



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Annex 4

Focus areas for the Standing Committees in relation to the IPU 2022-2026 Strategy

About this document

The [IPU 2022-2026 Strategy](#) was adopted by the Governing Council in November 2021. It sets out five strategic objectives for the Organization and four policy areas in which the IPU will work during this period.

The Standing Committees meet twice a year, at IPU Assemblies. Their principal activities are to organize debates on issues within their mandate and to adopt resolutions that express the collective position of the IPU and set out actions for follow-up by Member Parliaments.

In order to maximize their contribution to the implementation of the Strategy, the Standing Committees have decided to focus their work between now and 2026 on a small number of “focus areas”. The focus areas serve as guidance when setting the agenda and workplan for the Standing Committees.

This document outlines the focus areas, summarizes what this means for IPU Members and recalls the process for setting the agenda of the Standing Committees.

The focus areas

A focus area is a broad topic that the Standing Committee intends to investigate through a series of resolutions or debates. By defining focus areas, the Standing Committees aim to:

- Establish a coherent programme of work over an extended period of time.
- Develop policy expertise within the Standing Committees.
- Build contacts with the relevant committees in national parliaments and with the wider community of policy experts.
- Enhance the impact of the work of the Standing Committees in national parliaments.

The focus areas that have been agreed within the Standing Committees are:

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| Standing Committee on Peace and International Security | Disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control |
| | Violent conflict prevention, crisis response and sustainable peace |
| | Improving multilateral management of peace and security challenges |
| Standing Committee on Sustainable Development | Climate change |
| | Sustainable development |
| Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights | Improvements to the functioning of parliaments |
| | Democracy and human rights in the digital era |
| | A more inclusive, fairer world |

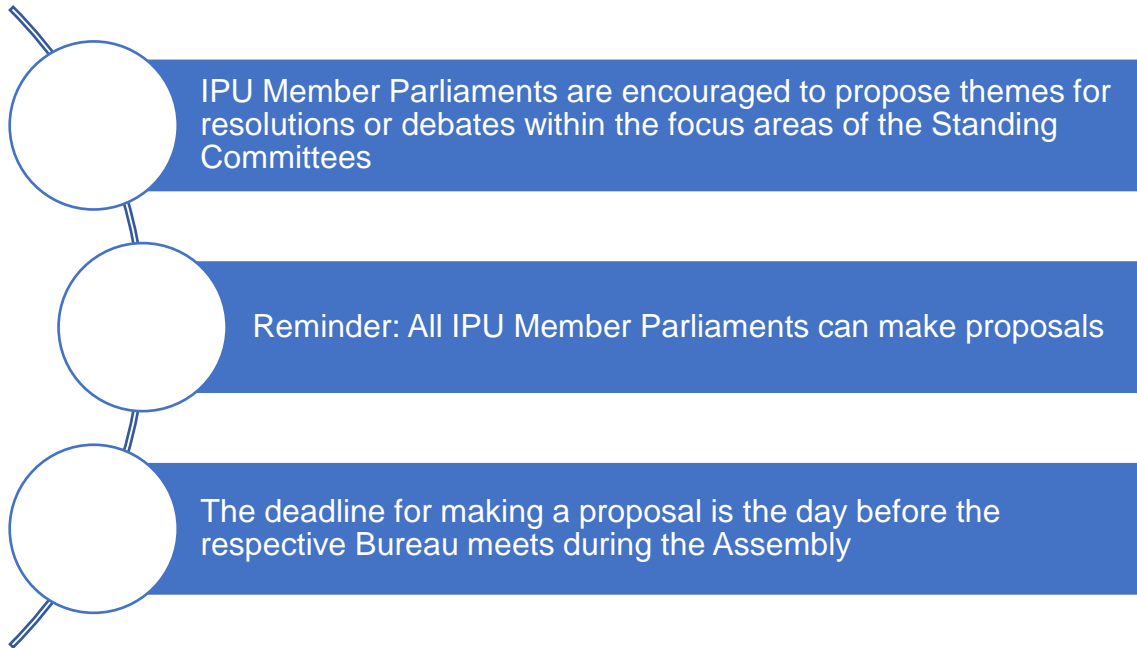
The Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs sets its agenda through a different process. In addition to its regular work focused on the United Nations, it will henceforth adopt short motions and engage in campaigns like its current one for a more gender-equal UN General Assembly.

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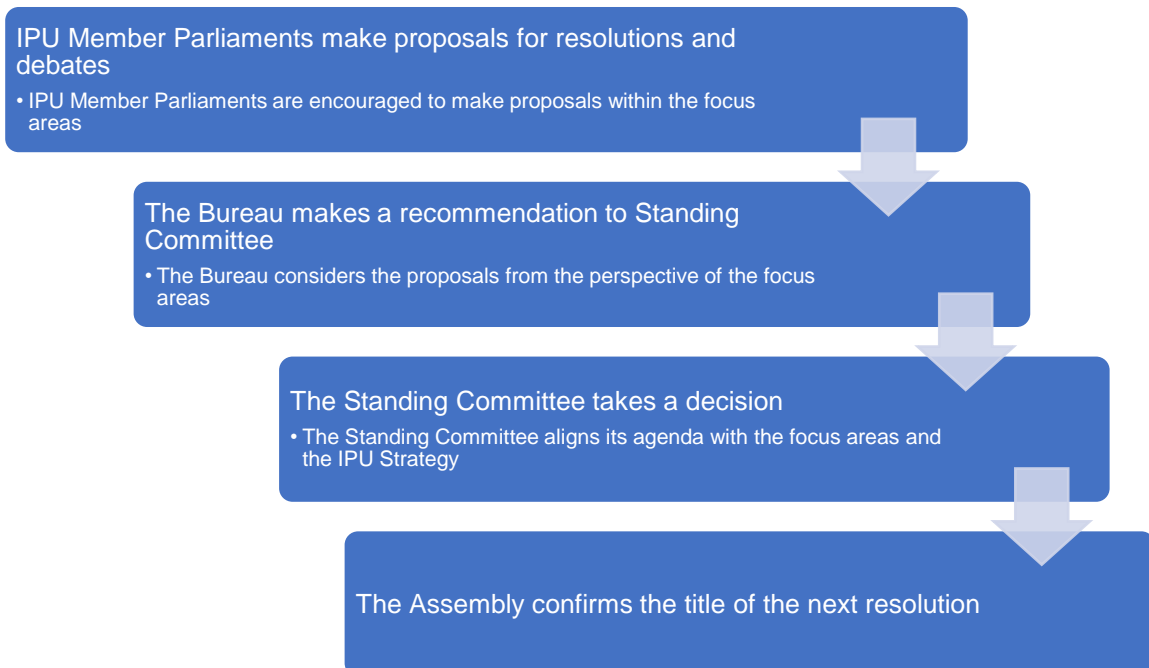
What this means for Member Parliaments

IPU Member Parliaments are encouraged to propose themes for the agenda of each Standing Committee (i.e. for resolutions or debates) that come within the focus areas of each Standing Committee.



The process for setting the agenda of the Standing Committees

The decision-making process set out in the Rules of the Standing Committees remains unchanged.



For more information about the focus areas and the work of the Standing Committees, please contact postbox@ipu.org