

BESTMUN'24



ISLAMIC CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY HANDBOOK

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Dear Members of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran,

This handbook is specially prepared for this committee and conference. Its main aim is to inform you about the flood and the procedure of the committee. Since the committee ICA is a special committee, special rules of procedure are needed. ***The committee will be the simulation of the real Islamic Consultative Assembly which will be taking part starting from the date 22 February 2020 and beyond*** because of this reason this handbook is taking its origins from the real procedure of Iran. Although it will be a simulation, there might be tiny differences compared to the original one which can be changeable in accordance with the circumstances and the feasibility of the conference. The Secretariat including the academic assistant, under-secretary general, deputy secretary general, and secretary general are allowed to interfere with the committee by using their discretion. During the four-day conference, various crisis and updates will be brought and as the legislative power of the Islamic Republic of Iran, you are expected to handle them strategically by making bills and turning them into laws. You are allowed to check the handbook and study guide whenever you want. In addition, as your under-secretary general and academic assistant, we will always be here for anything you may need inside and outside the conference.

We wish you a joyful conference and the best of luck for the preparation process.

Zehra Yıldırım & Atakan Duman
Academic Team

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1. Introduction

The Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran (also known as Majlis) is primarily focused on legislative activities, including law-making, government oversight, and budget approval. It represents the interests of the Iranian people, formulates policies, and plays a crucial role in approving international treaties and ensuring constitutional adherence. Through these functions, the Majlis aims to contribute to the effective governance and development of Iran. There are six main roles of the Assembly which will be detailed later in the handbook but mentioned by titles the six will be listed;

- Legislative Function
- Constitutional Role
- Treaty Approval
- Budget Approval
- Oversight and Accountability
- Policy Development

At this conference, the Consultative Assembly of Iran, the members will be mainly focusing on the legislative power but rather than that all functions are available to achieve during the conference. The procedure of making bills and turning them into laws will be explained in the upcoming clauses.

2. Membership and Representation

The Iranian Majlis (Islamic Consultative Assembly) consists of 290 members. These members are elected by the public for four-year terms. The last elections in Iran were held on February 21, 2020. These elections were for the 11th term of the Iranian Majlis (Islamic

Consultative Assembly). The new elections will be held in 2024 during which new members of the Majlis will be elected, marking the beginning of a new legislative term.

In this Assembly of ours, there will be 32 members representing Iran while simulating the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

a. Chairboard Members

The moderators of the committee are the members of the chair board. They have crucial duties that they must fulfill and take care about the domestic issues of the Assembly. They are responsible for managing debates and legislative procedures, supervising voting procedures, upholding the duty of official representation (domestically and internationally), and addressing violations. They can use discretion whenever it is needed. Also, the decisions that the chairboard and the academic team make are final.

i. President (President Chair) of the Islamic Consultative Assembly

The President of the Assembly, also known as the Speaker or Chair of the Assembly, holds a prominent position in the legislative body, such as the Iranian Majlis (Islamic Consultative Assembly) or similar legislative institutions. In this committee, Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf will be serving as the President / President Chair/ Speaker of the Assembly. The President of the Assembly, or Speaker, leads legislative sessions by managing debates, enforcing rules, and overseeing voting procedures. They represent the assembly in official and public capacities, ensure procedural compliance, and supervise administrative operations and staff. The President also handles the scheduling of sessions, manages communication with other bodies, and resolves conflicts among members. Their role is essential for maintaining order, efficiency, and effective functioning within the legislative body. He is the most authorized person regarding the committee and he has a direct relation with the academic team.

ii. Vice President (Vice Chair) of the Islamic Consultative Assembly

The Vice President of the Assembly, or Deputy Speaker, assists the President by managing legislative sessions, stepping in to preside when the President is unavailable, and overseeing specific committees or subcommittees. In this Assembly, Abdolreza Mesri will be serving as the Vice President/Vice Chair/Second Speaker. They help moderate debates, represent the assembly in official and public functions when needed, and assist with administrative tasks and staff supervision. Additionally, the Vice President undertakes special assignments as delegated by the President, ensuring the efficient operation of the legislative body.

iii. Second Vice President (Rapporteur) of the Islamic Consultative Assembly

The duties of the Second Vice Chair, or Second Deputy Speaker, typically include assisting the First Vice Chair in managing legislative sessions and filling in for them when they are unavailable. In the Assembly of Iran, Ali Nikzad will be handling this position. They help facilitate debates and ensure procedural adherence, oversee specific committees or subcommittees as assigned, and represent the assembly in various functions if needed. Additionally, the Second Vice Chair supports the administrative operations of the assembly and handles special tasks or projects as delegated by the President or the First Vice Chair. Moreover, in our committee, the Second Vice President is also assigned with the duty of engraving everything proceeding within the session to a carefully crafted report which is known as rapporteur. He is expected to write every single action taking place in the session including bills, speeches, impeachments, debates, documents, etc.

iv. The Role of Academic Team: Under Secretary General & Academic Assistant

In the General Assembly committees, the Under Secretary General and the Academic Assistant represent non-existent characters in the committee. Similar to them, in this committee neither the Under Secretary General nor Academic Assistant will be holding a specific position or character during the conference. On the other hand, they will be present in different roles and characters during four days in case of crisis and conflicts. The changing role of them will be announced to the Assembly in order to inform members about the updates. The duty of the Guardian Council will be fulfilled by the Under Secretary General and Academic Assistant.

Additionally, they have full authority when making decisions about the committee with the Secretariat of the conference. They will be in touch with the chair board and they can interfere with the committee by using their discretion. The decisions made by the academic team are final.

3. Sessions and Proceedings

When the Iranian Majlis (Islamic Consultative Assembly) is convened, its members take an oath of office. Before beginning their duties, the members typically recite the following oath:

"According to the requirements of Islam and the constitutional order of our country, and in accordance with the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I swear to fulfill my duties to the best of my ability, to protect and defend the rights of the people, and to uphold justice."

After the oath, the Assembly will be officially on duty and has to follow up with the official procedure. The Assembly meets to discuss agenda items, which are communicated to the

members in advance. In our conference, the agenda items will be addressed in two main topics, and discussions will revolve around these two main issues. The first agenda item, selected at the President's initiative, is "The Secretarian Violence". After the agenda setting, the general speeches will start. The members who wish to address the House have a maximum of 5 minutes to proceed. After the general speeches, the First Debate will start. The process of the First Debate will start with the declaration of "First Debate" done by the President or the board. After the declaration, the debate will start. This debating part is similar to the moderated caucus in General Assembly Committees. The members wishing to speak on the agenda will be asked to raise their placards and they will be recognized by the board. After the recognition, every member will have 2 minutes to speak. Members of the Assembly are free to talk about everything regarding the agenda item. During the first debate, the members are allowed and expected to write and submit their draft bills to the board. When the total time for the first debate is over, the board will announce the time being finished and if there are any bills sent to the board the House will be proceeding the evolution of the bills. (The detailed procedure of The Bills and Legislative Process will be explained in a detailed way in the next section.) When there are enough bills to evaluate, the board will classify them by using the legislative calendar, and the bills that are sent earlier will have priority over the other bills. If the earliest bill passes the evaluation process it will be open for a debate for a while. This debate is called the "Second Debate". The Second Debate has 2 parts. In the first part, the members are allowed to stand up and talk with their party leaders or other members of the committee about the bill and its voting. After the allocated 20 minutes finishes the board will be asking for members to settle down and get prepared for the second part of Second Debate. In this debate, the members are not allowed to stand up. They will be expressing their opinions in their seats while waiting for the board to recognize them. In this

debate, the members are allowed to applause or tic-tac their pens in a respectful way. After the time finish the board will declare the voting procedure.

4. Legislative Process

The Islamic Assembly of Iran is mainly responsible for the legislative process. There are different rules for bills, amendments and constitutional amendments. For an ordinary bill to become law this process should be followed:

During the First Debate, the draft bills can be submitted to the board. The board will evaluate them and if the format is appropriate, it will be added to the legislative calendar. The president is responsible for the legislative calendar. A bill must require these;

- A title
- List of sponsors and the name of the main sponsor
- A clause that explains the bill

After the evaluation of the proposed bill (if it succeeds) the President will declare it an move on with the Second Debate. After the Second Debate, the voting procedure will start. If the debated bill fails another proposed bill will be put on and the Second Debate will start again.

An ordinary bill can be proposed by any member of the Majlis. This proposal does not require a specific number of co-sponsors at the submission stage. Once submitted, the bill is reviewed by relevant parliamentary committees. After committee review, the bill is debated in the Majlis. For a bill to pass in the Majlis, it generally requires a majority vote from the members present. The exact majority required can vary based on the rules of the Majlis but typically, a simple majority is sufficient.

After passing the Majlis, the bill is sent to the Guardian Council. If the Guardian Council approves the bill, it is then sent to the President for final approval. Here is a sample bill turned into law below.



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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1030 VIENNA, AUSTRIA



جمهوری اسلامی ایران
نابینگی دائم نرد و قتر ظل تمد و سازمانهای بین المللی

دین

Explanatory Note

On the Law Passed by the Islamic Republic of Iran's Parliament:

“Strategic Action Plan to Lift Sanctions and Protect Iranian Nation's Interests”

In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

On 2 December 2020, the Islamic Republic of Iran's Parliament passed a bill entitled “Strategic Action Plan to Lift Sanctions and Protect Iranian Nation's Interests”, which was published in the official gazette on 10 December 2020 and entered into force on 25 December, 2020.

Consideration of the following points is central to any analysis in this regard:

1. All participants of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA) would confirm that this deal includes reciprocal commitments in all its stages. On the one hand, the JCPoA was supposed to ensure that Iran's nuclear programme will remain exclusively peaceful, and on the other hand, it would result in the comprehensive lifting of all UN Security Council sanctions as well as multilateral and national sanctions related to Iran's nuclear programme, including steps on access in areas of trade, technology, finance and energy.
2. On 8 May 2018, in material breach of Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015) to which the JCPoA is annexed to, the former President of the United States announced his decision to unilaterally and unlawfully withdraw from the JCPoA. As a result, the US has not sufficed to re-imposing its previously lifted unilateral sanctions, but also widened the scope of sanctions through imposing new ones under different pretexts and exerted pressures on the others, be it public or private, to follow suit, in defiance of the UNSC Resolution 2231 (2015). While the U.S. withdrawal brought about strong condemnation and criticism among the other participants to the deal, the EU/E3 failed to take proper measures in ensuring the benefits to Iran as endorsed by the UNSC Resolution 2231 (2015).

5. Amendments

An amendment to the proposed legislation has to have these items;

- A title that mentions “*An amendment to Proposed....*”
- List of sponsors and the name of the main sponsor
- Detailed explanation on how to amend which section of the proposed bill or the explanation of the new section that will be added.

Amendments can only target one section or create only one section.

For constitutional amendments; Amendments to the Constitution can be proposed by the Supreme Leader, the President, the Majlis (Islamic Assembly), or the Assembly of Experts. Proposals can also come from at least one-fifth of the members of the Majlis. The proposed amendment is introduced and debated in the Majlis.

To advance, the proposed amendment must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the members present in the Majlis. After initial approval, the proposed amendment is published and subjected to public review and comment. The Guardian Council reviews the amendment to ensure it complies with Islamic principles and the Constitution. The Guardian Council's approval is required for the amendment to proceed. After passing through the Majlis, the Assembly of Experts, and the Guardian Council, the amendment is sent to the President for final approval. The President signs the amendment into law, making it an official part of the Constitution.

6. Impeachment and Accountability Process

The Majlis has the authority to question, investigate, and, if necessary, remove them from office. Members of the Majlis can be impeached for violations of the law, misconduct, or failure to fulfill their duties. This process is governed by the internal regulations of the Majlis and Iranian law. The impeachment process can be initiated by a group of Majlis members who submit a formal request or motion for impeachment. For the motion, one-fourth member must ask for an impeachment. Once a motion is accepted, an investigation committee may be formed to review the allegations and gather evidence. The Majlis debates the impeachment charges. Both the accused member and the proponents of impeachment present their cases. The final decision is made by a vote in the Majlis. A majority vote is required to approve the impeachment. If the impeachment is approved, the member may be removed from office. Further legal actions or penalties may be imposed depending on the nature of the misconduct. Also, The President of Iran can be impeached for violations of the Constitution, criminal offenses, or gross misconduct. The impeachment process is initiated by the Majlis, with a motion submitted by members who must provide evidence of the charges. An impeachment motion requires a majority of the Majlis members to be accepted for further consideration. The process involves investigation, debate, and a final vote. The proposed impeachment must also be reviewed and approved by the Guardian Council to ensure compliance with Islamic law. If the impeachment is approved, the President is removed from office, and legal consequences may follow.

In addition, The Guardian Council has a role in overseeing the impeachment process, especially when it involves constitutional or legal issues. It ensures that the procedures align

with Islamic principles and the Constitution. In this Assembly, the position of Guardian Council will be held by the Under Secretary General and Academic Assistant.

7. Voting Procedure

After the presented bill, proposal, or motion, the members are expected to debate the issue and put it to voting. When it is time to vote, the President of the Assembly calls for a vote and its type. In this Assembly, there will be five types of voting which are: voice vote, roll-call vote, standing vote, secret-ballot vote, and electronic vote.

a. Voice Vote

Voice voting is typically used for procedural matters or when the outcome is expected to be clear and uncontroversial. It is a quicker method compared to other forms of voting, such as electronic or secret ballots, and is suitable for votes where detailed recording is less critical.

In cases where the results of a voice vote are disputed or unclear, the Majlis may conduct a more formal voting process, such as a roll-call vote or electronic voting, to ensure accuracy.

When the voting is declared by the President will ask Members to cast their votes by responding verbally, usually by saying "aye" (yes) or "nay" (no). This response is given in a loud and clear manner to be heard by all members. They may call for a recount if the results are unclear. The results of the voice vote are announced by the President, including whether the proposal has passed or failed.

b. Roll-call Vote

Roll-call voting is particularly useful for significant or contentious issues where a detailed record of each member's position is important. Roll call votes are significant for ensuring that all members' votes are accurately captured and publicly known, particularly in contentious or high-stakes decisions. During the roll call, each member's name is called out in alphabetical order or according to a pre-determined list. As their name is called, each member responds with their vote—either "yes," "no," or "abstain"—and their vote is recorded by the assembly's clerks or electronic voting system. The votes are recorded and tallied to determine the outcome of the motion or legislation being voted on. Similar to the other voting procedures, for an ordinary bill to pass a simple majority is required. For constitutional amendments, two-thirds of the majority is required but also other requirements will be explained detaily in the upcoming section of "Amendments".

c. Standing Vote

Standing votes are often used for straightforward matters where a visual count can quickly and clearly determine the outcome. This method is less formal than a roll call or electronic vote but is effective for cases where transparency and simplicity are required. If the results of a standing vote are close or unclear, additional methods of voting may be used to ensure accuracy.

When the debate concludes, the assembly President calls for a standing vote. Members are asked to indicate their support or opposition to the proposal by standing.

Members who support the proposal stand up to indicate their vote in favor of one side of the House, while those who oppose it also stand to show their vote against it on the other side of the House. Members who do not wish to vote or are abstaining remain seated.

The President or designated officials count the number of members standing for and against the proposal. This count determines the outcome of the vote.

The results of the standing vote are announced, including the number of votes in favor, against, and any abstentions. For a bill to pass simple majority is required. This means that if there are 290 members in the Majlis, a bill needs to receive more than half of the votes cast (i.e., at least 146 votes in favor) to pass. In our committee, the quorum is 32 members with the chair board but they won't be included in the voting process so the total number is 29, and the simple majority is 19.

ç. Secret-Ballot Vote

The secret ballot is designed to protect the voter's privacy and prevent coercion or undue influence during the voting process. Voters cast their ballots in designated booths that are designed to shield their choices from view. This ensures that no one else can see how a voter is voting. Voters use official ballot papers to make their choices. These ballots are marked in private, usually within a curtained area or enclosed space. The voting process is conducted in a way that maintains the confidentiality of each voter's choice. The marked ballots are collected securely to prevent any unauthorized access or tampering. Secret ballot voting is being used on different occasions in Iran such as parliamentary elections, presidential elections, and other significant voting events. If the president of the parliament chooses voting to be done as secret ballot voting, the procedure will be continued by the declaration of the voting type to the Assembly and asking for a preparation for the sake of the voting.

d. Electronic Vote

Electronic voting aims to speed up the voting process, reduce errors, and make it easier to count votes accurately. It helps ensure that the voting process is transparent and that results are quickly available. The procedure of the electronic vote will be done as mentioned below.

Members of the Iranian Assembly use electronic voting machines or devices installed in the assembly hall. These devices are connected to a central system that records and processes votes. At this conference, the members won't be obligated to install an application or get a device for voting, rather than that the board will send the voting form as a QR code to the House, and at the particular time of voting the members will find a chance to use their voting via their mobile phones by scanning the QR code. When a vote is called, members use their electronic devices to cast their votes. The devices typically allow members to select their choice (e.g., "yes," "no," or "abstain") and submit it securely. The results of the vote are usually displayed immediately on screens or reported through the central system, providing real-time feedback on the outcome.