



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

Terms of reference

IPU Working Group on Science and Technology

Mandate and purpose

The Working Group on Science and Technology (WGST) shall serve, under the authority of the Executive Committee and the Governing Council, as the global parliamentary focal point for issues related to science and technology.

The IPU WGST should inspire global parliamentary action through legislative work in the field of science and technology. The Group should contribute to the implementation of the science and technology component of the IPU Strategy by focusing on ethics and on combating the inequalities and discrimination that hinder universal access to science and technology.

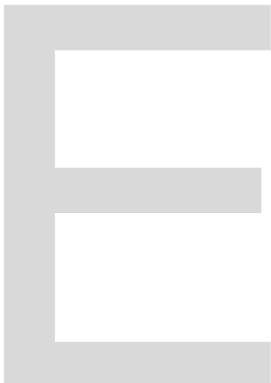
More specifically, the Group should: advise IPU Members on the implementation of relevant international commitments; participate in the development of information and educational material for parliamentarians; carry out field visits to draw lessons from national initiatives for the edification of the whole parliamentary community; and lend more weight to parliamentary action by devising more effective strategies. The Group would also be called upon to reflect on the civilizational change brought about by science and technology, evaluate the impact of that change on human society and make proposals to parliaments on how to anticipate and prepare for it. The Group will also provide advice on matters that are on the agenda of relevant IPU Standing Committees.

Membership

The Group shall be composed of 21 members from national parliaments who are designated by their respective geopolitical groups based on the following formula (Executive Committee geopolitical group quota plus one per group). The composition shall therefore be:

- 5 members from African Group
- 2 members from Arab Group
- 4 members from Asia-Pacific Group
- 2 members from Eurasia Group
- 3 members from GRULAC
- 5 members from Twelve Plus Group

The members must be appointed based on their proven expertise and experience in the science and technology sector. There must be parity between men and women. In addition, the President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and the President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians or their representatives shall be ex officio members.



Members of the Group, apart from ex officio members, shall serve for a single four-year term.

Members or their representatives who fail to attend three consecutive meetings will be automatically stripped of their mandates.

If a member of the Group dies, resigns or ceases to be a parliamentarian, the IPU Member concerned shall appoint a substitute to serve until the next session of the Governing Council, when an election shall be held.

International organizations, including CERN, as well as research bodies with expertise in evaluating scientific and technological progress may be associated to the Group.

Chairperson

The Group will be led by a chair elected from among its members, assisted by one vice-chair also elected by the Group. The term of office of the chair and vice-chair is one year, renewable.

Working arrangements

The Group shall normally meet twice a year in regular session, on the occasion of IPU Assemblies. Its sessions shall be held *in camera*. The Group shall set the dates for its sessions based on the proposals made by the Secretary General.

The Group may organize meetings or study visits outside of IPU Assemblies.

The Group determines its agenda and organizes its work as proposed by its chair, in agreement with the IPU Secretary General.

The Group may publish reports for circulation to all the Members of the IPU.

Decisions

The Group shall usually take decisions by consensus. Where no consensus is reached, its main recommendations and the divergent opinions will be presented to the Governing Council.

Reporting

The Group shall report twice a year in regular session on its work to the Governing Council, of which it shall be a subsidiary body.