



3rd WORLD CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT

United Nations, Geneva, 19-21 July 2010



Item 1

SP-CONF-2010/1-P.1
11 May 2010

ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF THE CONFERENCE

RULE 1

The 3rd World Conference of Speakers of Parliament is convened by the Inter-Parliamentary Union pursuant to the decision taken by its IPU Governing Bodies in Geneva in October 2008.

Venue and duration

RULE 2

1. The Conference is convened at the United Nations Office in Geneva from 19 to 21 July 2010.
2. The Conference shall begin its deliberations on Monday, 19 July at 10 am and shall end at 1 pm on Wednesday, 21 July.
3. The Conference shall hold five sittings from 10 am to 1 pm in the mornings and from 3 pm to 6 pm in the afternoons.
4. If necessary, the President of the Conference may decide, on the advice of the Steering Committee, to extend the debate of some sittings.

Participants and Observers

RULE 3

1. Invitations to the Conference shall be extended to the Speakers of all parliaments that are Members of the IPU and to the Speakers of all other parliaments of sovereign States that meet IPU's definition of a national parliament.*
2. In the case of bicameral parliaments, invitations will be addressed to Speakers of both Chambers.
3. The Presidents of the international parliamentary assemblies and organisations that are invited to the IPU Assemblies, as well as representatives of programmes and agencies of the United Nations System, may attend the proceedings of the Conference as observers.

* The Inter-Parliamentary Council, in 1993, defined a parliament as a "national assembly which, according to domestic law, is endowed as a minimum with power to legislate and oversee the Executive".

4. Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in Geneva may also attend the proceedings of the Conference as observers.

Size of delegations

RULE 4

The size of delegation of each parliament and associate member shall, in principle, not exceed six persons (ten persons in the case of bicameral parliaments), including the presiding officer. Observer delegations shall, in principle, be composed of no more than two persons.

Agenda and Rules

RULE 5

At the beginning of its proceedings, the Conference shall adopt its Agenda and Rules. A provisional agenda will be before the Conference, along with the draft rules proposed by the Preparatory Committee.

Presidency and Steering Committee

RULE 6

1. The President of the IPU shall preside over the Conference, open, suspend and close the sittings, direct the proceedings of the Conference, ensure that the Rules are observed, call upon speakers and declare the Conference closed. The President's decisions in these matters shall be final and shall be accepted without debate.

2. The President shall decide on all matters not covered by these Rules, after taking the advice of the Steering Committee if necessary.

3. The President shall be assisted by Vice-Presidents proposed on a regional basis from among the Speakers by the Preparatory Committee. The Vice-Presidents shall carry out the duties of the President, if so requested by the latter.

RULE 7

1. The Steering Committee shall be composed of the President of the IPU, the Vice-President of the IPU Executive Committee, the Rapporteur appointed by the Preparatory Committee and the members of the Preparatory Committee.

2. The Steering Committee, which shall be assisted by the Secretary General of the Union, shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the effective organisation and smooth functioning of the Conference proceedings, in conformity with these Rules.

Speaking rights - Order

RULE 8

1. The following Speakers of parliaments, Presidents and other persons may be invited to take the floor and address the Conference:

- (i) All Speakers of parliaments who have received an invitation in conformity with Rule 3 of these Rules, including the Speakers of both chambers in the case of bicameral parliaments;
- (ii) The Presidents of the official parliamentary assemblies that are Associate Members of the IPU.

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations is invited to address the Inaugural Ceremony of the Conference, and the President of the United Nations General Assembly is invited to speak at the Conference. The President of the Conference may exceptionally invite other persons to address the Conference, following consultation with the Steering Committee.

RULE 9

1. Each Speaker of parliament shall be entitled to five minutes' speaking time. In instances where both presiding officers from a bicameral parliament wish to address the Conference, each of them will be entitled to speak for four minutes.

2. The Presidents of the official parliamentary assemblies referred to in Rule 8.1 (ii) above shall each be entitled to three minutes' speaking time.

3. The President of the Conference may authorise, on the advice of the Steering Committee, the inclusion in the records and subsequent publication of speeches that could not be delivered by a delegation present at the Conference.

RULE 10

The order of speakers shall be established by the IPU Secretariat, taking into consideration, as far as possible, the preferences expressed by each registered delegation. The President of the Conference, assisted by the Steering Committee, shall deal with all matters relating to the order of speakers.

RULE 11

Speakers may be interrupted by other delegates only on a point of order. The President shall rule immediately without debate on all points of order.

RULE 12

The President shall call to order any speaker who fails to keep to the subject under discussion or who prejudices the debate by using abusive language. The President may, if necessary, withdraw permission to speak, and may have the objectionable words struck from the record.

RULE 13

The President shall deal immediately with any incident that arises during the Conference and, if necessary, take any measure required to restore order.

Adoption of the Declaration

RULE 14

1. The Conference shall conclude its work by adopting a solemn Declaration.
2. The draft declaration prepared by the Preparatory Committee shall be distributed to all participants in advance of the Conference.
3. The Preparatory Committee shall meet on the eve of the Conference, and may amend the text if necessary.
4. The draft Declaration shall be presented to the Conference by the Rapporteur.

Official documents

RULE 15

1. The provisional agenda, the draft Declaration drawn up by the Preparatory Committee, the draft Rules, reports commissioned by the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, the list of participants and the daily journal of the Conference proceedings prepared by the Secretariat shall be the only official documents of the Conference.
2. The provisional agenda, the draft Declaration and the draft Rules shall be prepared and distributed in the six official languages of the United Nations. Other documents will be prepared and distributed in English and French only, the two official working languages of the IPU.
3. Information documents that delegations may wish to have distributed shall be placed on tables set aside for this purpose at the entrance to the plenary Hall.

Secretariat

RULE 16

1. The IPU Secretary General or his representative shall assist the President in directing the proceedings of the Conference.
2. The IPU Secretary General or his representative may be invited by the President to clarify any issue during the debate.