



THE DIFFERENT LAYERS OF THE MYP

The **General Assembly (GA)** of the MYP consist of 128 members, like the Lebanese Parliament.

- In the General Assembly, the representatives of the people decide about the future of their country.
- Draft bills are presented, discussed and then voted upon.

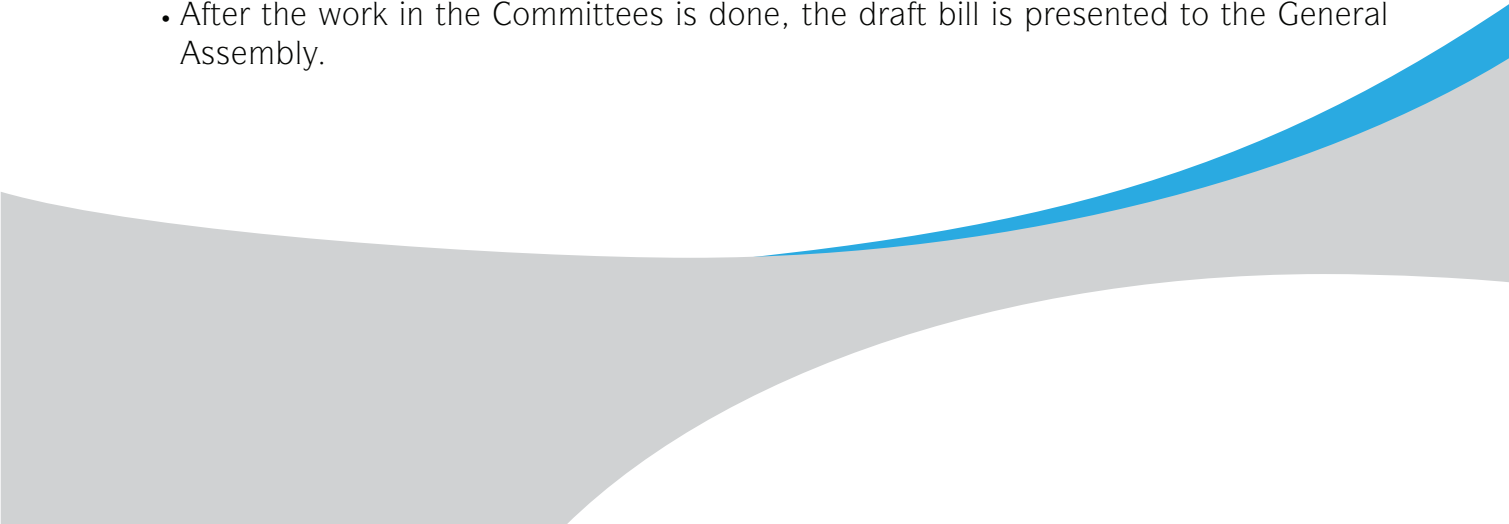
The 128 Members of Parliament are divided in **8 Parliamentary Party Groups (PPG)**.

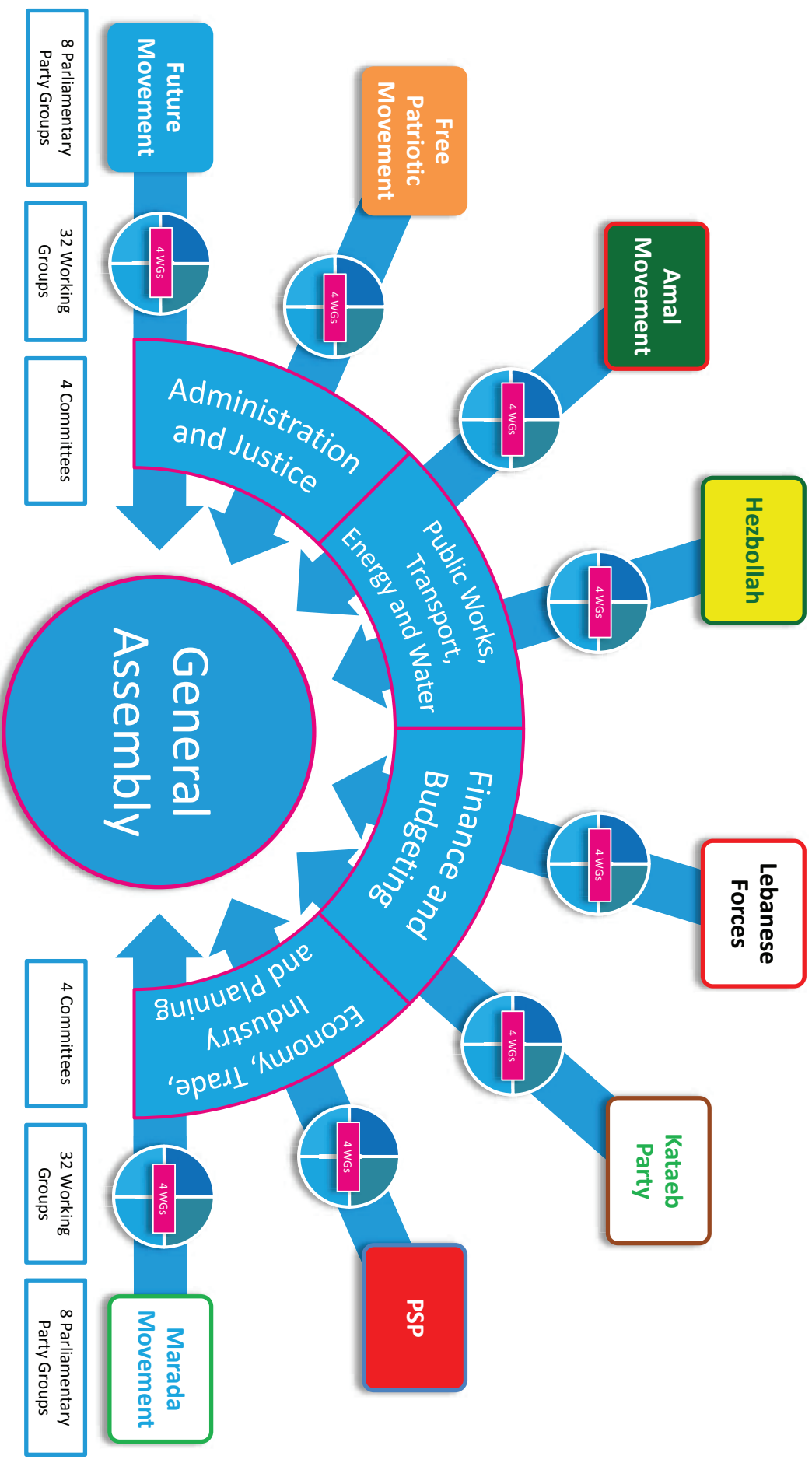
- Each PPG tries to reach their own goals, following their ideology and agenda.
- PPGs can build alliances and blocs, or remain independent.
- They coordinate the work on the different topics among their members.
- They follow a mutual approach and tactic.

Since not every Member of Parliament is an expert of all topics, they divide the work amongst each other. That's why the PPGs divide into **4 Working Groups (WG)**, one for each topic, related to the draft bill.

- The WG are the smallest teams in the MYP, containing only 4 experts for one topic from one party.
- Their task is as experts to get into depth of their topic so they can
 - Present and explain their topic to their PPG.
 - Work as representatives of their party in the Committees.

To achieve progress in the country, the Parliament creates or changes laws. The work on the content of a new or changed law is done in **4 Committees**, formed by the 8 WG on the same topic.

- In the Committees, experts of all 8 PPGs come together and work on the same topic.
 - They discuss draft bills and have the opportunity to add amendments.
 - They prepare the bills for final voting in the GA.
 - After the work in the Committees is done, the draft bill is presented to the General Assembly.
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RULES OF PROCEDURE

I. **GENERAL PRINCIPLES**

1. **Preamble**

- 1.1) Precondition for any successful parliamentary work is the respect for diverse political and individual opinions.
- 1.2) The freedom of speech is part of individual human dignity. To keep and protect it is a duty of the state. Thus, it is the duty of the parliament to prohibit any form of discrimination.

2. **MYP self-governance**

- 2.1) The bodies of MYP shall be chaired by the elected or appointed members of MYP in accordance with the following rules.
- 2.2) The parliamentary administration (FNF, USJ & polyspektiv) has the task of supporting and advising the members of parliament in their work.
- 2.3) The regulations of these terms and conditions are binding. The parliamentary administration will help with the interpretation. Amendments to the Rules of Procedure are not permitted.

3. **Elections**

- 3.1) Every MP is obliged to actively participate in all relevant elections.
- 3.2) Elections happen by secret vote on official ballot paper provided by the mentors.
- 3.3) A PPG chair person needs to be elected with a majority of more than 50% of votes casted. In case of a tie, a second ballot decides. In case of a second tie, it is decided by drawing lots.
- 3.4) A Committee head needs to be elected with a majority of more than 50% of votes casted. Each PPG can suggest a maximum of 1 candidate per committee. In case of a tie, a second ballot decides. In case of a second tie, it is decided by drawing lots.
- 3.5) Committee heads cannot be PPG chairpersons and cannot speak on behalf of a PPG during the plenary debate.

4. **Voting**

- 4.1) Every MP is obliged to actively participate in all relevant votes.
- 4.2) If not stated otherwise, votes happen per hand signal.
- 4.3) To make a decision, a simple majority is necessary – that means more “yes” than “no” votes. A tie results in a negative vote.

II. **SPECIAL DUTIES**

5. **Chairmanship of the Plenary Session**

- 5.1) The plenary sessions of the MYP are led by the speaker of parliament, who is an active or former member of the Lebanese Parliament.

6. **The PPG chairpersons**

- 6.1) The PPG chairpersons are guiding the work in the PPGs.
- 6.2) They are responsible for successful work in the PPGs and for agreements between the different PPGs.

7. **The Heads of Committee**

- 7.1) The heads of committee are guiding the work of the committees.
- 7.2) They are responsible for productive and just work on time in the committees.
- 7.3) They have to treat all members of the committee equally, regardless of the PPG.
- 7.4) They have to compile and hand in the list of speakers for the final debate in collaboration with the PPG chairpersons the day before the general assembly.

8. **MYP administration & support**

- 8.1) Mentors: The USJ student life department provides mentors. They are personal coaches of the members of parliament and help them with advice and guidance. Each PPG has one mentor, who moderates the getting to know each other and the preparatory session of the PPG as well as the visit of party representatives, administrates the election of a chair person and supports the chairperson afterwards as personal assistant. The mentors also support the working groups. In the committees, two mentors assist the head. One of them keeps an overview on the amendments debated and one assists with the speakers list.
- 8.2) Consultants: The political parties of Lebanon represented during the MYP provide consultants. They stay with the PPGs during their sessions. They support with tactical information and advice on request of the chair person, the mentor or individual members of parliament.
- 8.3) Experts: The USJ provides experts, who support the members of parliament with information and background regarding the respective bills debated.

III. **BODIES OF MYP**

9. **Parliamentary Party Groups (PPG)**

- 9.1) The PPG usually meet in closed session.
- 9.2) The PPG meetings are led by the PPG chairperson.
- 9.3) During the meetings, the PPG chairperson guides the debate and gives the floor following the order of requests to speak.
- 9.4) The PPG chairperson may limit the number and duration of speeches if he or she considers this necessary for time reasons.
- 9.5) The respective personal allocation to a PPG as well as the entire PPG structure is binding for the duration of the simulation.

9.6) **Working Groups**

- 9.7) The working groups are responsible for drafting and handing in draft amendments. They operate on behalf of the complete PPG and continuously seek consensus with fellow PPG members working on other issues.
- 9.8) The members of the WG organize their work according to their needs, where applicable the Rules of Procedure apply.

10. **Committees**

- 1.1) The committee meets in open session but can decide to exclude the public.
- 1.2) At the beginning of each meeting, the head of committee announces the agenda.
- 1.3) It can be changed only if more than half of the members present agree.
- 1.4) During the meetings, the head of committee guides the debate and gives the floor following the order of requests to speak.
- 1.5) This means that the members of committee are only allowed to speak after being called to speak by the head of committee. If necessary, the head of committee has to keep a written list of requests to speak by the members of committee.
- 1.6) When the head wants to speak regarding the topic of discussion, he has to add his or her name to the list of speakers and doesn't speak as head of committee for this amount of time, but as regular member of committee.
- 1.7) Any speaker can allow or prohibit questions during his speech. If the speaker allows questions, these questions have to be short and precise.
- 1.8) The head of committee should arrange the order of speakers according to the expected content in such a way that opposing positions are likely to follow each other.
- 1.9) As soon as the order of the meeting is not warranted, the head of the committee can interrupt or, with the agreement of all participants, abort the meeting.
- 1.10) The committee is only able to make decisions, when quorum is reached, meaning the majority (50%) of members is present.

11. **The General Assembly**

- 1.11) The meetings of the general assembly are open to the public.
- 1.12) In the general assembly, the members of parliament sit divided by PPG.
- 1.13) The final debate of the MYP is led by the speaker of parliament.
- 1.14) The members of the parliament have to be in the room before the arrival of the speaker of parliament. As soon as the speaker of parliament enters, everybody rises and remains standing until the speaker of parliament formally opens the session.
- 1.15) Each draft bill is first presented by the head of committee, who describes in not more than five minutes the progress and result of the work in the committee.
- 1.16) After that, the speaker of parliament gives the floor to one representative of each PPG. Each representative has not more than three minutes to express their PPG's perspective towards the final draft law.
- 1.17) Speeches are held standing.
- 1.18) After the debate is closed, all members of parliament vote by hand on the proposed draft bill (for, against or abstaining). The votes are counted by the speaker of parliament and directly announced to the general assembly.