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# 149th IPU Assembly

Geneva  
13–17 October 2024



Standing Committee on  
United Nations Affairs

C-IV/149/A.1  
10 June 2024

## Provisional agenda

**First sitting: Tuesday, 15 October 2024, 11:00 – 13:00**

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held at the 148th IPU Assembly in Geneva (March 2024)**
- 3. Financing the United Nations system: A critical perspective**

The over US\$60 billion annual budget of the UN system is financed through a mix of regular assessments (contributions from Member States) and donations to specific entities or funds. This "voluntary funding" can in turn be earmarked to specific projects subject to various conditions or given as open-ended funding to support general operations. Contributing to the complexity of the UN budget, each UN entity, including the Secretariat, has its own budget-making process. The total contribution of each Member State of the UN may appear in the national budget in a broken-down way that may make it difficult for parliament to oversee. Of late, the UN has been contending with a liquidity crisis due to non-payment of assessed contributions coupled with the legal impossibility for the organization to borrow.

This segment, the first of a series, will present an overview of the UN system budget-making process, highlighting immediate reform needs as well as long-term institutional challenges. It will further explore the role of parliaments in overseeing national contributions to the UN system with a view to securing a stable funding base as well as stronger accountability for results.

- 4. United Nations treaties: A review of ratifications and entry into force**

What role can parliaments play with regard to the implementation of UN treaties? Inspired by this question, this segment will be the first of a series designed to review the basic ways in which treaties are negotiated and come into force, the role of parliaments in the treaty ratification process, parliamentary oversight of progress reports to treaty bodies, and the state of play in the implementation of key treaties.

**Second sitting: Wednesday, 16 October 2024, 09:00 – 11:00**

- 5. The United Nations and the G20: Complementarity or redundancy?**

As the leading organization for international development, particularly through its Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the UN deals with international finance, economic and social issues, as well as environmental questions. The UN intergovernmental machinery is open to all 193 Member States, organized through elected bodies and geopolitical groups, whose working methods are inherently inclusive, transparent and accountable.

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The G20 was established in 1999 as a platform for Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors from 19 sovereign countries, the European Union (EU) and, since 2023, the African Union (AU), to discuss international economic and financial issues. It is a self-appointed, informal group of countries (representing 85% of global economic output, two-thirds of the world's population and 75% of international trade), and has emerged as a leading body of global economic governance with a broad mandate touching on issues traditionally under the purview of the UN. For example, this year's G20 Summit in Brazil will focus on "the fight against hunger, poverty and inequality, the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) and the reform of global governance".

Despite efforts over the years to connect the G20 to the UN through informal meetings and reporting exercises, this has not materialized. This segment will review the working methods and basic areas of work of the G20 and ask the question: where does the G20 stand in relation to the UN? Do they complement each other in the realization of common objectives?

**6. Sharing best practices and lessons learned: Follow-up on the first two motions of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs**

Pursuant to its new mandate, adopted in March 2023, in recent sessions the Committee has adopted two motions calling on parliaments to take action in support of gender equality in the UN General Assembly and reforms to the membership and working methods of the Security Council. During this segment, participants will be invited to report back on any action taken in follow up to these motions, highlighting best practices and lessons learned.

**7. 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.

**8. Any other business**