changes to your data until 3 October 2016, after which you should contact the IPU directly at registration@ipu.org.

The registration process includes a **validation phase**, during which system administrators will examine your registration. Once your registration has been validated, you will be sent a confirmation e-mail. Otherwise, one of our administrators will contact you for any action that requires follow-up.

Should you have any questions on registration, please send them to Ms. Sally-Anne Sader, Conference Services Officer, at sas@ipu.org, with copies to the generic IPU e-mail addresses: postbox@ipu.org as well as registration@ipu.org.

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