



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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153rd IPU Assembly

Arusha,
United Republic of Tanzania
5–9 October 2026



Assembly
Item 8

A/153/8-P.1-Am
17 September 2026

Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules – sub-amendments and other feedback from the membership

At its 299th session in Istanbul, Türkiye in April 2026 and its 300th session in Geneva, Switzerland in June 2026, the Executive Committee continued its discussions on potential amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules, in conclusion of a process that has run throughout the mandate of Dr. Tulia Ackson as IPU President.

The Executive Committee agreed to submit two proposals for amendments to the IPU membership, on the following subjects:

- *Introducing the possibility of the Assembly adding a second emergency item to its agenda, only in cases where more than one emergency item proposal receives at least a two-thirds majority of votes cast.*
- *Formalizing the procedural amendment adopted by the Assembly Steering Committee in 2025 banning the use of props, visual displays and audio/video recordings during interventions in the General Debate.*

*By the deadline of 5 September 2026, the IPU Secretariat had received proposals for sub-amendments from **Switzerland** in relation to the first subject. In its submission, the Swiss delegation gave the following explanation:*

*“The Swiss delegation considers that the strength of the emergency item lies precisely in its **exceptional character**: it enables the IPU Assembly to focus on **one particularly urgent international situation** and to adopt a clear and visible parliamentary message in response.*

*In the delegation’s view, **introducing a second emergency item would risk weakening this mechanism**. It could **dilute the political attention** and impact of the emergency item, while also placing **additional pressure on the already limited time** available during an Assembly.*

*For these reasons, the Swiss delegation proposes **maintaining the current system of a single emergency item**.”*

These sub-amendments are now submitted for the information of the IPU Member Parliaments. The Executive Committee will discuss the sub-amendment proposals at its sittings in Arusha on 3 and 4 October 2026, and make a recommendation on how to proceed.

No sub-amendments or feedback have been received on the second subject, relating to banning props, visual displays and audio/video recordings. The proposed amendment will therefore proceed for potential adoption by the Assembly on 9 October 2026.

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**Sub-amendments to the Statutes and Rules submitted by the delegation of
Switzerland within the statutory deadline of one month
before the meeting of the Assembly**

Modify the original amendment as follows:*

Statutes	
Article 14.2	2. The Assembly may include one up to two one emergency items in its agenda (cf. Assembly Rule 11).

Modify the original amendment as follows:*

Rules of the Assembly	
Rule 11.2	2. Consideration and acceptance by the Assembly of a a requests for the inclusion of an an emergency items in its agenda shall be subject to the following provisions: (a) A request for the inclusion of an emergency item must relate to a recent major situation of international concern on which urgent action by the international community is required and on which it is appropriate for the IPU to express its opinion and mobilize a parliamentary response. Such a request must receive a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in order to be accepted. (b) The Assembly may place only one up to two only one emergency items on its agenda. Should several requests obtain the requisite majority, the one having received the largest number of positive votes shall be accepted. Where several requests obtain the requisite majority, the proposal receiving the highest number of positive votes shall be accepted as the first emergency item. The proposal receiving the second highest number of positive votes shall be accepted as the second emergency item, provided that it also obtains the requisite majority and does not relate to the same subject as the first emergency item. Should several requests obtain the requisite majority, the one having received the largest number of positive votes shall be accepted. (c) The authors of two or more requests for the inclusion of an emergency item may combine their proposals to present a joint one, including after the 48-hour deadline for submission, provided that each of the original proposals relates to the same subject and the combined proposal maintains the overall scope of the original proposals. (d) The subject of a proposal that has been withdrawn by its authors or rejected by the Assembly cannot be included in the draft resolution(s) submitted on the emergency item(s), unless it is clearly referred to in the request and title of the subject(s) adopted by the Assembly.

* The text highlighted in grey represents the proposed sub-amendments