



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

137th IPU Assembly

St. Petersburg, Russian Federation
14 – 18 October 2017



No. 1

JOURNAL¹

Saturday, 14 October 2017

Time	Meeting	Place
9 a.m. – 10 a.m.	Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Reading Room (ground floor) Tavrishesky Palace (in camera)
10 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Meeting of Advisers and Secretaries to delegations	Hall No. 1 (ground floor) Tavrishesky Palace
10 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.	Group of Facilitators for Cyprus	Hall No. 115 (ground floor) Tavrishesky Palace (in camera)
10.30 a.m. – 1 p.m. 10.30 – 11.30 a.m. 11.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Forum of Women Parliamentarians <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Welcome remarks and discussion on gender activities at the 137th Assembly◆ Contribution to the draft resolution on <i>Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy</i> The discussion will take place in two groups (Group 1: Dumsky Hall; Group 2: Reading Room).	Dumsky Hall (ground floor) Tavrishesky Palace
11.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Meeting of Chairpersons of Geopolitical Groups and Presidents of Standing Committees	Hall No. 16 (ground floor) Tavrishesky Palace (in camera)
2.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. 2.30 p.m. – 4 p.m. 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.	Forum of Women Parliamentarians <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Panel discussion marking the fifth anniversary of the Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments◆ Hearing with candidates for the post of President of the IPU	Dumsky Hall (ground floor) Tavrishesky Palace
2.30 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians The Committee will hold hearings on cases in Sri Lanka and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.	Hall No. 16 (ground floor) Tavrishesky Palace (in camera)
3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	Committee on Middle East Questions	Reading Room (ground floor) Tavrishesky Palace (in camera)
7.30 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.	Inaugural Ceremony of the 137th Assembly in the presence of H.E. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, followed by a reception * <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Delegates are requested to wear their badges and show their invitation cards.◆ Delegates are further requested to take their seats no later than 7 p.m. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.◆ Shuttle buses will run between Tavrishesky Palace and official hotels every 20 minutes between 4.30 p.m. and 6 p.m. <p>* Due to the large number of participants, each delegation will receive in their pigeonhole a limited number of invitations for the seated dinner.</p>	ExpoForum Convention and Exhibition Centre (pavilion F) St. Petersburg

¹ Information as at 6 p.m. on 13 October.

Preview of main programme for Sunday, 15 October

9 a.m. – 11 a.m.	<p>Governing Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Election of the President of the Assembly ◆ Reports by the IPU President and Secretary General ◆ Democracy moment ◆ Launch of the <i>Global Parliamentary Report 2017 – Parliamentary oversight: Parliament's power to hold government to account</i> 	Dumsky Hall (ground floor) Tavrishesky Palace
9.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<p>Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Presentation and debate of the draft resolution on <i>Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy</i> 	Hall No. 1 (ground floor) Tavrishesky Palace
2.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Drafting of the resolution in plenary 	
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<p>Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Contribution to the work of the 137th Assembly ◆ Update and discussion on the Forum's workplan and activities (2017-2018) ◆ Preparations for the 138th Assembly ◆ Hearing with candidates for the post of President of the IPU ◆ Briefing on the 19th World Festival of Youth and Students (Sochi, October 2017) 	Multifunctional Hall (2 nd floor) Parliamentary Centre
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<p>Assembly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Stamp issue ceremony ◆ Start of the General Debate on <i>Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Keynote address by Ms Rita Izsák-Ndiaye, UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 	Dumsky Hall (ground floor) Tavrishesky Palace
2.30 p.m. – 5 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Continuation of the General Debate 	
5 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Decision on the emergency item 	
2.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.	<p>Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Panel discussion on <i>The parliamentary dimension to the United Nations – 20 years in the making</i> ◆ Panel discussion on <i>The role of the UN General Assembly in international governance: What path forward?</i> 	Multifunctional Hall (2 nd floor) Parliamentary Centre
3 p.m. – 6 p.m.	<p>Interactive session on Key findings from the 2017 Global Parliamentary Report on oversight</p>	Reading Room (ground floor) Tavrishesky Palace (English and French only)
8 p.m.	<p>Reception in honour of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians hosted by Ms. Valentina Matvienko, Chairperson of the Council of the Federation, Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation</p> <p><u>Kindly note</u> that seating for the reception is limited and invitations are being distributed to women parliamentarians at the Forum of Women Parliamentarians on Saturday, 14 October. Any women parliamentarians who do not receive an invitation and who wish to attend the reception are kindly requested to send an email to cfipo@yandex.ru in order for their name to be included in the guest list.</p>	Marble Palace

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OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday, 15 October 2017

- 1 p.m. – 2.30 p.m. **Interactive session on *Ending AIDS through improving sexual and reproductive health: The need for urgent parliamentary action***, organized by the IPU, the World Health Organization (WHO), The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
A light lunch will be provided.
- Reading Room
(ground floor)
Tavrishesky Palace

Monday, 16 October 2017

- 10.30 a.m. **During the Assembly:**
Keynote address by Patriarch Kirill, Chair of the CIS Inter-Religious Council
- Dumsky Hall
(ground floor)
Tavrishesky Palace
- 2.30 p.m. – 4 p.m. **Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade**
♦ Briefing on *The parliamentary contribution to the 2017 UN Climate Change Conference*
- Multifunctional Hall
(2nd floor)
Parliamentary Centre
- 4 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. ♦ Debate on *Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy*
- 3.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. **Interactive session on *The UN process for the prohibition of nuclear weapons: What hope for nuclear disarmament?***
Moderator: Mr. Anti Avsan, MP (Sweden)
Keynote speakers: H.E. Ambassador Elayne Whyte-Gómez (Costa Rica), President of the UN Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, Leading towards their Total Elimination
Mr. Bruce Blair, President and Founder of Global Zero
Discussants: Senator Laura Rojas Hernández (Mexico)
Mr. Alyn Ware, Global Coordinator, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and International Security
Mr. Jean-Marie Collin, Associate Researcher at the Group for Research and Information on Peace and Security (GRIP) and Co-Chair of the French Steering Group for the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN-France)
- Hall No. 1
(ground floor)
Tavrishesky Palace

Tuesday, 17 October 2017

- 9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m. **e-Parliament interactive session on *The digital tools that parliamentarians use to do their work***
- Hall No. 1
(ground floor)
Tavrishesky Palace
(English and French only)
- 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. **Standing Committee on Peace and International Security**
♦ Panel discussion on *The role of parliament in monitoring the action of national armed forces participating in UN peacekeeping operations*
- Multifunctional Hall
(2nd floor)
Parliamentary Centre
- 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. ♦ Panel discussion on *The implementation of a previous resolution on cyber warfare (Hanoi, 2015)*
- 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. **Open session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law**
Panel discussion on *Forty years since the adoption of the Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions: How does the law still protect in contemporary war?*
- Hall No. 1
(ground floor)
Tavrishesky Palace
- 11 p.m. – 1 p.m. **Parity debate on *Holding the purse strings: Exercising oversight for the common good***, organized by the Forum of Women Parliamentarians
- Dumsky Hall
(ground floor)
Tavrishesky Palace

4.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade
Panel discussion on *Using science and research to achieve the highest health standards*

Hall No. 1
(ground floor)
Tavrishesky Palace

Wednesday, 18 October 2017

10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security
Expert hearing on *Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development*

Hall No. 1
(ground floor)
Tavrishesky Palace

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OTHER INFORMATION

- ♦ **Print-on-demand service:** This service is available at the Typing Pool and Photocopying Service for those delegates who wish to obtain a copy of a document published on the IPU Assembly web page.
- ♦ **List of participants:** Delegations are reminded that the provisional list of participants is available for consultation on the Assembly App and that only a limited number of copies have been printed. A printed copy may be obtained, upon request, from the Document Distribution Service. In order to ensure the accuracy of the final list of participants, delegations are kindly requested to report any changes to Ms. Marina Filippin at the Registration Desk by **12 noon on Tuesday, 17 October**. The final list of participants will be published on the IPU website.
- ♦ **Livre d'or for the outgoing President of the IPU:** Delegates are invited to write a message for Mr. Saber Chowdhury in the *livre d'or* at the Publications Stand located near the Plenary Room (Dumsky Hall).

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MEDIA INFORMATION

- ♦ Watch the 137th Assembly live at <https://ipu137russia.org/> or <http://www.ipu.org>.

 Follow or take part in discussions on **Twitter** using **#IPU137** (www.twitter.com/ipuparliament). Follow the IPU on @IPUparliament, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians on #WomenMPs and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians on #youngMPs.

 Photos of the event are available on <https://www.flickr.com/photos/inter-parliamentary-union/albums>. Please credit: Parliament of the Russian Federation.

For further information, please contact:

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VACANCIES TO BE FILLED AT THE 137th ASSEMBLY

For more detailed information, please see [Vacancies](#) document.

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On 18 October 2017, the Governing Council will hold elections and make appointments as outlined below. Candidatures (a signed letter and a one-page curriculum vitae) may be submitted to the Submission and Control of Documents Service (Atrium, ground floor, Tavrishesky Palace) up to **9 a.m. on Tuesday, 17 October 2017**. Candidates for the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians vacancies are required to complete the vacancies form available at <http://archive.ipu.org/hr-e/miscel/form-chrp.pdf>.

PRESIDENT OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

To date, the following candidatures have been received:

- Ms. G. Cuevas Barron (Mexico);
- Ms. I. Passada (Uruguay).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Governing Council will elect **four members**: one member (male) to complete the term for the African Group; and three members (one female and two male) for the Twelve Plus Group, one of whom is to complete the term for the Group.

COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

The Governing Council will elect **four members** (ideally two female and two male), preferably two members from the African Group and two members from the Twelve Plus Group.

Committee on Middle East Questions

The Governing Council will elect **three members** (two female and one male).

Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

The Governing Council will elect **four members**: one member (female) for the African Group; one member (female) for the Eurasia Group; one member (male) for the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC); and one member (male) for the Twelve Plus Group.

APPOINTMENT OF TWO INTERNAL AUDITORS FOR THE 2018 ACCOUNTS

The Governing Council will appoint **two Internal Auditors** for the 2018 accounts.

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BUREAU OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

Today, Saturday, 14 October 2017, the 26th Session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians will elect **two regional representatives** to its Bureau to complete the term (March 2018): one regional representative for the Eurasia Group and one regional representative for the Twelve Plus Group.

The geopolitical groups concerned are requested to submit candidatures by 1 p.m. today, Saturday, 14 October 2017.

BOARD OF THE FORUM OF YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS

At its meeting on Sunday, 15 October 2017, the Forum will elect **one member** (male) to its Board for the Eurasia Group.

The Eurasia Group is invited to submit a candidature by 3 p.m. today, Saturday, 14 October 2017.

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STANDING COMMITTEE BUREAUX

The following elections to the Bureaux will be held:

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

Two members: One member (female or male) for the Asia-Pacific Group; and one member (female) for the Twelve Plus Group.

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

Two members: One member (female or male) for the African Group; and one member (female) for GRULAC.

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

One member: One member (female) for the African Group.

Candidatures for the above vacancies may be submitted by the geopolitical groups concerned up to the time of the elections.

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