



## Summary of agenda and key decisions from the spring session

### Istanbul (16 to 19 April 2026)

#### 1. Orders of the Day

The autumn session brought together 94 Secretaries General and Deputy Secretaries General from 72 different parliaments. 22 new members joined the Association.

The agenda of the Istanbul session included three general debates:

- The role of the parliamentary administration in measuring the legislative impact of laws (informal discussion groups);
- How do we strengthen the protection of parliament as a democratic institution? (informal discussion groups);
- Does your parliament allow staff to work remotely?

It also included three themes “In the news and innovations in parliament”, “How are Secretary Generals appointed and how do we define the scope of the role?” and “Presentation of concrete examples of the use of artificial intelligence within parliaments”, which were the subject of 18 communications presented by members of the Association.

The related texts and PowerPoints are published on our website here: [Istanbul, Türkiye \(April 2026\) - Welcome to ASGP | ASGP](#)

The minutes will be available shortly on the website here: [Documents Archive - Welcome to ASGP | ASGP - Welcome to ASGP | ASGP](#)

#### 2. Elections

**Ms Steejit Taipiboonsuk**, Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives of Thailand, was elected by acclamation as Vice-President of the Association.

**Mr Sverrir Jónsson**, Secretary General of the Parliament of Iceland, was elected by acclamation as an ordinary member of the ASGP Executive Committee.

The composition of the Executive Committee is available on the website here: [Members Archive - Welcome to ASGP | ASGP - Welcome to ASGP | ASGP](#)

### **3. Trial of Arabic and Spanish interpretation at the spring conference in Istanbul**

The Association agreed to increase membership fees by 25% from 2027 in order to finance interpretation of ASGP meetings into Spanish and Arabic, in addition to French and English. Consequently, an amendment to the ASGP Rules required to make this change permanent will be proposed to the plenary at the meeting in Tanzania.

### **4. Draft agenda for the autumn session in Tanzania (October 2026)**

The 153rd session of the ASGP will take place in Arusha, Tanzania, from **6 to 9 October 2026**.

The following themes and general debates are proposed for this session:

#### General debates

#### **1) OPEN GENERAL DEBATE - Unicameral or bicameral parliament: what are the advantages and disadvantages? Please share concrete experiences from your parliaments.**

- What political, constitutional or historical factors tend to favour one system or the other?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of each model in terms of the legislative process?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of each model in terms of oversight of the executive power?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of each model in terms of administrative management?
- How are disagreements between two chambers managed in a bicameral chamber? How is membership of the second chamber in a bicameral parliament determined?

#### **2) GENERAL DEBATE IN SMALL GROUPS: How is Parliament funded, what is the budget allocation and approval processes?**

- Who is responsible for preparing the parliamentary budget?
- To what extent do parliaments have autonomy over the approval of their own budgets, and how does this affect institutional independence?
- How does public perception shape funding decisions (for example, MPs salaries or expensive investment in buildings)

#### **3) GENERAL DEBATE IN SMALL GROUPS: Training for Members of Parliament and Parliamentary staff**

- What training do you make available to MPs to ensure they can fulfil their roles effectively? To what extent is training requested directly by MPs or proposed by the parliamentary administration?
- Do you have formal training programmes for parliamentary staff?
- Are training programmes delivered by the parliamentary administration itself, or do you use external service providers?
- Do you have a parliamentary training institute and, if so, what role does it play? Does it have exchanges with other parliamentary training institutes?

### Themes

- In the news and innovations at parliament
- Mechanisms for international and regional cooperation among Parliaments
- Best practices for the recruitment of parliamentary staff