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# 147th IPU Assembly

Luanda, Angola  
23–27 October 2023



Standing Committee on  
United Nations Affairs

C-IV/147/A.1  
19 June 2023

## Provisional agenda

**First sitting: Wednesday, 25 October 2023, 11:00 – 13:00**

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held during the 146th IPU Assembly in Manama (March 2023)**

**3. The UN field presence in support of national development: The case of Angola**

The United Nations system is present in most developing countries, with a UN Country Team (UNCT) of agency representatives headed by a Resident Coordinator (RC). The UNCT supports national development plans through a portfolio of projects and advisory activities that is agreed with the Government and funded through a combination of budgetary and extra-budgetary resources.

Over the years, the IPU has advocated for a closer relationship between the UNCT and the host country's Parliament as a way of building stronger accountability and buy-in for the UN's development work. This session will feature a discussion on the role of the RC and the UNCT vis-à-vis the Government and Parliament of Angola.

**4. Bringing gender equality to the UN General Assembly**

As discussed at the Manama session of the Committee and at a follow-up briefing for MPs on 3 May 2023, the parliamentary community needs to advocate actively for gender equality in the UN General Assembly. Currently, only one in four top ambassadors (Permanent Representatives) in the General Assembly is a woman. This gender imbalance in the UN's top decision-making body gives the impression that the UN does not practice what it preaches when it comes to gender equality. Making the General Assembly and other key UN bodies gender-equal will greatly strengthen the multilateral system and its ability to deliver to the people.

This item will revolve around a draft Motion outlining specific actions for parliaments to advance this issue. The draft Motion will be introduced by the Bureau of the Committee and be put to a vote.

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**Second sitting: Thursday, 26 October 2023, 11:30-13:00**

**5. Reforming the Security Council for a stronger multilateral regime**

Designed to take “prompt and effective action” to preserve or restore the peace, the Security Council is by far the most powerful organ of the United Nations. Its resolutions carry the force of international law and can be enforced through punishing economic sanctions and, ultimately, military action.

This said, the composition of the Security Council no longer represents the geopolitical realities of the world. The inherent imbalance of voices and representation on the Council, as well as the indiscriminate use of the veto power by some Permanent Members, accounts for much of the Council's inability to act effectively and consistently in response to conflicts and other security threats around the world. After years of failed negotiations, the UN is increasingly under pressure to reform the Security Council. Most notably, the April 2023 report of a High-Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism called on the 2024 Summit of the Future to agree to a Charter Review Conference focused on Security Council reform.

This item will bring parliaments up to date on some of the leading reform proposals for the Security Council and provide an opportunity for reflection on possible parliamentary action in this regard.

**6. Elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee**

The Committee will fill the current vacancies on the Bureau based on proposals received from the geopolitical groups. The Committee will also elect a new President and Vice-President from among the Bureau members.

**7. Any other business**