



**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
PARLIAMENTARIANS' CONGRESS (THE CONGRESS)**



IPC SECRETARIAT

HOME

Contents

Preamble	1
Chapter I: Vision and Aims	2
Article 1. The Vision and Aims of the Congress;	2
Chapter II: Membership and Headquarters	3
Article 2.	3
Article 3. Headquarter.....	4
Chapter III: Organs.....	4
Article 4.	4
The General Assembly.....	4
Article 5.	4
The Governing Board	6
Article 6.	6
Article 7. Functions of Governing Board.....	7
Article 8. Geopolitical Groups	8
Article 9. Committees	8
Chapter IV: Secretariat.....	10
Article 10.	10
Article 11. Funds of the Congress:.....	11
Chapter V: Miscellaneous	11
Article 12. Remuneration and Terms and Conditions of Service	12
Article 14. Official Language	12
Article 14. Amendment to the Constitution	12

Preamble

The Members of the International Parliamentarians' Congress:

Affirm faith in equality and fraternity of all members;

Believe in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations, large and small;

Resolve to establish conditions for cooperation, synergy and strategy for peace and development for the greater good of the peoples;

Pledge to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom through inclusive decision making;

Reaffirming the need to uphold common standards for the protection of the human rights, irrespective of gender, race, religion or culture, respect for the rule of law and by pursuit of the ideals of parliamentary democracy;

Believing that, for the maintenance and further realization of these ideals and in the interests of economic and social progress, there is a need to provide a forum of the parliamentarians for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples by addressing emerging political, economic, strategic and technological challenges;

We, do hereby, establish the International Parliamentarians' Congress, hereby called "the Congress" and adopt, enact and give to ourselves, this Constitution.

Chapter I: Vision and Aims

Article 1. The Vision and Aims of the Congress;

(1) The Congress envisions to;

- i. conceptualize, strategize, and implement ideas of peace, prosperity and progress in the world through collaboration, and sharing of experiences amongst parliamentarians; and
- ii. bring together parliamentarians from around the world as global parliamentarians and representatives of the humanity.

(2) The Congress aims to;

- i. establish a forum for cooperation, synergy, and strategies among parliamentarians towards promoting inclusive societies, and achieving a prosperous and peaceful world through independent dialogue; and
- ii. develop linkages with regional and international organizations for sustainable development;

(3) Without restricting the generality of paragraph (1), The Congress shall pursue its aims by;

- i. Sharing experiences and best parliamentary and constitutional practices;
- ii. Facilitating parliamentary exchanges; and

- iii. Providing knowledge-sharing platforms by arranging conferences, seminars, meetings and study groups to steer cooperation.

Chapter II: Membership and Headquarters

Article 2.

- (1) A Member of a national parliament may, on request, become a Member of the Congress. **The request for membership shall be examined and approved by the President.**
- (2) Every Member of the Congress shall adhere to the provisions of the Constitution and the rules made thereunder.
- (3) Parliamentary Institutes may acquire observer status in the Congress by fulfilling prescribed requirement under the rules.
- (4) Members shall include men and women parliamentarians and the Congress shall strive to ensure gender representation.

Article 3.

- (1) **Each Member shall make an annual contribution, as prescribed by the Governing Board, to the expenses of the Congress.**
- (2) **The President may cancel or suspend the membership of parliamentarian, upon recommendation of the Governing Board, in case;**
 - i. **A Member violates the principles of this Constitution;**
 - ii. **A Member's term as parliamentarian comes to an end or he cease to be a parliamentarians due to any reason; and**
 - iii. **A member does not pay annual fee.**
- (3) **The Governing Board shall recommend the President for admission, suspension, and re-admission of any member to the Congress.**

Article 4. Headquarter

The Headquarter of the Congress shall be at Islamabad.

Chapter III: Organs

Article 5.

The Congress comprises of, the General Assembly, the Governing Board, and the Secretariat.

The General Assembly

Article 6.

- (1) The General Assembly shall be composed of Member parliamentarians (hereinafter referred to as the Member).
- (2) Only Members present in person shall have the right to vote.
- (3) The General Assembly shall meet every year, and, the agenda, venue and date shall be decided by the President in consultation of the Governing Board.
- (4) The General Assembly shall have its President and Vice-President who shall be elected by the Members with a majority of vote for a tenure of two years.
- (5) The General Assembly shall debate issues under the provisions of Article 1 of the Constitution, and may refer to the Board or a Standing Committee, any such matter for consideration. The Board, or the

Standing Committee, as the case may be, shall submit report on such matter to the General Assembly.

(6) The General Assembly shall have the power to constitute any ad hoc or special committee.

(7) The General Assembly shall make its rules and procedure for its working.

Article 7. Election of President and Vice-President

(1) The President shall be elected on an alphabetical rotation between the different geopolitical groups.

(2) For nomination of the President, there shall be one proposer and one seconder each from at least three regions.

(3) The President and the Vice-President shall not be elected from the same Geopolitical Group during a tenure.

(4) The Election for the office of President shall be held after every two years from the date of adaptation of this Constitution and the process of every election shall be initiated 60 days before the completion of tenure of incumbent President.

(5) If for any reason, the elections of president and vice-president, are not held as provided in the constitution, the incumbent president and or vice-president shall continue to hold office till the elections.

- (6) If president or vice-president is unable to perform functions, the position shall be considered vacant and the elections shall be held within 90 days.
- (7) When the office of President is vacant, or the President is absent or is unable to perform his functions due to any cause, the Vice-President shall act as President.
- (8) Senator Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani shall be the first President of the Congress for a period of two years, who shall be authorized to take all measures to establish the Congress. This clause shall stand omitted after election of the next President.

The Governing Board

Article 8.

- (1) The Governing Board shall comprise of Chairpersons of Geopolitical Groups and two parliamentarians from each Group who shall be elected by the Members of their respective Geopolitical Groups.
- (2) The term of office of a member of the Governing Board shall be for two years and the same member shall not be elected for more than two terms.
- (3) All the members of the Governing Board shall be the sitting members of Parliament.
- (4) The Governing Board shall meet not less than three times and not more than six times in a year. An emergency meeting may be called on requisition by not less than one-fourth of the total membership of the Board.

- (5) All the decisions of the Governing Board shall be taken by majority of the members present and voting. The Board shall have quorum of at least one third of members from the total membership of the Governing Board.
- (6) The President of the Congress shall also be the president of the Governing Board.
- (7) The Secretary General of the Secretariat shall act as Secretary to the Governing Board for a period of three years who shall be selected by the Governing Board.

Article 9. Functions of Governing Board

- (1) The Governing Board shall determine and guide the activities of the Congress and execute the decisions made by General Assembly and the Governing Board.
- (2) The Governing Board shall further perform the following functions:
- i. Decide the agenda and place of meeting for the General Assembly;
 - ii. Decide the membership fees, salary and allowances;
 - iii. Set up ad hoc or special committee with the direction of General Assembly;

Provided that the Governing Board may constitute itself any ad hoc committee whose ex post facto approval shall be taken from the General Assembly as soon as the General Assembly meets.

- iv. Adopt the Rules of Procedure for the working of the Governing Board and the Secretariat.

Article 10. Geopolitical Groups

(1) The Congress may have five Geopolitical Groups each comprising members from the respective regions.

(2) The following may be the Geopolitical Groups;

- i. Africa;
- ii. Americas;
- iii. Central Asia, South Asia and South West Asia
- iv. East Asia and South East Asia;
- v. Europe and Oceania.

(3) The Members from each Geopolitical Group shall elect a Chairman who shall head their respective Geopolitical Group in the Congress.

Article 10. Committees

(1) There shall be six Committees as follows:

- ii. Committee on Climate Change and Food Security;
- iii. Committee on Human Rights;
- iv. Committee on Peace, Security, Conflict Resolution and Interfaith Harmony;

- v. Committee on Trade, Investment and Developmental Cooperation;
- vi. Committee on Health Research, Standardization and Quality Control, and Human Development; and
- vii. Committee on Monitoring and Observation of Elections in the World

(2) Each Committee shall comprise 26 members, five from each Geopolitical Group, and one technocrat, who shall be nominated by the Governing Board.

(3) The Chairman of Committee shall be elected from amongst the members by majority of the vote.

(4) The functions of the committees shall include the following, -

- i. examine issues referred to it by the General Assembly, or the Governing Board, or taken up on its own motion;
- ii. submit reports containing recommendations to the General Assembly, or the Board, as the case may be;
- iii. prepare publications for the purpose of disseminating it to the Parliaments through speakers and presiding officers; and
- iv. perform such other functions as assigned by the General Assembly, or the Governing Board.

(5) Committees shall prepare their reports and publications in English and Regional Languages.

Chapter IV: Secretariat

Article 11.

- (1) There shall be a permanent secretariat at Islamabad.
- (2) The Secretariat shall be headed by a Secretary General and comprise such staff as may be provided in the rules. The Secretary General shall be the chief administrative officer of the Congress.
- (3) There shall be five Assistant Secretaries General representing all Geopolitical Groups, who shall be appointed by the Board of Governors through; deputation from regional Parliamentary Secretariats; or, through direct recruitment:
Provided that the Assistant Secretary General shall not be selected for more than two terms.
- (4) The first Secretary General shall be from Pakistan for a period of one year. After one year, the Governing Board may retain the Secretary General or select the new one. This clause shall stand omitted with the completion of tenure of the first Secretary General.
- (5) The First Assistant Secretary General shall also be from Pakistan for a period of three years. This clause shall stand omitted with the completion of tenure of the first Assistant Secretary General.
- (6) The Secretariat shall perform the following functions:
 - i. Serve as the permanent Headquarters of the Congress;

- ii. Carry out communication with members and transmit the resolutions or motions passed by the General Assembly or the decisions made by the Governing Board to the members;
- iii. Maintain the record of the Congress;
- iv. Provide assistance in organizing conferences, interactive sessions, seminars and other programmes; and
- v. Coordinate linkages between the Congress and other international organizations.

Article 12. Funds of the Congress:

The Funds of the Congress shall comprise the following sources:

- i. Funds allocated by any Parliamentary Institution and Governments;
- ii. Contributions by Member Parliamentarians;
- iii. Contributions from external sources;
- iv. Income generated through investments; and
- v. Any other source of funds subject to approval by the Governing Board of the Congress.

Chapter V: Miscellaneous

Article 13. Remuneration and Terms and Conditions of Service

- (1) The remuneration of President, Vice President shall be such as provided in the rules.
- (2) The term and conditions of service of the Secretary General and staff shall be such as provided in the rules.

Article 14. Official Language

The Official language of the Congress shall be English.

Article 15. Amendment to the Constitution

- (1) The Constitution of the Congress may be amended by the General Assembly.
- (2) The Amendments to the Constitution of the Congress shall require the voting of at least two-third of the members present.

Chapter VI: Interim Provisions

Article 16.

- (1) The President, the Secretary General and Assistant Secretaries General existing at the time of the adaptation of this Constitution by the General Assembly in its first meeting shall be deemed to have been elected/appointed constituted under this Constitution.**
- (2) The decisions made, actions taken and works performed by the President, before the commencement of this Constitution, shall be deemed to have been made and validly performed in accordance with this Constitution.**

- (3) Until the General Assembly and the Governing Board are formed, the President shall take all necessary actions for effective operationalization and working of the Congress.**
- (4) The Secretariat and the staff working in the Secretariat at the time of the commencement of this Constitution shall be deemed to have been validly maintained and appointed, as the case may be, under this Constitution and the Rules made thereunder.**
- (5) This Chapter shall stand omitted with the adaptation of this Constitution at the first meeting of the General Assembly.**