



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-eighth session

### **Request for the inclusion of an item in the provisional agenda of the seventy-eighth session**

### **Observer Status for the International Parliamentarians' Congress in the General Assembly**

### **Letter dated 17 March 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

Pursuant to rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion in the provisional agenda of the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly of an item entitled "Observer Status for the International Parliamentarians' Congress".

The International Parliamentarians' Congress (IPC) is an international organization established in 2019 and headquartered in Islamabad. It comprises individual members of parliament from legislatures of various States across all regions. The vision of IPC members is to jointly address global and regional issues, through collaboration and constructive international dialogue.

As at February 2023, IPC has 185 parliamentary members from 49 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and North America.

The areas of focus of IPC include: climate change and food security; human rights; peace, security, conflict resolution and interfaith harmony; trade, investment and development cooperation; health research, standardization and quality control and human development; and monitoring and observation of elections around the world.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum (annex I) is attached in support of the aforementioned request, together with a draft resolution (annex II).

I have the honour to request that the present letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Munir Akram  
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations

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\* Reissued for technical reasons on 11 April 2023.



## Annex I

### Explanatory memorandum

#### 1. History and mission

The International Parliamentarians' Congress (IPC) was established through a resolution passed by the Senate of Pakistan on 29 August 2019, with the aim of establishing a transcontinental platform of individual members of national parliaments across the world, united in purpose to jointly address and resolve the world's most imperative global and regional issues that invariably impact the whole of humanity, through collaboration and constructive international dialogue.

The vision of IPC is to address the prevailing global "governance gap" by mainstreaming parliamentarians from around the world, through independent dialogue, to jointly resolve global and regional issues that are a threat to humanity and national security into international and regional governance and diplomacy matrices. Its mission is to establish cooperation, synergy and strategies across member parliaments through independent dialogue to achieve the commonly cherished objectives of:

- Sharing experiences and best practices
- Parliamentary exchanges to encourage inclusive cooperation to develop strategies for strengthening democratic values
- Eliminating barriers to cooperation through engagement to promote world peace and prosperity

IPC endeavours to engage a worldwide network of individual members of parliament across countries, who voluntarily and passionately intend to work in unison to promote parliamentary dialogue by working on six thematic areas defined by IPC:

1. Climate change and food security.
2. Human rights.
3. Peace, security, conflict resolution and interfaith harmony.
4. Trade, investment and developmental cooperation.
5. Health research, standardization and quality control and human development.
6. Monitoring and observation of elections in the world.

These thematic areas are dealt with under their respective committees. IPC aims to develop cooperation and strategies across all parliaments and achieve a prosperous and peaceful world through effective independent interaction among parliamentarians. We aim to reach out and unite nearly 56,000 parliamentarians worldwide under the IPC platform of .

Currently headed by the Chairman Senate of Pakistan/President of IPC, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, IPC, as an international organization, has two Vice-Presidents, the first from Djibouti, Muhammad Ali Houmed, who is also a President of the National Assembly of Djibouti, and the second from the Azerbaijani Republic, Sahiba Gafarova, who is also the Chair of the Milli Majlis (National Assembly) of Azerbaijan.

## 2. Organizational structure and membership

IPC is composed of three main organs, namely, a General Assembly, a Governing Board and a Secretariat. The General Assembly comprises all members of parliaments registering as members of IPC, who meet annually, while the Governing Board, consisting of members of parliament elected by five geopolitical groups defined in the constitution of IPC, meets more often to pursue dialogue across key challenges. The five geographical groups are as follows:

1. Africa;
2. Americas;
3. Central Asia, South Asia and South-West Asia;
4. East Asia and South-East Asia;
5. Europe and Oceania.

Over a period of three years, IPC has reached out to multiple countries, and membership of more than 180 individual member parliamentarians hails from 49 countries. Membership of IPC is open to all sitting parliamentarians of national parliaments of the world through signature of a membership form, with acceptance of the obligations contained in the Constitution, and whereby they commit themselves to the objectives of IPC through regular dialogue among members of parliament to work towards global development to overcome common threats.

## 3. Role of the International Parliamentarians' Congress and its activities

IPC was accredited as an observer by the African Parliamentary Union at the seventy-sixth session of its Executive Committee and attended the seventy-eighth session of the Executive Committee in Zimbabwe in November 2022 as an observer. IPC was also granted observer status by the Asian Parliamentary Assembly at its thirteenth plenary session in Antalya, Turkey, in January 2023. IPC was also granted accreditation for international election observer missions and observed the parliamentary elections of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (2019), Jordan (2020) and the Kingdom of the Netherlands (2021) and the presidential elections of Colombia (2022), and published reports thereon. The election observation report of IPC on the Kingdom of the Netherlands parliamentary election has been acknowledged and accredited by the Parliament of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

IPC is strengthening its presence on the international stage by participating in international conferences such as the fifth session of the General Assembly of the Association of World Election Bodies in South Africa (October 2022) and the seventy-eighth session of the Executive Committee of the African Parliamentary Union in Zimbabwe (November 2022).

In February 2023, IPC, in collaboration with Mustehkum Parlamaan (a European Union-funded project, implemented by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services) successfully organized the first international Road Safety Conference for Parliamentarians, a Global Perspective – Pakistan 2023 in Islamabad, with the aim of sensitizing the legislators on the five pillars recognized by the United Nations in accordance with General Assembly resolution [70/260](#) on improving global road safety. International parliamentarians from Uganda, Guinea, Chad, Libya, Algeria, Jordan, Spain and Azerbaijan participated and shared their recommendations for mitigating the issue. The relevant stakeholders, experts from road safety departments and international organizations, including the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Duarte Pacheco, and the Deputy Secretary-General of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic

States, Talgat Aduov, also attended the Conference. Similarly, in order to emphasize and highlight the issue of road safety globally through the platform of the Conference, the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for Road Safety, Jean Todt, and the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, shared their video messages at the Conference for the participants. The recommendations shared by various countries' representatives were consolidated and shared as the Islamabad Declaration at the end of the Conference for future actions to be taken and made part of the legislation.

The plenary of IPC for the year 2023 involves taking further the issue of road safety and working towards its implementation. Similarly, IPC has organized two conferences on climate change by involving policymakers and diplomats and plans extensive work on climate change globally this year by engaging international parliamentarians.

IPC has formed a strong connection in Africa and would like to reach out to other regions, focusing on global issues that need attention. IPC is strengthening its relations by going into partnership with organizations to unite them on a single platform and involve the parliamentarians of different countries to amplify their voices and implement action plans against global issues. IPC is also increasing its presence in the African region, by gaining membership from African regional parliamentarians, and also in the European Union.

The current IPC partnership consists of:

- The Association of World Election Bodies: the world's largest international organization in the field of election management, fosters efficiency and effectiveness in conducting free, fair, transparent and participative elections worldwide.
- The Global Council for Tolerance and Peace: an international platform, in Malta, with a mission to work on spreading the culture of tolerance and peace to address the issues of contemporary world peace and noble human objectives, through its different components, such as the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace and its General Assembly.
- The Arab Parliament: a legislative body of the Arab League, which exercises its competencies to enhance joint Arab action and achieve economic integration, social solidarity and sustainable development. Its vision involves achieving excellence and leadership and consolidating the principles of shura, democracy and human rights for the people.
- International Committee of the Red Cross: an organization ensuring humanitarian protection and assistance for victims of war and other situations of violence and strengthening humanitarian diplomacy.
- Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services: an exclusive and independent, first-of-its-kind research and capacity-building facility for parliamentarians.
- The Truth International: publishes a fortnightly magazine that covers various aspects of political, social and economic background and trends.
- Institute of Regional Studies: a non-profit research centre devoted to the study of the region around Pakistan: South Asia, South-West Asia (Iran, Afghanistan and the Gulf), China and Central Asia, as well as the Indian Ocean region.

With the concerted efforts of its members and international and national organizations, IPC is evolving into a progressive organization with a capacity to engage world parliamentarians and their efforts on the most imperative global issues in order to serve the world in a positive way. Participating in the General Assembly

session as an observer would help it to engage more efficiently on the international stage to facilitate further strengthening of the bilateral relations among countries and their parliamentarians to work together to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to contribute towards building sustainable solutions to the challenges of future development.

## Annex II

### Draft resolution

#### **Observer status for the International Parliamentarians' Congress in the General Assembly**

*The General Assembly,*

*Wishing* to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the International Parliamentarians' Congress,

1. *Decides* to invite the International Parliamentarians' Congress to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;
  2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the action necessary to implement the present resolution.
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