

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)

The IPU is the international organization of Parliaments (Article 1 of the Statutes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union). It was established in 1889.

OBJECTIVES:-

The Union is the focal point for world-wide parliamentary dialogue and works for peace and co-operation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative democracy.

To that end, it:

- Fosters contacts, co-ordination, and the exchange of experience among parliaments and parliamentarians of all countries;
- Considers questions of international interest and concern and expresses its views on such issues in order to bring about action by parliaments and parliamentarians;
- Contributes to the defence and promotion of human rights -- an essential factor of parliamentary democracy and development;
- Contributes to better knowledge of the working of representative institutions and to the strengthening and development of their means of action.

The IPU supports the efforts of the United Nations, whose objectives it shares, and works in [close co-operation](#) with it. The Union also co-operates with regional inter-parliamentary organizations, as well as with international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations which are motivated by the same ideals.

The IPU is [financed](#) primarily by its members out of public funds. The site of the Union's Headquarters is Geneva (Switzerland).

I. IPU Assembly

The IPU Assembly (formerly known as the Inter-Parliamentary Conference) is the principal statutory body (<http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/1stconf.htm>) that expresses the views of the Inter-Parliamentary Union on political issues. It brings together parliamentarians to study international problems and make recommendations for action.

IPU is governed by statutes (<http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/statutes-new.htm#1>); the Governing Council (Articles 17-22); and Executive Committee (Articles 23-24)

II. Governing Council

The Governing Council (formerly called Inter-Parliamentary Council) is the plenary policy-making body of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (<http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/cnlpres.htm>). A number of [committees and working groups](#) are subordinated to it and report to the Council on their work. The [President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) is ex-officio President of the Governing Council.

The Council establishes the annual programme and budget of the Union, is responsible for the admission or suspension of [members and Associate Members](#), and establishes the list of [Assembly observers](#). Occasionally, the Council considers substantive issues and adopts thematic resolutions and policy statements, the most recent of which are [listed below](#). The Governing Council is composed of three representatives from each member parliament. The Council works according to its [Rules](#).

III. Executive Committees

In accordance with the Union's [Statutes](#), this 17-member body oversees the administration of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and provides advice to the [Governing Council](#). (<http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/excom.htm>)

The 15 members of the Executive Committee are elected by the Council for a four-year term. The [President of the IPU](#) is an *ex officio* member and President of the Committee. The President of the [Co-ordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians](#) is an *ex officio* member of the Executive Committee for a two-year term which can be renewed once. Not less than 12 members of the Executive Committee are elected from among members of the Governing Council and at least three members [must be women](#).

The Executive Committee advises the Council on matters relating to affiliation and reaffiliation to the Union, fixes the date and place of Council sessions and establishes the provisional agenda, recommends to the Council the agenda of the [Assembly](#), taking into account the proposals made by the National Groups. It also proposes to the Council the annual work programme and budget of the Union. The Executive Committee controls the administration of the Secretariat as well its activities in the execution of the decisions taken by the Assembly and the Council. The Executive Committee works in accordance with its [Rules](#).

IV. Standing Committees

There are three Standing Committees set up by the IPU Governing Council to assist the Assembly in its work. The Committees are as under:

- (1) *First Standing Committee on Peace and International Security;*

- (2) *Second Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade;*
- (3) *Third Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights*

All IPU National Groups are represented on each Standing Committee by one member and one substitute.

V. Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

The meeting of women parliamentarians is a separate organ of the IPU, which meets on the occasion of the first round of Statutory Meetings of the IPU and reports on its work to the Governing Council. The meeting can be attended by the parliamentarians of both the sexes. The meeting of women parliamentarians takes place on the day before the opening of the work of first assembly and is convened through a separate Convocation Circular. The agenda of the meeting includes one but not more than two substantive items for debate, which may relate to the competence of the Assembly. The meeting of women parliamentarians is assisted by a Coordinating Committee which consists of representatives from all the geo-political regions and their term is for two years.

VI. GEO-POLITICAL GROUPS

Geopolitical groups play an important role in the functioning of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Each group decides on its own working methods that best suit its participation in the activities of the Union and informs the Secretariat of its composition, the names of its officers, and its rules of procedure (<http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/geopol.htm>)

The following six geopolitical groups are currently active in the IPU :-

1. [Africa](#)
2. [Arab group](#)
3. [Asia-Pacific](#)
4. [Eurasia](#)
5. [Latin America](#)
6. [Twelve Plus](#)

COMPOSITION OF ASIA-PACIFIC GEO-POLITICAL GROUP OF IPU

The Geo-Political Group consists of following member countries:-

1. Afghanistan
2. Australia
3. Bangladesh
4. Cambodia
5. Canada
6. China
7. Democratic People's Republic of Korea
8. India

9. Indonesia
10. Iran (Islamic Republic of Iran)
11. Japan
12. Lao People's Democratic Republic
13. Malaysia
14. Mongolia
15. Nepal
16. New Zealand
17. Pakistan
18. Palau
19. Papua New Guinea
20. Philippines
21. Republic of Korea
22. Samoa
23. Singapore
24. Sri Lanka
25. Thailand
26. Timor-Leste
27. Viet Nam

VII. Meetings of Association of Secretaries-General (ASGP)

The Association of Secretaries-General of Parliaments (ASGP) is an autonomous organization of Secretaries-General of Parliaments set up in 1938, and functioning as a consultative organ with the framework of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Article 27) (<http://www.asgp.info/en/home>). It provides an opportunity to the Secretaries-General of the various Parliaments to cooperate in the technical study of the problems relating to parliamentary institutions. It works in close association with the Union, which calls on that body whenever a problem of parliamentary procedure is taken up for study. Its aims are:

- (i) to facilitate personal contacts between its members;
- (ii) To study the law, practice and procedure of Parliaments;
- (iii) To propose measure -
 - (a) for improving the working methods of different Parliaments, and
 - (b) for securing cooperation between the services of different Parliaments.

The Secretary Generals of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are the members of the ASGP