



Summary of agenda and key decisions from the autumn session

Geneva (20 to 22 October 2025)

1. Orders of the Day

The autumn session was attended by 93 Secretaries General and Deputy Secretaries General from 74 countries. 25 new members joined the Association.

The agenda for the Geneva session included two general debates:

- What measures have been put in place to mitigate the risk of a future event preventing your parliament from sitting?
- How does your parliament provide factual information to parliamentarians to support evidence-based decision-making?

There were 3 themes on the agenda; 'In the news and innovations at parliament', 'Ensuring the safety of MPs and parliamentary staff' and 'Preparing for the retirement of long-serving staff'. At the conference, 18 members of the Association delivered a communication on these themes.

The speaking notes and PowerPoint Presentations are published on our website here: [Geneva, Switzerland \(October 2025\) - Welcome to ASGP | ASGP](#)

A report on the proceedings will shortly be available in the '[ASGP Review: Constitutional and parliamentary information](#)' section of our website.

2. Elections

Mr Mohammed ALBUAINAIN, Secretary General of the Council of Representatives of Bahrain, **Mr Salim DJALAL**, Secretary General of the National People's Assembly of Algeria and **Ms Le Thu Ha**, Vice Chair of the Office of the National Assembly of Viet Nam were elected as ordinary members of the Executive Committee.

You can [view the full membership of the ASGP Executive Committee on the website here](#).

The Executive Committee announced that, at the next session in Istanbul, elections will be held for 1 post of Vice-President of Association (to proactively replace Dr Remco Nehmelman) and 1 post of ordinary member of the Executive Committee (to proactively replace Dr Omar Alnuaimi).

3. Collaboration with the IPU

The Association formally adopted the ASGP-IPU toolkit on ‘Welcoming new parliamentarians.’ You can read the final version on the website here: [Welcoming-new-Parliamentarians Toolkit.pdf](#)

On Wednesday 22 October 2025, the ASGP held a joint conference with the IPU on the theme: ‘Parliaments in a changing world: Managing complexity, uncertainty and disruption?’

4. Trial of Arabic and Spanish interpretation at the spring conference in Istanbul

Mr Philippe Schwab, Secretary General of the Federal Assembly of Switzerland and former President, set out a proposal to change the Association’s working practices by expanding interpretation of ASGP debates into Arabic and Spanish as standard. [The letter, containing the detail of the proposal, is available on the website here.](#)

The IPU has agreed to provide medium-term funding for Arabic and Spanish interpretation at one of the two annual ASGP sessions. The Executive Committee has decided to trial this approach at the Istanbul meeting.

5. Draft agenda for the Istanbul session (April 2026)

The dates for the 152nd meeting of the IPU are Wednesday 15 April to Sunday 19 April 2026, the exact dates of the ASGP conference within this period are yet to be confirmed.

The themes and general debate topics for the next session, proposed by the Executive Committee and agreed by the Association in Geneva, are as follows:

General debates

The role of parliamentary administration in measuring the legislative impact of laws *[small group discussion]*

- What role does the parliamentary administration play in the evaluation of laws?
- The mechanisms and methodologies used by parliamentary secretariats to assess the post-enactment impact of legislation.
- How evidence-based evaluation contributes to improving law-making quality and accountability.
- How collaboration with academic and research institutions, and using AI tools, can strengthen legislative impact assessment frameworks.

How do we strengthen the protection of parliament as a democratic institution? *[small group discussion]*

- Who holds responsibility for safeguarding Parliament as a democratic institution (for example: Members of Parliament, parliamentary staff, journalists, the public, law enforcement authorities, etc.)?
- How do we protect democratic norms and procedural rules of parliament, particularly in times of crisis or significant political turnover?

- How do we protect parliamentary buildings, in terms of security and historical preservation of buildings?
- How do we defend parliament against the executive and judiciary?

Does your parliament allow its staff to undertake remote working? *[open debate]*

- Does remote working provide benefits to the organisation? What are the risks?
- What are the regulations in your parliament regarding remote working? For example, do you have a minimum number of days required in the office?
- Do you have some roles for which it is impossible to offer remote working, and how do you reconcile inequalities?

Themes

- 1) How are Secretary Generals appointed and how do we define the scope of the role?
- 2) Presentation of concrete examples of the use of artificial intelligence within Parliaments
- 3) In the news and innovations at Parliament