



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# 147th IPU Assembly

Luanda, Angola  
23–27 October 2023



A/147/C.1  
Annex 3

## Note on the election of the IPU President

This note sets out information, including as contained in the Statutes and Rules of the IPU, on the nature and process for the election of the President.

The President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union is the political head of the organization. The President chairs the Governing Council and the Executive Committee, which in turn guide and monitor all aspects of IPU work. The President chairs IPU statutory meetings and represents the organization at global events.

The Council elects the IPU President for a term of three years at the second Assembly of the year. According to the IPU Statutes and Rules, *“the retiring President shall not be eligible for re-election for three years and shall be replaced by a person belonging to another Parliament. An endeavour will be made to ensure a regular rotation between the different geopolitical groups”*.

The provisions relating to the President are contained in Article 19 of the IPU Statutes and Rules 6 to 11 of the Governing Council Rules. They are supplemented by practice as it has evolved over the years. The IPU President must be a sitting member of parliament for the duration of his or her term in office.

The principle of regional rotation is generally observed. Over the past twenty years, the Presidency of the IPU has been exercised by prominent MPs from Egypt (Arab Group, 1994–1997), Spain (Twelve Plus Group, 1997–1999), India (Asia-Pacific Group, 1999–2002), Chile (Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2002–2005), Italy (Twelve Plus Group, 2005–2008), Namibia (African Group, 2008–2011), Morocco (Arab Group, 2011–2014), Bangladesh (Asia-Pacific Group, 2014–2017), Mexico (Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2017–2020), and Portugal (Twelve Plus Group, 2020–2023).<sup>1</sup>

There are no formal requirements for candidates for the IPU President, other than the fact that he/she is a sitting member of parliament (MP) expecting to remain an MP for the duration of the term of IPU President (in this case, 2023–2026). Historically, IPU Presidents have been outstanding political leaders, well respected nationally and internationally, firmly committed to the core IPU values and principles – in particular the promotion of democracy, human rights, dialogue for peace and the rule of law – and able to invest significant time and energy in effectively carrying out the high office of IPU President.

As the IPU is playing an increasingly important role in political dialogue and understanding within and among nations, the IPU President is expected to be a mediator and bridge-builder, exercising tact, credibility and respect for the IPU membership in all its diversity. He/she is called upon to regularly interact with Heads of State and Government, Speakers of parliament, the UN Secretary-General and other high-level officials. He/she should ideally have a good command of at least one of the official languages of the IPU: English or French. As a gender-sensitive organization, the IPU also attaches great importance to gender equality and the political empowerment of women at all levels.

The election of the IPU President is announced formally in the convocation of the Council session at which the election will take place. It shall be communicated at least four months before the opening of the regular session of the Council (in this case, in mid-June 2023).

<sup>1</sup> The full list of IPU Presidents can be found at <https://www.ipu.org/about-ipu/structure-and-governance/president>.

Candidates are expected to express their interest in running for the position of IPU President through a formal letter addressed to the IPU Secretary General. The letter should underscore the key skills and competencies of the candidate and their vision for promoting the strategic plan of the IPU, and it should be accompanied by a brief CV. Candidatures may be submitted by the candidate directly, by a Member Parliament or group of parliaments, or by one or more geopolitical groups. There is no formal deadline for the submission of candidatures, although in practice it is important that these are submitted in good time, so as to allow for translation and distribution.

It is usual practice for the IPU to post the official submissions of candidatures on its website and to circulate the information to the full IPU membership. While campaigning, candidates are not allowed to use the IPU logo and branding. Instead, they may wish to use the branding of their respective Parliament or to create their own.

In practice, it is expected that the candidates for the post of President can count upon the financial and material support of their respective Parliament in the exercise of the IPU Presidency.

The candidates will present themselves to the IPU membership on the occasion of the 147th IPU Assembly, to be held in Luanda, Angola, from 23 to 27 October 2023. As per usual practice, they will be invited for hearings by the Geopolitical Groups, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU.

The election of the President shall take place at the last sitting of the Council. Voting shall be conducted by secret ballot. Three delegates from each Member Parliament can cast a vote, provided that both genders are represented among them; if not, only one delegate can vote. This year, the vote will take place on 27 October.

The candidate who obtains an absolute majority of the votes cast shall be elected President. If no candidate obtains this majority during the first round of voting, the candidate who has received the least number of votes will be eliminated, and additional rounds will take place until one of the candidates obtains an absolute majority.