

145th IPU Assembly

Kigali, Rwanda 11-15 October 2022



Assembly

A/145/Inf.3 15 September 2022

Reporting by Members on IPU-related activities

Reporting by IPU Members of actions taken to follow up on IPU resolutions, Assemblies and other initiatives

According to the IPU Statutes, all Members and Associate Members of the IPU are required to send an annual report of action taken to follow up on IPU resolutions and decisions (Article 6).

It is also the duty of the Members of the IPU to submit the resolutions of the IPU within their respective Parliament, in the most appropriate form; to communicate them to the Government; to stimulate their implementation and to inform the IPU Secretariat, as often and fully as possible, particularly in its annual reports, of the steps taken and the results obtained (cf. Assembly Rule 39.2). To this end, all heads of delegations to IPU Assemblies should submit in accordance with national laws a report to their national parliaments with a copy to the IPU Secretary General as soon as possible following the closure of the Assembly (Article 7).

Since 2017, the Governing Council has decided to pursue an approach based on a predictable rotational cycle. A number of parliaments from each geopolitical group are designated to report each year, with each Member expected to submit a report every four years. This is intended to allow sufficient time to prepare a submission and reduce the burden of annual reporting.

In addition, the new IPU Strategy for 2022-2026, as endorsed by the full IPU membership, has identified the strengthening of accountability at all levels as one of the core strategic objectives of the Organization. As noted under this strategic objective, "the IPU will enhance existing accountability efforts both at the level of Member Parliaments and within the Secretariat itself. It will: clarify, standardize and strengthen processes that require follow-up action by Member Parliaments on key issues; expand Member engagement (in particular between events); streamline and enhance parliamentary tracking and reporting mechanisms by Members; and more consistently track, consider and apply Member feedback".

This report presents relevant information and best practices shared by IPU Member Parliaments during 2022, when 46 Member Parliaments were surveyed on parliamentary action related to IPU resolutions and other decisions. All other Members were encouraged to participate in the survey voluntarily. The questionnaires were aimed at collecting comparative data and concrete examples of parliamentary follow-up on one or more resolutions or decisions that the IPU had adopted.

- 2 - A/145/Inf.3

In total, the IPU received 90 responses: 31 fully completed questionnaires and 59 partially completed. Of the 46 parliaments selected to report in 2022, the IPU Secretariat received 22 responses, which is a 46% response rate — a decrease from the previous year, which registered a 49% response rate. To a certain extent, this could be attributed to political instability in several regions, including a series of military coups and popular movements that have led to a change in or suspension of legislative institutions, notably on the African continent (which had a particularly low response rate).

Individual contributions to the 2022 exercise have also been gathered through:

- Bilateral correspondence with the IPU Secretariat: 16 responses
- Individual reports following IPU Assemblies
- 144th IPU Assembly in Nusa Dua: Special accountability segment of the General Debate: Follow-up actions by Members on IPU resolutions and other decisions
- Voluntary National Reviews (reports) submitted during the High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF)

2022 questionnaire

The following parliaments were invited to submit responses to the questionnaire in 2022. Those that responded, either directly to the survey or through other channels, are **in bold**:

<u>African Group</u>: Algeria*, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros**, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Arab Group: Bahrain (2 Chambers), Egypt*, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait.

<u>Asia-Pacific Group</u>: Afghanistan, **Australia***, Bangladesh, Bhutan, **Cambodia**, **China**, Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Eurasia Group: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus.

<u>Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC)</u>: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador.

<u>Twelve Plus Group</u>: Albania, **Andorra**, **Austria**, **Belgium**, Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Bulgaria**, **Croatia**, **Cyprus**, **Czech Republic**, **Denmark**, **Estonia**, **France**.

Moreover, voluntary responses and contributions were received from the following 38 Member Parliaments:

<u>Twelve Plus Group</u>: Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Sweden, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

<u>Asia-Pacific Group</u>: India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand.

<u>African Group</u>: Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya, Mali, Mauritius, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Arab Group: Morocco, Qatar, United Arab Emirates.

Eurasia Group: Kazakhstan.

Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC): Guyana, Paraguay, Suriname.

^{*} Parliament belonging to two geopolitical groups and which, for the purposes of elections within the IPU, has chosen this group

Parliament belonging to two geopolitical groups but which has not yet indicated which group it would be representing in case of elections.

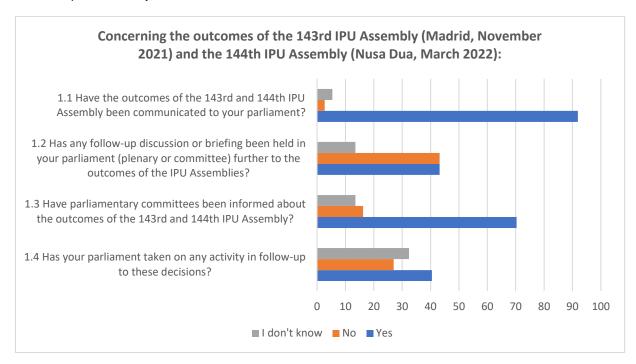
- 3 - A/145/Inf.3

SURVEY FINDINGS

The responses provide qualitative and quantitative information about how national parliaments follow up on IPU resolutions and other IPU decisions and initiatives.

1. Resolutions and IPU influence on the work of parliaments

With regard to the outcomes of the 143rd IPU Assembly¹ (Madrid, November 2021) and the 144th IPU Assembly² (Nusa Dua, March 2022), 92% of respondents indicated that they submitted reports to their parliaments; 70% sent the outcomes of the Assembly to their parliaments and 40% informed parliamentary committees.



Whereas the rate of delegations reporting to parliamentary committees is high, there is still scope for improvement when it comes to organizing follow-up discussions, briefings or other activities in the parliaments (positive response rate under 45%).

The following good practices can be given as an example:

- Azerbaijan: Outcomes of the 143rd IPU Assembly have been communicated to the Parliament. The Speaker of Parliament, who personally led the Azerbaijani delegation at the Assembly in Madrid, has addressed the plenary session and informed MPs of the delegation's participation in the Assembly, as well as of the Madrid Declaration and resolutions adopted by the Assembly. In this connection, short discussions on the outcomes of the Assembly were held during that plenary session. Moreover, the texts of the Madrid Declaration and adopted resolutions were communicated to the respective parliamentary committees, which held discussions on the follow-up activities within the Parliament. Currently, those committees are considering opportunities and the need for improvement of national legislation in relation to those issues as stipulated in the IPU resolutions. A report on the delegation's participation in the 143rd IPU Assembly has been published and widely highlighted in the Parliament's monthly periodical and disseminated to all MPs and respective committees.

https://www.ipu.org/event/143rd-assembly-and-related-meetings#event-sub-page-25153/

https://www.ipu.org/event/144th-assembly-and-related-meetings#event-sub-page-25792/

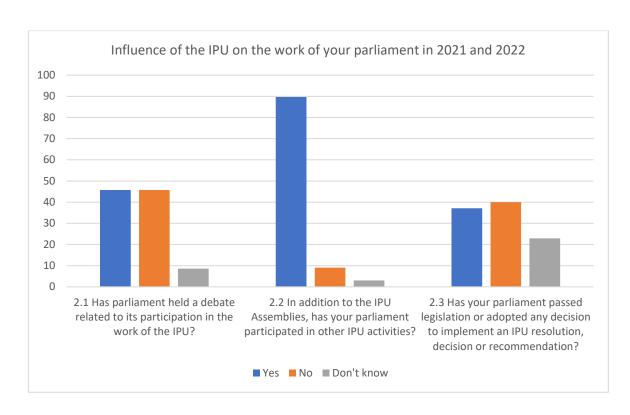
- 4 - A/145/Inf.3

- China: After attending the 144th IPU Assembly, the Chinese delegation reported the outcomes to the National People's Congress (NPC), which were circulated to all committees and administrative bodies within the NPC. The decisions of the IPU are well followed up. For instance, as regards climate change, the NPC has been actively working on legislation, including the Forest Law, the Circular Economy Promotion Law, the Law on Renewable Energy, the Energy Conservation Law, the Clean Production Promotion Law, and the Law on Wetlands Protection. Coming up next, the NPC will press ahead with legislation and supervision in terms of carbon peak and neutrality.
- **Denmark:** Members of the IPU delegation held meetings with the Foreign Affairs Committee to discuss the work in the United Nations Human Rights Council and with the Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs. The IPU delegation also held meetings with the Danish UN Ambassadors in Geneva and New York to get information about the ongoing work in the various organizations of the United Nations.
- United Kingdom: "The British Group IPU Group (BGIPU) regularly transmits IPU resolutions to relevant government ministers and organizes follow up discussion for parliamentarians and key stakeholders at Westminster" For example, the Madrid Declaration on "Contemporary challenges to democracy: Overcoming division and building community" (143rd IPU Assembly) was transmitted to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. The emergency item resolution on "Harnessing global parliamentary support for vaccine equity in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic" was followed by the organization of a Westminster Hall Debate on "Global Access to Vaccines and the UK Government's part in the international response" (January 2022). The Nusa Dua Declaration on "Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change" was commented and sent to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs as well as to the COP26 President.

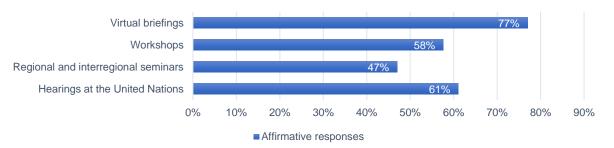
Another resolution that gained good traction among the IPU membership was the 2019 IPU resolution on access to health: *Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health.* 47% of respondents worked on national legislation or took specific action to improve the situation in their respective countries. Among these:

Benin: The National Assembly is the first parliament with which the IPU has implemented a capacity building workshop on universal health coverage (UHC). The Beninese IPU Group had reported two years ago on the deliberation of a new law on the right to health. After the adoption of the law, in 2021, the Parliament of Benin shared its experience in a virtual workshop organized by the IPU in follow up to the resolution and then requested support in building MPs' capacities to strengthen implementation of the new law. The workshop took place in May 2022: it provided MPs and parliamentary staff with an understanding of UHC principles and UHC legislation, analysed the strengths and shortcomings of the existing legislation, and enabled an exchange with countries in the sub-region in collaboration with the World Health Organization.

On the question of the influence of the IPU on the work of parliaments in 2021 and 2022, just under half (46%) of the parliaments invited to respond declared that they had held a debate related to their participation in the work of the IPU. Of particular interest is that 88% of respondents also declared participating in "other IPU activities" including hearings at the United Nations (61%) and virtual briefings (77%). Since the COVID-19 pandemic, it would seem that many Member Parliaments have adapted their working modalities and are engaging in meetings held in virtual and hybrid format.



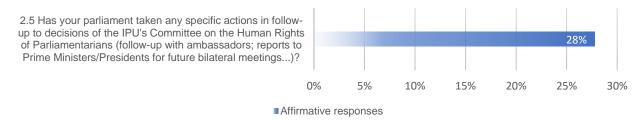
In addition to the IPU Assemblies, has your parliament participated in other IPU activities:



2. Human rights of parliamentarians

According to the 2022 survey, respondents cited the need for improvements with regard to the follow-up of decisions by the IPU's Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians. 39% of the respondents admitted not having taken any action, and only 28% of respondents had taken specific action such as follow up with ambassadors, reports to Prime Ministers/Presidents for future bilateral meetings, etc.

IPU's Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians



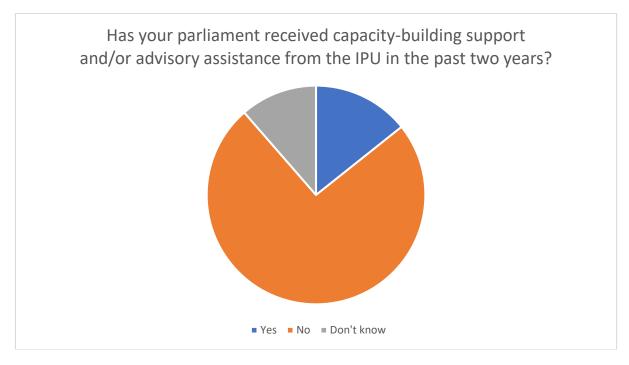
Among the good practices that have been reported:

Denmark: Members of the Danish Parliament have travelled to Turkey to support imprisoned parliamentarians from the opposition Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), whose cases are currently before the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians.

Thailand: As stipulated in its Rules, the Thai IPU National Group holds a General Assembly at least once a year to review reports of activities within the IPU, including the IPU's decisions on the cases of human rights of parliamentarians from around the world. Since Myanmar's newly elected members were deposed by the military junta in February 2021 resulting in mass protests across the country, numerous cases of human rights violations against the protesters in the capital and near the Thailand-Myanmar border have been reported. Reports also include alleged human rights violations committed against parliamentarians elected in November 2020. In this context and in line with the IPU's related recommendations, the President of the Thai National Assembly officially wrote to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand to reaffirm his advocacy of the non-refoulement principle under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, which Thailand has long adhered to.

3. Technical assistance

Largely due to travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, only 14% of the respondent parliaments received capacity-building support and/or advisory assistance from the IPU in the past two years. 74% of respondents declared not having received technical assistance from the IPU. As the IPU is a Member-driven organization, technical support and capacity building is provided on the basis of specific requests received from Members.



The following good practices are worth highlighting:

Chad: The National Assembly of Chad decided to prioritize preparation for welcoming and organizing induction for new MPs. A study on good practices has been drafted based on a survey of comparable practices from over a dozen parliaments. The study was presented to relevant staff during a training course that resulted in the staff adapting comparable practice to the Chadian context. The whole exercise took place in advance of the establishment of the National Transitional Council (NTC) and successfully guided parliamentary staff in preparing and delivering activities to welcome new legislators properly. The study on comparative practices has also been shared with the Parliament of Haiti, which expressed interest in such support.

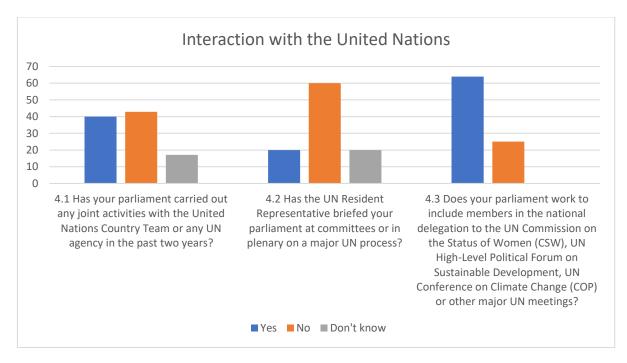
- 7 - A/145/Inf.3

Djibouti: In March 2022, a workshop with the women's caucus resulted in an action plan for the caucus. Three priorities emerged: the establishment of the caucus's Bureau, the promotion of women to positions of responsibility in the regions, and maternal and child health.

Sierra Leone: In October 2021, the IPU delivered a workshop for the Parliament of Sierra Leone on new budget approbation process for MPs. The following month, a workshop for 150 staff on the importance of neutrality in provision of services to MPs and Parliament was also delivered. Finally, a study visit for Parliamentary Budget Office Staff has been organized to allow them to learn from their peers in Kenya and Uganda.

4. Interaction with the United Nations

In terms of interactions with the United Nations, the majority of respondents (64%) referred to the inclusion of MPs in national delegations to the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP). However, very few (20%) have been briefed by the UN Resident Representative on major UN processes, which represents an important tool for linkages with high-level discussions in New York or Geneva.

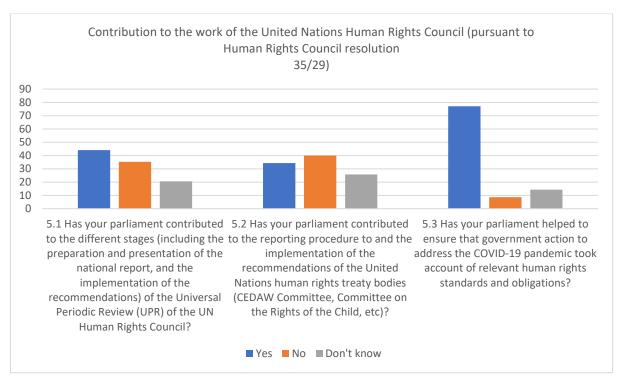


Good examples of follow-up action undertaken by Member Parliaments:

Zimbabwe: In parliament, a capacity building workshop entitled IPU-UNEP Technical Support for Green COVID-19 Recovery was held, which focused on building back better following the global COVID-19 pandemic. Members' capacity to legislate on renewable energy was strengthened, which resulted in the Climate Change Bill, a direct result of this workshop.

At the level of the United Nations Human Rights Council, a majority of the respondents said that their parliament had contributed to the different stages of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) (44%). However, of even greater interest was the fact that a considerable number of parliaments responding to the survey (77%) had helped to ensure that government action to address the COVID-19 pandemic took into account relevant human rights standards and obligations.

- 8 - A/145/Inf.3



There is room for improvement when it comes to reporting to United Nations human rights treaty bodies (only 34%), such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Committee and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Despite the separation of powers (between legislative and executive) and the fact that most UN affairs (foreign affairs) are usually under the responsibility of Governments, certain parliaments found legal opportunities to be automatically involved in delegations dealing with these UN procedures.

In this regard, the following Member-adopted practices that can be cited as examples:

<u>Kuwait:</u> The National Assembly of Kuwait's Committee on the Protection of Human Rights meets regularly with the representatives of the United Nations country team responsible for a variety of human rights issues. The Committee also meets with representatives from the Kuwait Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Diwan for Human Rights to discuss human rights reports including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Assembly of Kuwait's Committee on the Protection of Human Rights exercised its role by meeting government officials to ensure that COVID-19 health measures were in line with human rights. For example, the Committee advocated to ensure the medical freedom of all Kuwaiti citizens and expatriates and the lifting of travel restrictions on non-vaccinated people.

<u>Paraguay:</u> A Senator and two parliamentary staff members took part in Paraguay's delegation at the Periodic Review (UPR), which is a good practice encouraged by the IPU. The Senator made a substantive contribution to the interactive dialogue and mentioned efforts made by parliament to implement human rights recommendations, including in the criminal code reform process. One of the parliamentary staff members was a representative of the Senate to Paraguay's online database on United Nations recommendations, "SIMORE", which was co-developed by the United Nations and Paraguay and managed jointly by representatives from the three branches of government.

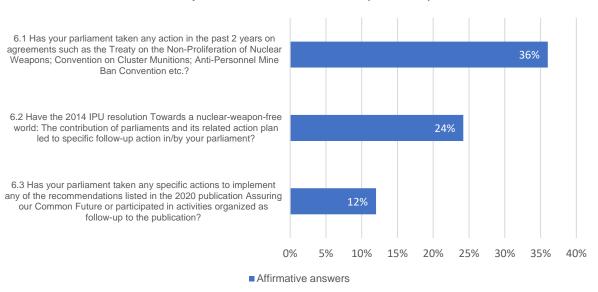
<u>Finland:</u> Two MPs took part in Finland's delegation to the United Nations Human Rights Committee, which is a good practice encouraged by the IPU. The two MPs made a substantive contribution to the interactive dialogue with the treaty body and shared several parliamentary initiatives to implement its recommendations. This included a newly established institution to fight discrimination and the creation of a network to disseminate treaty body recommendations and monitor their implementation. In addition, they highlighted the role of Finland's parliamentary committee dedicated to human rights, which systematically referred to the views of treaty bodies in legislative proposals.

- 9 - A/145/Inf.3

5. <u>Disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control</u>

Compared to last year (33%), responses indicated a growing number of actions taken related to major agreements (36%) such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; Convention on Cluster Munitions; Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention; Arms Trade Treaty; Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty; Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, or UN Security Council resolution 1540 on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. More work should be done in follow-up to the 2014 IPU resolution on securing a nuclear weapons-free world, as well as to the 2020 publication "Assuring our Common Future".

Parliamentary work in follow-up to UN agreements in the area of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control (2021-2022)



In this regard, several good practices are worth mentioning:

<u>New Zealand, Sweden and the United Kingdom:</u> These parliaments hosted introductory seminars for the parliamentary handbook "Assuring our common future – A guide to parliamentary action in support of disarmament for security and sustainable development" – which allowed MPs to become more familiar with good parliamentary practices in the domain of disarmament.

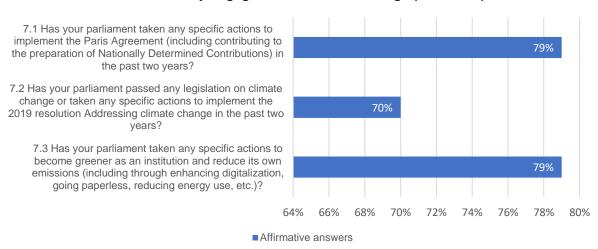
Gabon and Philippines: In addition to its commitment to nuclear disarmament and the fight against weapons of mass destruction, the IPU also expanded its activities to effectively combat illicit flows of small arms and light weapons (SALW) which are in reality the perpetrators of massive killings, especially of women and youth. In partnership with the presidency of the 7th Conference of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT CSP7) the IPU sent, in July 2021, more than 80 letters to Speakers of parliaments that have not yet ratified the ATT, urging them to include the topic of illicit weapons proliferation on the agendas of their respective parliaments. The IPU also organized several online and in-person events to promote strict control of SALW and raise awareness of relevant UN instruments. These efforts resulted in the emergence of parliamentary champions who pushed for the ratification of the ATT by Gabon and the Philippines . The ratification of the ATT by the Philippines was the first since 2020 and with Gabon's upcoming ratification, the Treaty is once again gathering international attention and momentum thanks to a surge in parliamentary engagement.

- 10 - A/145/Inf.3

6. Climate change

The 2019 IPU Resolution *Addressing Climate Change* and the Nusa Dua Declaration *Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change* have put the environment at the top of the agenda for the IPU and its Member Parliaments. It is worth noting from the graph that a large number (77%) of respondents have taken important measures to render their respective parliaments as greener institutions. The ultimate goal remains to reduce emissions through a variety of measures including digitalization, going paperless, reducing energy use, implementing travel policies, etc.

Parliamentary engagement on climate change (2021-2022)



In this regard, the following Member Parliaments adopted practices that can be taken as an example:

<u>Seychelles</u>: The House has established a Committee on Climate Change, Islands, Blue Economy and Agriculture. The National Assembly adopted the wetland area surrounding its compound and will be seeking external funding to reforest and restore the mangroves. The International Affairs Committee, in its stakeholder meetings with the Executive, raised the issue of Climate Change, which included following up on promises made by the Government to mitigate climate change as well as related commitments made at COP26. The House passed a Motion calling for the Government to manage the outer islands of Seychelles in a more sustainable manner.

<u>Belgium:</u> The Federal Parliament of Belgium (the House of Representatives and the Senate) launched an Interparliamentary Climate Dialogue that included the various regional parliaments. This resulted in the preparation of a joint resolution that was adopted on 21 October 2021 by the House of Representatives. This was discussed during the COP26 UN Climate Conference in Glasgow in November 2021. On 27 October 2021, the House of Representatives adopted a resolution concerning the greening of buildings in the federal real estate stock³. The sustainability actions for the Senate and the House of Representatives are being shared through resource documents and use of online storage of documents via OneDrive⁴.

<u>Mauritius:</u> In November 2020, the Climate Change Act was enacted by Parliament to consolidate the legal framework and mechanism towards making Mauritius climate change resilient and achieving a low emission economy in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the overarching Government objective of developing a greener economy. In December 2021, the Parliament of Mauritius debated a Private Member's Motion inviting the National Assembly to resolve that the Government should continue its efforts to encourage the use of electric vehicles in Mauritius. In the Budget for 2022/23, a series of measures has been announced for accelerating the transition to a more secure and cleaner homegrown energy supply (such as, for example, the acquisition of 200 electric buses).

https://www.dekamer.be/FLWB/PDF/55/1039/55K1039004.pdf

https://www.senate.be/actueel/homepage/Energiebeleid/20220509_gestion_durable.pdf

- 11 - A/145/Inf.3

7. IPU tools, campaigns and publications

In carrying out their work, IPU Member Parliaments have been able to count on a variety of resources to enhance their performance in important areas of work such as gender, the SDGs and youth. These include:

- Guidelines for parliamentarians on budgeting for the SDGs: Making the most of public resources (2021)
- Gender-responsive law-making (Handbook for Parliamentarians No. 33, 2021)
- Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Africa (Issue brief, November 2021)
- I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament! campaign
- Strengthening health security preparedness: The International Health Regulations (2005)
 (Handbook for Parliamentarians No. 34, 2022)
- Global Parliamentary Report 2022: Public engagement in the work of parliament (third edition)

Among the respondents, 52% have indicated that they have made use of these tools.

Certain parliaments systematically translate into the national language, publish and transmit to the competent parliamentary committees many IPU tools, publications and campaigns, as is the case in Japan, Türkiye or the United Kingdom. The IPU campaign on youth participation in politics, the public toolkit produced by the Organization and the production of video content (YouTube and other social media) appear to have had a certain impact. When it comes to gender-sensitive parliaments, the Handbook for Parliamentarians No. 33 on gender-responsive law making has influenced some parliaments' internal policies and accountability.

Various parliaments have taken initiatives in the framework of the *I Say* Yes to Youth in Parliament! campaign or the "gender-responsive" law-making/campaigns:

"I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!" campaign:

This campaign is dedicated to mobilizing parliaments and leaders of all ages to take action to enhance the number of young MPs. The campaign's dedicated website features a public toolkit to help parliaments and youth champions launch the campaign and make use of campaign assets. Over a five year period, the IPU is facilitating action by encouraging MPs, Speakers of parliament, youth leaders and other political figures to sign up to the campaign and then implement the pledges made (including with IPU support).

As of March 2022:

- 730 changemakers have pledged to support youth participation in parliament, among them 25 Speakers of Parliament and 320 MPs.
- Other leaders who have signed up to support youth participation in parliament include the Prime Minister of Liechtenstein; the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; the UNDP Administrator; the President of the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly and Foreign Minister of Maldives; and the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth.
- The campaign was launched at the national level in almost 20 parliaments including: Andorra, Austria, Bahrain, Belarus, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Montenegro, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Paraguay, Serbia, Thailand, Uruguay and Uzbekistan.

Good practices worth mentioning:

Algeria: The Parliament has introduced a new electoral quota for youth.

Bahrain: The Kingdom of Bahrain was the first Arab country to support the "I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!" campaign. This was reflected in a number of initiatives such as the youth parliament's "stimulation session" which aimed to encourage youth, promote the values of loyalty and belonging, and stimulate model participation in various areas of life. The session was accompanied by a number of publications that support youth participation in parliament.

- 12 - A/145/Inf.3

Paraguay: The Parliament of Paraguay has been very active in the campaign and the IPU's youth work generally. The parliament held a launch of the campaign earlier this year. In line with this, the Senate passed a law to lower the age of eligibility for young people to stand for municipal election (this has not yet passed the lower house to our knowledge). In addition, Paraguay hosted the Conference of Young Parliamentarians in 2019 and Senator Patrick Kemper is an active member of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians. IPU delegation leader (and former Speaker of the Senate) Blas Llano is also a keen champion of youth-related initiatives.

United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe: These parliaments have established caucuses of young MPs (strong contribution reported from young MPs in these countries).

- Gender-responsive law-making (Handbook for Parliamentarians No. 33)
- Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Africa (Issue brief, November 2021)

These IPU tools have been integrated into the work of several parliaments, as evidenced by the following examples:

Belgium: The bicameral Parliament led by two women Speakers (Ms. Éliane Tillieux and Ms. Stephanie D'Hose) launched an assessment of its level of gender-sensitivity using the IPU's toolkit and advice.

Ecuador: In 2021, as a result of the IPU's engagement with the Parliament of Ecuador to identify areas for reform based on the IPU toolkit for self-assessment of the parliamentary institution's gender-sensitivity, a law on the legislative function was amended to include gender parity and diversity criteria for leadership positions in Parliament. In addition to having a female Speaker, Parliament has two committees chaired by women and all vice-chair positions are held by women MPs.

Mauritius: In 2018, a Gender Audit in the civil service and the private sector was commissioned by the Parliamentary Gender Caucus which was then translated into a Budget Call Circular that requested Ministries to submit a gender budget statement. Two High-Level Capacity Building Sessions for Members of the Caucus and the gender focal points of Ministries, conducted by an international Gender Expert, have been organized on the role of Gender-Sensitive Parliaments, to equip them with practical tips to engender their actions within their respective mandates. A checklist for rapid gender mainstreaming within the policy cycle has been formulated and circulated. The Parliamentary Gender Caucus, at its meeting dated 22 April 2022, strongly condemned online abuse against women parliamentarians and women in general.

Nigeria: In July 2021, an expert report was developed, drawing on international good practices and an in-depth analysis of Nigeria's political system. In September 2021, the IPU, in collaboration with the House of Representatives of Nigeria and several key national stakeholders, civil society organizations (CSOs) and development partners, co-organized a forum called Paving the Path. On this occasion, IPU expertise and high-level engagement were provided to support legislative and constitutional amendments to achieve greater participation of women. The IPU's advocacy served to empower both MPs and CSOs as well as advocates for women's participation. Although to date a majority of MPs has yet to support the amendments promoted, there has been an unprecedented civil society mobilization in support of women's leadership in the run up to the 2023 elections.

United Republic of Tanzania: The engagement of women MPs at all levels as well as the involvement of men MPs as champions in the gender equality and women's empowerment agenda has contributed to advancing women's political participation. Having male MPs champion gender equality was key in advancing gender-responsive law-making and increasing the percentage of women in Parliament.

Conclusions

The reporting exercise is constantly evolving and merits continuous review and discussion among Member Parliaments. This is particularly relevant in the framework of the new 2022-2026 IPU Strategy, which aims, among other objectives, at reinforcing IPU accountability at all levels, including in terms of strengthening follow-up action by Members on key issues and expanding Member engagement between the Assemblies.

- 13 - A/145/Inf.3

The parliaments of **Costa Rica** and **Switzerland** are among those which have expressed an interest in further developing mechanisms to increase the level of implementation of IPU resolutions and other decisions. These could include:

- establishing a peer review process, to assess the levels of implementation on an ongoing basis.
- allocating more time in the context of Assemblies to review the implementation of decisions,
- empowering the Standing Committees to play a greater role in the review of the resolutions they themselves have adopted,
- encouraging the geopolitical groups to organize annual debates on the implementation of IPU decisions.
- further strengthening the provisions in the IPU Statutes and Rules as they relate to the responsibility of Members vis-à-vis implementation.

In the meantime, all IPU Members, office holders in particular, are encouraged to undertake the following measures:

- ✓ Make sure that delegations submit a report to parliament after Assemblies. Take the initiative to contribute to the drafting of the report or provide substantive input to the report.
- ✓ Share copies of resolutions adopted during Assemblies with all parliamentarians and refer to these resolutions in relevant parliamentary sessions.
- Make sure that copies of IPU resolutions are sent to the government and relevant State agencies and invite them to take action when required.
- Put questions to government on topics discussed and resolutions adopted at IPU Assemblies.
- ✓ Promote plenary or committee debates on the topics discussed at IPU Assemblies.
- ✓ Submit draft legislation or amendments to draft legislation in line with IPU resolutions and recommendations.
- Quote IPU resolutions in communications outreach activities, including press conferences, social media messages and interviews.
- ✓ Send copies of IPU resolutions and relevant web links to the relevant unit of parliament so that these can be translated, if need be, and posted on the parliament's website.
- Exercise the relevant parliamentary powers, including budgetary and oversight authority, to ensure that IPU recommendations are effectively implemented.
- Make use of IPU publications that include checklists for parliamentarians with concrete examples of how to follow up on IPU recommendations.
- Systematically engage in the IPU reporting exercise and submit voluntary reports about work undertaken in follow-up to IPU initiatives.

- 14 - A/145/Inf.3

The following member parliaments will be surveyed in the context of the 2023 reporting exercise:

2023

<u>African Group</u>: Burundi, Djibouti*, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho.

Arab Group: Lebanon, Libya*, Morocco*, Oman.

<u>Asia-Pacific Group</u>: Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands.

Eurasia Group: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan.

<u>Group of Latin America and the Caribbean</u>: Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

<u>Twelve Plus Group</u>: Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania.

Examples of how Parliaments have followed-up on the work of the IPU

Country	Best practices
Andorra	 In 2015, the General Council adopted a Compact for improving gender equality in accordance with the IPU's recommendations.
	 In 2019, the Parliament achieved gender parity for the second time in its history and elected the first ever woman Speaker.
Armenia	The Armenia National Assembly has a gender-balanced delegation to the IPU with equal numbers of women and men parliamentarians.
	- The parliament will increase the quotas in the Electoral Code for Women.
Austria	- In 2007, the Austrian Parliament initiated the "democracy workshop", an educational programme that offers different approaches to contemporary political topics.
	 To increase youth participation and representation, the parliament has lowered the voting age from 18 to 16, and has established the "Parliament online platform for Children" and the biannual "Youth Parliaments"
	 Regarding the topics dealt with by the Madrid Assembly, the Austrian Parliament adopted for example a resolution calling for an "anti-fake-news campaign concerning the COVID-19 pandemic" as a means to overcome division in society. It is currently debating a resolution on "promoting transparency, parliamentarism and a reform of the procedure of the investigation committees" and a resolution on "anti-fake news and disinformation" to name just two initiatives.
	- The Austrian Parliament recently adopted or is currently debating resolutions related to topics dealt by the 143rd and 144th IPU Assemblies. It has adopted a resolution against Small Modular Reactors (SMR) as a climate-protective measure and is currently debating about 10 different resolutions related to climate change issues such as a resolution against "environmentally harmful State subsidies" or a resolution for "increased climate funding" to name just two. Moreover, in the context of climate change, the Austrian parliament passed two laws, one introducing a "CO2 tax as part of an eco-social tax reform" and one introducing a "Climate Compensation Bonus".

Country	Best practices
	- The Austrian Parliament promoted the IPU's <i>I Say</i> Yes to Youth in Parliament! campaign on the occasion of the International Day of Parliamentarism in 2021 and produced a 2:20-minute campaign video with the youth spokespersons of all parliamentary groups for the social media channels of the Parliament.
Azerbaijan	 The Nusa Dua Declaration on <i>Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change</i> has been communicated directly to the Parliamentary Committee on Natural Resources, Energy and Ecology for study and possible revision of existing national laws and regulations on climate change in line with the Paris Agreement and SDGs. These actions primarily entail technological improvements to reduce the negative environmental impact of various sectors of the economy, together with some regulatory
	 changes and public awareness measures. The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, with the support of the national Parliament, is drafting a National Strategy for Low-Carbon Development and a Climate Change Adaptation Plan.
Bahrain	- The Shura Council and Council of Representatives have put in place new mechanisms such as the focal point on justice and child protection.
	- The Bahraini Parliament has convened the second session of the Youth Parliament.
	- To achieve a digital-savvy Parliament, Bahrain has transformed its legislative and oversight work to a comprehensive electronic approach.
	- The Parliament has drafted new legislation to combat abuse and violence.
	 On 14 March 14 2022, the Council of Representatives participated in the virtual meeting (remotely) organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and UN Women during the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women under the title: "The Role of Women's Leadership and Gender-responsive Parliaments in Climate Action".
Belarus	- In 2018, the Parliament of Belarus held its first regional forum of national coordinators of the countries of Europe and the CIS to achieve the SDGs; in 2019, it held the National Forum on Sustainable Development.

Country	Best practices
	- The House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus took an active part in the campaign <i>I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!</i> initiated by the IPU. Several MPs of the House of Representatives supported this initiative and joined the campaign. At the same time a video clip was prepared and posted on the IPU website on the International Day of Parliamentarism in 2021, containing information about the development of youth parliamentarism in the Republic of Belarus and the activities of young parliamentarians.
Belgium	- In April 2017, the Senate adopted a resolution on strengthening the financial autonomy of women in developing countries, which explicitly refers to the resolution adopted by the IPU on a similar subject at the 136th IPU Assembly in Dhaka.
	 On 2 March 2022, the House of Representatives adopted a resolution/legislation against the exploitation and sexual abuse of children.
	 Support for the project of the Presidents of the Chamber and the Senate aimed at transforming the Belgian Federal Parliament into the most gender-sensitive assembly in Europe.
Brazil	- To increase women's representation in the parliament, Brazil introduced the elections act in 1997 which determined the reservation of seats for women in the positions of deputies and council members.
	 In 2009, it was established that positions should be filled with a minimum of 30% and a maximum of 70% of citizens of each sex. In the 2018 general elections, political parties were obliged to allocate 30% of the total public resources to the financing of women candidates' campaigns.
	 A parliamentary group Brazil/UN was created with the participation of Senators, MPs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UN officials to improve and develop the interaction of the Brazilian Congress and the UN.
Bulgaria	- Using technology to achieve transparency in the legislative process, the Bulgarian Parliament works under the terms of an open dialogue with the public and has an active policy for providing electors with information on all topics related to the Parliament's powers. Moreover, the sittings of the National Assembly and its

Country	Best practices
	Committees are broadcast live on its website. On the same website, one can access video archives of the plenary sittings, and published information about every stage of a bill's discussion and parliamentary practice. - The National Assembly executed the 'Good Governance Project' which makes provision for a full review of the transposition and impact of EU directives in legislation.
Burundi	- To achieve equality of representation, Burundi operates in a highly inclusive bicameral parliament based on observing ethnic equality (60% Hutus and 40% Tutsis), regional balance, and a minimum of 30% women in Parliament and the inclusion of three members of the Twa ethnic minority in each chamber.
Cambodia	 In 2019, Cambodia, in cooperation with the IPU, organized a regional workshop on "the role of parliament in promoting a peaceful and sustainable society in Southeast Asia." The Cambodian Parliament has been mainstreaming the SDGs across parliamentary committees, taking measures to oversee and monitor the progress of the government in implementing the SDGs, and promoting multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnership.
China	The Chinese Parliament provides major sponsorship and funds to the IPU's budget for Development.
Colombia	- The Parliament launched the "Congreso en Igualdad" initiative to implement the IPU Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments.
Costa Rica	 To ensure inclusivity for citizens and to increase their interaction with the Parliament and decision making, the Parliament created a Department of Citizens' Participation of the Legislative Assembly. To ensure transparency, the Parliament has created an E-Parliament that enables citizens to access information about legislative work, MPs' salaries, annual budget, dissemination of data, etc. The Committee on International Relations and Foreign Trade is responsible for coordinating and following up on the participation of the Legislative Assembly in various international forums, including the IPU. Now that a new constitutional period is beginning, it is in the process of organizing its participation, which once defined will be submitted for ratification by the Legislative Directory.

Country	Best practices
Cyprus	 The establishment of the "Parallel Parliament", which aspires to stimulate society regarding global developments and challenges in order to develop an interactive relationship to strengthen citizenship, participatory democracy, pluralism and transparency. This Parallel Parliament covers innovation, e-Governance, Environment, Ecology-Sustainability and Health, in addition to children and young representatives, among other themes. Adopting the EU Directive 2018/410 on enhancing cost-effective emission reductions and low-carbon investments, the House of Representatives enacted in 2020 "The Establishment of a Greenhouse Gas Emission Allowance Trading Scheme (Amendment) Law".
Czech Republic	 The Chamber of Deputies benefited from IPU support on Parliaments and the SDGs, ICT E-Parliament/paperless parliament trainings, and online hearings targeting disengaged people, inspired by Global Parliamentary Report 2022: Public engagement in the work of parliament (third edition) The IPU's publication Guidelines for the elimination of sexism, harassment, and violence again women in parliament were used when discussing the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on combating violence against women and domestic violence (COM/2022/105 final).
Democratic Republic of Congo	 To increase representation, Congolese parliamentarians have adopted legal provisions in the standing orders of both chambers that require all political movements with seats in parliament to be represented in the bodies of both chambers. Following in the same footsteps, the Congolese National Assembly and Senate include representatives of the majority as well as the opposition in all their committees. To ensure transparency using technology, the parliament holds plenary debates in public and broadcasts them on the radio and national television.
Denmark	To get better involved and interact with the UN, members of the Danish Parliament are usually included in the official Danish delegations to: - the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development - the UN General Assembly High-Level Week - the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP) - the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Country	Best practices
Djibouti	- To ensure representation and inclusivity, the parliament of Djibouti organizes a parliamentary 'caravan' which goes out once or twice a year, to bring the parliament to the people in remote areas of the country and collect their requests. A year later, as part of the initiative, an evaluation is done to check whether the requests have been satisfied and the issues resolved. The Parliament has a great willingness to share this strategy with other parliaments to inform new reforms and strategies for parliamentary diplomacy.
Ecuador	- Promoting inclusive parliamentarism through new legislation, including a "democracy code" whereby political parties observe youth and women quotas on their electoral lists (at local, regional, and national level).
Egypt	- To bridge the gap of communication between the citizens and the parliament, the latter established the following mechanisms: in 2016, the parliament launched the House of Representatives WhatsApp Service to facilitate the interaction between the two.
	 In 2018, the house of representatives launched an official channel on YouTube which broadcasts plenary sessions and all the digital content of parliamentary media. Moreover, it has also developed its official website in Arabic, French and English versions. The Egyptian Parliament has also issued a digital periodical called 'Harvest for the Parliament', which provides monthly documented monitoring of the House's legislative and oversight activities, in addition to other parliamentary activities.
	- The law on the protection of antiquities was amended in line with the recommendations made by the IPU resolution on the matter, <i>Ensuring lasting protection against destruction and deterioration for the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of humanity</i> (134th IPU Assembly, Lusaka, Zambia, March 2016). The Egyptian Parliament also adopted a law on combating illegal migration and trafficking of refugees to contribute to fairer, smarter and more humane migration.
Georgia	The Parliament of Georgia is an active member of the Open Government Partnership initiative; it has implemented many important reforms since its accession to the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness in 2015.

Country	Best practices
Germany	- To protect fellow parliamentarians, the German Bundestag uses the "Parliamentarians Protect Parliamentarians" Programme, which falls under the Bundestag's Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid. The programme connects members with parliamentarians in need of a sponsor or provides them with information on whether politicians are persecuted or threatened in a particular country.
Guyana	- Guyana National Youth Debating Competition. The competition was launched in 2021 by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Manzoor Nadir. It follows the Speaker's endorsement of the IPU's campaign <i>I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!</i> which was launched last year ⁵ .
Iceland	- To ensure the equality and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, Iceland put in place different institutions such as the Parliamentary Ombudsman, the Centre for Gender Equality, and the Data Protection authority.
India	- The Parliament of India, through the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE) formerly known as the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) imparts training in Parliamentary Procedure and Practice to various countries around the world.
	- India is working towards the promotion of capacity building initiatives amongst parliaments through the "Speaker's Research Initiative" which is a knowledge sharing platform for disseminating critical information and expertise to law makers and provides scholarships and fellowships for young and senior scholars.
	 National production of essential medicines and equipment for equal access to COVID- 19 protection throughout the country; support to other countries including through the distribution of over 160 million vaccine doses to 98 countries.
	- Statement and video message for the International Day of Parliamentarism in 2022 ⁶

- 21 -

https://www.ipu.org/news/news-in-brief/2022-04/guyana-parliament-reaches-out-youth
 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6A7HbXM7FYI

Country	Best practices
Indonesia	 Parliamentary youth programme as a model of training. The House of Representatives allows citizens unrestricted access to the work of Parliament, for instance, through in-person audiences and livestreaming channels.
Israel	 The Knesset has adopted a Green Knesset initiative which tuned the Israeli Parliament to a model of sustainability for its citizens and other legislatures. In 2018, the Knesset held its first ever IPU conference to promote the SDGs, during which the parliament shared its experience with the innovative methods in hi-tech, water management, social integration and inclusiveness through both innovative technology and legislation.
Japan	 In 2015, the National Diet of Japan hosted the IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Tokyo. In 2018, the Legislative Bureau of Japan's House of Representatives began a series of programmes under an IPU Legislative and Drafting Support Project for the Secretariat of the Upper House of Pakistan. Regular edition and writing of IPU Assemblies report including members of delegation, timetables, and participation in each item of the Assembly/Standing Committees, Governing Council / Forum of Women Parliamentarians / Forum of Young Parliamentarians / geopolitical groups / bilateral meetings / statements / ASGP / financial statements
Kazakhstan	- In 2019, the Mazhilis of the Parliament of Kazakhstan held the 4th Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments titled "Greater Eurasia: Dialogue, Trust, Partnership".
Kenya	- The Parliament of Kenya provides a public hearing platform for members of the public and stakeholders to submit their views, concerns and suggestions on bills read for the first time in the House. The views are compiled and used during the Second Reading stage, in the hope of incorporating some of the recommendations during the Committee of the Whole Stage on Bills before they are passed by the House and assented to Law.

Country	Best practices
Latvia	- This year, the Latvian Parliament celebrated the International Day of Parliamentarism by holding an event at the Saeima to celebrate its centenary. New lilac varieties were used to symbolize the country's values: freedom, independence and democracy.
Morocco	- Convening a regional event in Parliament on 7 December 2021, with the participation of women's civil society organizations, in follow up to the recent IPU publication on violence against women in African parliaments.
Nepal	Coordinated outreach, supported by all political parties, to local communities on the risks of the COVID-19 virus.
Netherlands	- Informed by the Dutch delegation of the IPU resolution calling for urgent international action to support Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe hit by Cyclone Idai, the Dutch government provided substantial financial support for aid relief and sent experts to the region.
New Zealand	- The House of Representatives produced a three-minute video posted on YouTube that reports on the 144th IPU Assembly in Nusa Dua (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRYBGjDppr0)
Nigeria	- The establishment of the Legislative Mentorship Initiative (LMI), which is a special programme created with the goal of empowering and preparing young leaders who are interested in public service by giving them the practical experience they need to participate in governance ⁷ .
Pakistan	- The National Assembly of Pakistan has established a Parliamentary Task Force on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ensure parliamentary discourse on sustainable development through effective oversight, representation and legislative interventions.
	- The Parliament of Pakistan is considered a leading country in green legislation, as it continues to take comprehensive energy conservation measures and work towards a cyber-efficient parliament. (Open to sharing its experience with sister parliaments).

7 https://lmi.ng/about/

Country	Best practices
	 The National Assembly has established the "Young Parliamentarians Forum (YPF)", which serves as a platform for interaction and exchange of ideas and perspectives. Later this year, the Pakistani Parliament will host the Third Regional Seminar for the parliaments of the Asia-Pacific region on Achieving the SDGs.
Paraguay	- The launch of the Spanish-language version of the IPU's worldwide campaign I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!
Sierra Leone	 Working to promote gender equality at the regional, national and local levels – including through the organization of a dedicated conference in Parliament with the participation of Speakers from local parliaments.
South Africa	- The Health Ministry introduced the National Health Insurance Bill in Parliament in 2019, seeking to ensure the implementation of universal health coverage in South Africa by 2030. The Bill is being considered by the parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Health, the deadline for adoption being the end of 2021.
Sweden	 Identifying modalities for more effective interventions both at the level of national parliaments and within the IPU in keeping with the work of the newly established IPU Working Group on Transparency, Accountability and Openness.
Thailand	- A mechanism was put in place to allow for annual reporting in Parliament on the IPU decisions on the human rights of parliamentarians, as well as efforts to raise awareness and support for the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, particularly with respect to the situation in Myanmar.
Türkiye	- The Grand National Assembly of Türkiye has taken the initiative to translate and publish the 2021 Social media guide for parliaments and parliamentarians ⁸ in its national language, in order to distribute it to parliamentarians, their social media advisers and parliamentary staff.

 $^{8} \quad \text{https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reference/2021-02/social-media-guidelines}$

Country	Best practices
United Arab Emirates	The President of the country issued Presidential Resolution No. (1) of 2019 on raising women's representation in the Federal National Council (FNC) to 50 per cent.
	 A parliamentary debate was held on the emergency item resolution on the Rohingya (adopted in October 2017 at the 137th Assembly, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation). Parliament reiterated its continuous support for humanitarian causes around the world and especially in the case of the Rohingya.
United Kingdom	- Annual reporting on IPU decisions to the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs.
	 BGIPU, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), and the APPG for Future Generations have collaborated to deliver the UK parliamentary launch of 'Assuring our Common Future: parliamentary handbook on disarmament for security and sustainable development'.
Zambia	- Establishment of a youth caucus in Parliament with a mandate to enhance the capacities of young parliamentarians, leverage the advocacy role of young parliamentarians with respect to government (youth responsive policies), promote youth participation in political parties, and share experiences with other parliaments in the region.
	 The National Assembly established a domestic process to implement the IPU's resolutions and decisions. This process allows for the organization of regular national seminars to familiarize MPs with the IPU's work and identify possible courses of action for national follow-up.
Zimbabwe	- To foster the increase of women's political participation in the country, the speaker called on a strategy to achieve "50/50 political participation".
	 The Portfolio Committee on Health and Child Care has engaged the IPU to provide a capacity-building workshop for members and staff of Parliament on early unintended pregnancies scheduled for August 2022.

Country	Best practices
	- A capacity-building workshop entitled IPU-UNEP technical support for green COVID – 19 recovery, which focussed on building back better following the global COVID-19 pandemic. Members were trained on how to legislate on renewable energy. The Climate Change Bill is a result of this Workshop.
ParlAmericas	- Promotion of parliamentary participation as an integral part of the Summits of the Americas process through ParlAmericas. This mandate was among the political commitments made at the IX Summit of the Americas held from 6 to 10 June 2022 in Los Angeles, United States.
G5 Sahel Interparliamentary Committee	- The Call for the Sahel was launched by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the G5 Sahel Interparliamentary Committee, the Arab Parliament, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (2021: Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament ⁹)

⁹ https://www.ipu.org/fr/file/12282/download