



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# Impact Report 2022



# The IPU

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is the global organization of national parliaments. It was founded in 1889 as the first multilateral political organization in the world, encouraging cooperation and dialogue between all nations.

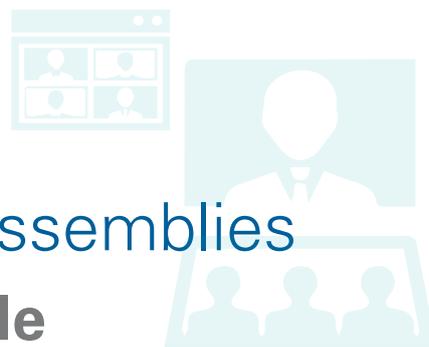
Today, the IPU comprises 178 national member parliaments and 14 regional parliamentary bodies.

It promotes democracy, helps parliaments become stronger, younger, gender-balanced, and more diverse. It also defends the human rights of parliamentarians through a dedicated committee made up of MPs from around the world.

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# 2022 IN FIGURES



## Live streaming of IPU Assemblies

**10,000 people**

watching at the 144th IPU Assembly  
in Nusa Dua, Indonesia

**17,000 people**

watching at the 145th IPU Assembly  
in Kigali, Rwanda

Publications  
for parliamentarians

**26 in 11 languages**



Proportion of  
women MPs  
at IPU Assemblies

**37% in 2022**



Activities and events for parliamentarians

**69** national activities

to support **23** specific parliaments

**73** global and regional events

for parliaments including **2 Assemblies**



Proportion  
of young MPS (under 45 years old)  
at IPU Assemblies

**25% in 2022**

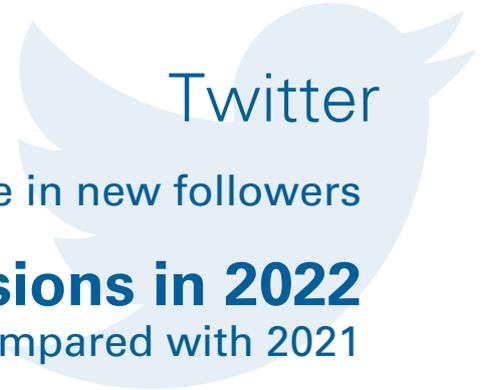


Twitter

**13%** increase in new followers

**+568,000 impressions in 2022**

compared with 2021



LinkedIn

**+1,500 new followers**

Page reach: **77,000 in 2022**

compared with 17,000 in 2021



Instagram

**+ 1,784 new followers**

Page reach: **193,000 in 2022**

compared with 64,000 in 2021

Endorsements of the Common Principles  
for Support to Parliaments

**76% coverage of national parliaments in 2022**

compared with 69% in 2021



# Foreword



Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General. © IPU/Parliament of Rwanda

2022 was the first year of the implementation of the five-year IPU Strategy for 2022-2026. Through its [five objectives](#), the Strategy has given the IPU a renewed mandate to continue strengthening and connecting parliaments for peace, democracy and sustainable development.

In this newly structured Impact Report, we demonstrate how, throughout the year, the IPU has helped to strengthen parliaments and spurred policy change. In **Part 1**, we describe some of our activities and examples of impact, especially those that emphasize strong democratic parliaments and global parliamentary action. In **Part 2**, we focus on compelling examples of where the IPU has helped move the needle when it comes to influencing a parliamentary process for each of our priority policy goals, namely climate change, democracy and strong parliaments, gender equality, human rights, peace and security, sustainable development, and youth participation.

This Report is not designed to be exhaustive and does not cover the full scope of the IPU's actions in 2022. Rather it is a succinct snapshot of some of the results we achieved in 2022. Below are some highlights from the report:

## ***Climate action takes centre stage***

Our Member Parliaments have identified climate change as the top priority on which the IPU should concentrate its immediate efforts. Consequently, climate action was a leitmotif throughout 2022, especially in March at the 144th IPU Assembly in Nusa Dua, Indonesia; in June at the Eighth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt; and of course, at the IPU parliamentary meeting at the UN climate conference (COP27) in the same location in November.

The outcome of the many climate change meetings that took place in 2022 was clear. Parliaments must be at the forefront of global efforts to implement the Paris Agreement in terms of policy-making, legislation, budgeting and especially scrutiny of government implementation. Needless to say, time is of the essence.

## ***Parliamentary diplomacy steps up***

The Russian invasion of Ukraine in February sent ripple effects across the world. The IPU was prompt to condemn this flagrant violation of the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity so fundamental to international law.

But the IPU kept parliamentary diplomatic channels open by setting up a Task Force composed of [eight prominent parliamentarians](#) representing the global parliamentary community, with a view to contributing to a peaceful resolution to the war.

The Task Force was able to visit both Kyiv and Moscow in July. Then at the 145th IPU Assembly in Kigali, Rwanda, in October, it was again able to meet delegations from the Russian Federation and Ukraine separately.

134 years after its foundation as part of the peace movement in the late 19th century, the IPU continues to play a key role in facilitating inter-parliamentary dialogue and diplomacy, in complement to the efforts of the United Nations.

## ***Gender parity inches forward***

Our second Assembly of the year in October in Kigali, Rwanda celebrated progress made so far in terms of women's empowerment in politics, especially in the Host Parliament, which consistently ranks at the top of the IPU's [monthly ranking of women in parliament](#).

But worldwide, with only 26.4% of parliamentarians being women at the end of 2022, there is still a long road ahead to reach gender parity. Milestones such as the Kigali Declaration, [Gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers of change for a more resilient and peaceful world](#), adopted by our Members at the end of the Assembly, hold the potential to accelerate progress.

## ***MPs face increasing danger***

On Human Rights Day in December, the IPU released its annual [global snapshot](#) of the situation of threatened parliamentarians.

A record number of 739 parliamentarians from 44 countries all over the world suffered violations of their fundamental rights this year. The 2022 figures represent an increase of nearly 10% compared to 2021 (673 MPs in 44 countries). They confirm a continuous upward trend since 2014 in the number of cases examined by the [IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians](#). The situation is all the more worrying as these figures are probably just the tip of the iceberg.

However, the IPU Committee was also able to close the year with some notable success stories and satisfactory resolutions to some of its cases.

## ***New tools for parliamentarians***

Lastly, the IPU continued to produce some useful tools for parliamentarians and policy-makers based on its research and programmatic work, including the 2022 edition of our flagship [Global Parliamentary Report 2022](#), on public engagement, as well as a new handbook [Strengthening health security preparedness: The International Health Regulations \(2005\)](#), to name but two.

## ***Looking ahead***

With its interlocked crises of climate change, geopolitical tensions, economic slowdown and social inequality, the world in 2023 needs global cooperation more than ever before. Parliaments must be part of the solution and the IPU has a key role to play in mobilizing them and providing a platform for exchange towards a more sustainable and equitable future.

We are excited by a number of projects in 2023 – from launching a major climate action campaign [Parliaments for the Planet](#), to two Assemblies which will bring parliamentarians together around global issues, as well as new work looking at the threats parliamentarians face in the public sphere, including on social media.

As we enter the second year of our current Strategy, we are heartened by the recent agreement of our Member Parliaments to increase their assessed contributions, testimony to their faith in the Organization, as well as by the continued voluntary contributions from Members and many other partners who believe in our mission.

With that support, we are better able to step up our actions to build stronger and more resilient parliamentary ecosystems, with parliaments at the core, for the benefit of all.



Martin Chungong  
Secretary General

# PART 1

## Strategic Objective 1: Building effective and empowered parliaments

The IPU supports parliaments in carrying out their functions, empowering them to represent their communities, discuss and adopt legislation, allocate budgets, and serve as strong, independent checks on government power. We build the capacity of parliaments, members of parliament (MPs) and their staff, including by protecting the rights of parliamentarians to do their duties without fear of harassment or violence.

In 2022, COVID-19, conflict, climate change, disinformation and economic turmoil continued to place exceptional pressure on parliaments around the world. More autocratic regimes have used these crises to weaken their parliaments, sometimes increasing the pressure on MPs through harassment and violence. This presents a huge challenge for parliamentarians and highlights the need for them to be as well-equipped as possible. Increased resilience enables them to perform their constitutional mandates more effectively.

Within this context, the IPU's new Strategy has refocused the Organization's efforts on building effective and empowered parliaments that are able to work autonomously and efficiently. Our work supports the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) on effective, accountable and inclusive institutions.

*"More than ever before, parliaments are key to getting the job done for the people as, besides adopting legislation, parliaments' first responsibility is to hold governments to account for what they do or fail to do on behalf of their citizens."*

IPU President, Mr. Duarte Pacheco



Mr. Duarte Pacheco, IPU President, at the 2022 UN Parliamentary Hearing. © IPU/ Joel Sheakoski

### Capacity building

In 2022, the IPU helped to build capacity in 23 specific parliaments through 69 national activities for both core parliamentary functions and specific thematic areas, as well as providing more general support across the IPU's whole membership.

In Sierra Leone, we trained MPs and staff on the budget appropriation process. In Djibouti and Pakistan, we trained parliamentary staff to draft legislation. In Vanuatu and Zambia, we developed parliamentary research capacity to better serve MPs and to better use data and evidence in parliamentary work.

In the transitional parliaments of Chad and Haiti, we supported staff in welcoming new MPs, and for Myanmar’s parliament in exile, the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), we enhanced MPs’ communication skills to enable them to raise awareness of their plight among the global community.

In Djibouti and Mongolia (see Part 2 – In Focus, Policy Goal 2 for more information about our work in Djibouti), we organized workshops on gender equality and human rights, also building links to civil society. In Madagascar and Mali, we backed peace and security efforts, strengthening citizen outreach. In Albania, we trained a parliamentary sub-committee whose main task is to ensure that the national budget supports progress towards the SDGs. We ran similar exercises on the SDGs in the Maldives, Thailand and Viet Nam. In Benin, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, we focused on health (see Part 2 – In Focus, Policy Goal 7 for more information on our work in Benin). In Seychelles and Zambia, we supported parliamentary efforts on climate action (see Part 2 – In Focus, Policy Goal 1 for more information on our work in Seychelles).

### Research and policy tools

In 2022, we enhanced our research on multiple parliamentary issues, also developing tools, guidelines and good practices for MPs, parliaments and others.

In partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), for example, our flagship *Global Parliamentary Report* looked at the ways in which parliaments can and should engage with their publics, as well as the benefits of doing so. Engaging with citizens lies at the very heart of democracy and will remain among our priorities for years to come.



Mr. Gbèhounou Louis Vlavonou, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Benin speaking at a community event. © National Assembly of Benin

The report recommends, in particular, that parliaments focus on the future, take youth participation seriously, encourage innovation and work together globally to share good practices.

Meanwhile, alongside eight other organizations, we continued our work on the *Indicators for Democratic Parliaments*, a radical new framework to measure parliamentary function. A major piece of research, the Indicators align directly with UN

SDG targets 16.6 and 16.7 on effective, accountable and transparent institutions, and responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making. Feedback has been invited and will inform the final version of this publication, due for launch in 2023.

### IPU Impact

#### Defending the rights of parliamentarians

In 2022, the IPU’s Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (CHRP) provided support for 739 MPs whose human rights had been violated. The Committee follows individual cases closely, using political pressure, resolutions and follow-up with parliaments and other authorities as necessary.

Among many success stories in 2022, IPU pressure led to the release of two Sri Lankan opposition MPs, Mr. Rishad Bathiudeen and Mr. Ranjan Ramanayake, in August and November, respectively. The CHRP had also been calling for the release of a former opposition MP in Türkiye. The MP in question, Ms. Aysel Tuğluk, was suffering from poor health and was released in October. And in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the IPU helped secure the acquittals of two former MPs: Mr. Eugene Ndongala and Mr. Frank Diongo.

Sri Lankan MP Mr. Ranjan Ramanayake waves to supporters after being released from prison in Colombo. © Ishara S. Kodikara/AFP



*“I am really thankful to the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its staff for your concerns and assistance in my case.”*

Mr. Rishad Bathiudeen

Violence against women MPs is an emerging area of focus and concern at the IPU. We continued to research this issue and to offer solutions to eliminate it. Having published in late 2021

a second regional study on violence against women, this time in African parliaments in partnership with the African Parliamentary Union, we followed up in 12 parliaments with discussions and workshops. Our approach is solutions-based, notably drawing on the IPU's [Guidelines for the elimination of sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament](#).

739

Human rights cases  
reported to the IPU  
in 2022

Looking ahead, we are partnering with UNESCO to promote freedom of expression, an approach that represents a more structural – and possibly more preventive – approach to violence against parliamentarians.

## Strategic Objective 2: Promoting inclusive and representative parliaments

Representative and inclusive parliaments produce more equal, stable and democratic societies. They understand the concerns and needs of their communities and are therefore better able to serve. Climate change, conflict and rising energy and food costs have hit vulnerable groups the hardest. These groups need to be better understood by policy makers and given a stronger political voice.

Parliaments continue to make slow but steady progress on gender equality, but this progress is not fast enough. By the end of the year, the IPU measured the proportion of women MPs at 26.4%. However, few hold senior parliamentary positions or political leadership roles. The same is true for youth, another vital but under-represented population group. Half the world's population is under 30 and yet just 2.6% of all MPs are under 30, according to IPU figures.

The IPU continues to measure representation and to generate the data that motivates further progress. We work closely with parliaments to increase inclusion. Our capacity building enables women and young MPs to participate in parliamentary life more effectively.

*“Every woman who is elected brings parliaments one step closer to becoming more inclusive and representative. But progress is far too slow with half the world's populations still under-represented. There is an urgent need to remedy this to strengthen democracy everywhere.”*

Ms. Lesia Vasylenko, President of the Bureau of Women MPs



Ms. Lesia Vasylenko, President of the Bureau of Women MPs.  
© IPU/Parliament of Rwanda

### Gender equality and youth representation

The IPU produced a wealth of data and tools in 2022, including its monthly ranking and annual analysis of women in parliament. These tools and research feed into our work and the work of other organizations.

1,000

change-makers have  
signed up to the IPU  
youth campaign

Meanwhile, the IPU's [I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!](#) campaign moved into its second phase this year. The campaign, in which signatories make six pledges, from the promotion of youth quotas to mentoring young aspirants, had reached 1,000 signatories by the end of the year, many of them Speakers of Parliament. With this important milestone reached, the IPU has begun to offer more support for parliaments that want to increase their numbers of young MPs.

In 2022, we supported Nigeria, Paraguay, South Sudan and Zambia to implement the campaign pledges. (see [Part 2](#) – In Focus, Policy Goal 5 for more information about Paraguay).

### Transition to gender-sensitive parliaments

Ten years have now passed since the IPU launched its *Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments* and we celebrated this important anniversary at the 145th IPU Assembly in Kigali, Rwanda in October 2022. Besides launching a new commitment to gender-sensitive parliaments, we identified two new priorities: to explore the influence of IT on inclusion, and to focus more on care-related issues such as the work-life balance.

The IPU helps parliaments to become more inclusive, including through self-assessments, targeted support to women and youth parliamentary groups, and initiatives to address sexism, harassment and gender-based violence. This year, we assisted parliaments in the Central African Republic, Japan, Mongolia and Sierra Leone.

## IPU Impact

### Sierra Leone passes new law

A new law in Sierra Leone will ensure that at least 30% of parliamentarians are women and impose similar quotas in other institutions, including government, local councils, the diplomatic corps and the civil service. The Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act was signed into law by President Julius Maada Bio on 19 January 2023.

The IPU and the Parliament of Sierra Leone have been working together since 2014 to promote gender equality and stimulate action on issues related to violence against women (see [Part 2](#) – In Focus, Policy Goal 4 for more information about our work in Sierra Leone).



More women are voting and are eligible to be candidates in Sierra Leone. © Issouf Sanogo/AFP

In addition, following the publication of our regional study on sexism, harassment and violence against women in African parliaments, we facilitated discussions in the parliaments of Benin, Gabon, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and South Africa.

### Building the capacity of women and young parliamentarians

Finally, we support women's and youth caucuses in parliament to participate in the political process by training them on specific issues, such as gender equality, health and food security.

In 2022, the IPU Empowerment Series helped young MPs to enhance their political knowledge, experience and skills through training courses, workshops, engagement and networking. Online meetings took place every two months in



2022, with a focus each time on a specific topic – gender equality, health and nutrition, youth participation, and peace and security, for example.

In September 2022, we also organized the 14th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The Speakers explored how to better anticipate future risks by investing in gender equality and called for a more inclusive green economy. The ensuing Tashkent Declaration promoted the implementation of the IPU *Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments*.

Ms. Tanzila Narbaeva, Speaker of the Uzbekistan Senate and host of the 14th Summit of Women Speakers in Tashkent. © Parliament of Uzbekistan

## Strategic Objective 3: Supporting resilient and innovative parliaments

Parliaments need to protect themselves against a range of risks, some of which are unforeseen. COVID-19, for example, disrupted many parliaments around the world, preventing them from continuing business as usual. The pandemic highlighted the need for parliaments to be forward-looking, resilient and adaptable. Information and communications technology (ICT) is often a key feature of that adaptability, allowing parliamentarians to continue working even if emergency measures prevent them from meeting in person.

In 2022, the IPU stepped up its work to share knowledge and lessons learned on building parliamentary resilience. With our support, many parliaments continued to modernize and adapt.

### Facilitate innovation in parliament

The IPU's Centre for Innovation in Parliament grew further in 2022, providing a platform for parliaments to develop and share good practices in digital transformation strategies and practical methods for building capacity. It continued to build communities of parliamentary expertise in regional and thematic hubs. Its publications – the [World e-Parliament Report 2022](#) and its quarterly blog the *IPU Innovation Tracker* – were well received, as was the webinar series, Transforming Parliaments.

The *World e-Parliament Report 2022* captured a picture of parliaments going through a phase of enforced innovation and learning to rapidly embed new ways of working, supported by ICT. As parliaments return to more familiar ways of working after COVID-19, many remain changed by their experiences. The pandemic also exposed the challenges faced by parliaments that lack the resources to deploy new methods of working

or to invest in complex digital platforms and services. The IPU helped parliaments by, for example, fostering an online community of parliamentary ICT managers who were able to share good practices.



Plenary hall of the Stortinget. © Parliament of Norway

127

parliamentary chambers  
responded to the IPU survey  
for the *World e-Parliament  
Report 2022*

## IPU Impact

### Citizen engagement in Vanuatu

The IPU worked with the Parliament of Vanuatu to develop a virtual tour for citizens. The work included training the relevant staff and delivering vital equipment. As a Small Island Developing State, an archipelago of roughly 80 islands, its citizens are spread across a wide area in the Pacific Ocean. The virtual tour enables these citizens to engage with – and to understand – their parliament.



The Vanuatu Parliament. © Parliament of Vanuatu

### Developing a learning platform and community

The year also saw the IPU continue its work to build an online knowledge platform and design the appropriate learning journeys for people's work in parliament. We were able to design and deliver three learning journeys – in Zambia, for the CRPH in Myanmar and a generic course on SDG legislation.

In 2022, the IPU also helped the National Assembly of Nigeria to roll out an online version of the IPU's training on leadership and communications for young Nigerian MPs.

## Supporting parliaments in addressing forward-looking policy priorities

IPU support for parliaments to identify and address future priorities focused largely on the green transition. Various platforms enabled discussions and exchanges of ideas and good practice on how parliaments can function and perform their mandate in a sustainable way that contributes to progress on climate change. For example, the Global Conference of Young MPs, held in cooperation with the Parliament of Egypt, focused on green parliaments and allowed young MPs to share good practices on greening parliamentary institutions.

### Reinforcing science diplomacy

Although the formal definition of science diplomacy is barely a decade old, it is becoming a well-established marriage of the two fields, in which the soft power of science is harnessed to encourage countries to work together, and diplomacy supports scientific progress for the greater good of humanity.

In May 2022, with that in mind, the IPU joined 13 other Swiss and global institutions in the Geneva Coalition on Anticipatory Science and Diplomacy. Parliamentarians are key stakeholders in science diplomacy, since they construct the legislation, vote in the budgets, and provide the oversight to guide the way in which science is developed, regulated and used.

Then, in November, led by the IPU Committee on Middle East Questions and the IPU Working Group on Science and Technology, and in cooperation with the European Organization for Nuclear Research, (CERN) we launched a new pilot annual training scheme for parliamentary staff designed to bridge the worlds of science and politics, the Science for Peace Schools. The scheme aims to create a community of parliamentary experts to address challenges together under the neutral umbrella of science. The theme for 2022 was *Dealing with water scarcity*.



Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General, moderating the opening of the Science Diplomacy Week © Gabriel Lado

# 1 Strategic Objective 4:

## Catalysing collective parliamentary action

The world faces some extremely complex challenges and resolving them requires countries to coordinate and work together better. By connecting parliaments and parliamentarians, the IPU, the global organization of national parliaments, offers a vital extra opportunity for this collaboration. We provide a space for parliaments to engage, exchange ideas and coordinate. We convert the collective voice of the parliamentary community into national and international action. And we help to build the personal relationships between parliamentarians that can often be invaluable.

In 2022, the IPU organized dozens of in-person and virtual events, attended by thousands of parliamentarians. Our twice-a-year IPU Assemblies were key events, enabling dialogue between parliamentarians from around the world. The Assemblies underscore the IPU's unique convening power and ability to connect parliaments and parliamentarians.

### Promoting inter-parliamentary engagement

In March, the 144th IPU Assembly was hosted by the Parliament of Indonesia. It concluded with the adoption of the Nusa Dua Declaration, in which the world's parliamentarians stressed the urgent need to address the climate crisis and outlined their next steps for implementing the Paris Agreement. Resolutions were adopted on rethinking the approach to peace processes, leveraging ICT as an enabler for education, and calling for a peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine.

In October, the 145th IPU Assembly was hosted by the Parliament of Rwanda. With Rwanda consistently number one in the IPU's [monthly ranking of women in parliament](#), it made sense for the Assembly to focus on gender equality. The resulting Kigali Declaration on gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments represents a milestone to accelerate gender equality in the world.

Behind the scenes at IPU Assemblies, at least 200 bilateral meetings take place, an important component of parliamentary diplomacy which is much appreciated by IPU Members.

**200**

IPU facilitates some 200 bilateral meetings between parliamentarians at each Assembly

### Providing a parliamentary perspective to global processes

Throughout the course of the year, the IPU ensured that a parliamentary component was included in some of the main UN processes. This was the case, among others, of the parliamentary meetings in the context of the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and the COP27 Conference on Climate Change.



IPU Parliamentary meeting at COP27 in Sharm-el-Sheik, Egypt © Egyptian Parliament

In addition, the annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, organized by the IPU in cooperation with the Office of the President of the UN General Assembly, focused on building political support and inclusive responses to sustainable recovery after the pandemic.



Inaugural ceremony of the 144th IPU Assembly, Nusa Dua, Indonesia. © Parliament of Indonesia

## IPU Impact

### Encouraging dialogue between the Russian Federation and Ukraine

A resolution adopted in Nusa Dua led to the establishment of an IPU Task Force to encourage dialogue between parliamentarians in the two countries. The Task Force is led by MP Dr. Ali Al Nuaimi of the United Arab Emirates and composed of eight prominent parliamentarians representing the global parliamentary community.

In 2022, the Task Force visited both Moscow and Kyiv to better understand the perspectives of both sides and build bridges to help bring about an end to the war. At the second IPU Assembly of 2022, the IPU Task Force met high-level parliamentary delegations from both the Russian Federation and Ukraine separately. The Task Force is working towards ultimately bringing both sides to the same table.

## Meeting international commitments

Commitment to and implementation of UN treaties and conventions requires parliamentary action such as legislation, oversight and budgets. Such agreements often require national governments to regularly produce a national report, explaining how the country is meeting its respective international commitments.

The IPU helps parliaments to better engage in these processes, at both the national and international level. The IPU supports parliaments to follow the relevant process, discuss with government, and get involved in preparation of the required report. Parliaments have a responsibility for implementation, and they need to be a part of the discussion.

In 2022, the IPU supported parliaments in engaging with review processes relating to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

At COP27, in partnership with the Egyptian House of Representatives, the IPU brought together some 200 participants from over 50 countries in Sharm-el-Sheikh to share good practices on the implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

The IPU is also working to ensure that parliamentary action is reflected in the drafting of a forthcoming UN Convention on Cybercrime, with a particular focus on the human rights of citizens and the need for strong international cooperation.

*“The degradation of our environment happened well before we youth were born. Yet it is us who will have to suffer the effects and it is us who will have to repair the damage.”*

Ms. Sahar Albazar, IPU President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians



Ms. Sahar Albazar, during the 8th meeting of the Forum of Young MPs, in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt. © Egyptian Parliament

We continued to raise awareness among Parliaments on their obligations with regard to refugee and statelessness Conventions, with the organization of global panels and discussions focusing on the question of inclusion. This was complemented by a field visit for MPs in Rwanda on the work of centres supporting refugees and their empowerment.

In 2022, we also brought parliamentary voices to other international processes of global governance. Together with the European Parliament, we convene the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO.

Further to the positive experiences of the G20 Speakers' Summits in Buenos Aires (2018), Tokyo (2019) and Rome (2021), we worked with the Parliament of Indonesia to organize another such Summit in 2022 to feed into the discussions of the Bali G20 Summit at government level.

Under the umbrella theme *Stronger parliaments for sustainable recovery*, the Speakers discussed parliamentary action to address the global consequences of the war in Ukraine, the food and energy crises, economic recession and the climate emergency.

In December, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on the role of parliaments in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, noting the essential role of national parliaments to legislate, budget and scrutinize action. The resolution was initiated by Uzbekistan, demonstrating the key role of individual Members in taking the IPU's work forward.

## Countering terrorism and violent extremism

The IPU's work in mobilizing parliamentarians against terrorism continued in 2022, notably through the work of the IPU's High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG). The HLAG addressed how parliaments can support the victims of terrorism and continued to work on a plan of action for the Sahel region, called the *Call of the Sahel*, designed to bring together the various actors in the region to mitigate the effects of terrorism.

The year was also marked by the joint launch of the Model Legislative Provisions, in partnership with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism/United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNOCT-UNCCT) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The Model Legislative Provisions are a template against which existing national laws and procedures related to victims of terrorism can be reviewed, and provide guidance for the development of national legislation where applicable. They also serve to systematize and promote the exchange of information between UN Member States regarding good practices in supporting and protecting victims of terrorism.

The IPU is in the process of launching updated digital tools for parliamentarians, including an App to connect parliamentarians on issues related to terrorism, and an interactive map which gives access to a database of global counter-terrorism legislation.

**See also Part 2** – In Focus, Policy Goal 6 for more information on our work on peace and security.

# Strategic Objective 5: Strengthening the IPU's accountability

Reinforcing and sustaining a culture of accountability has emerged as a key organizational value for the IPU. We see it as a critical factor for progress towards all our Strategic Objectives. Accountability works at all levels of the IPU: for the Secretariat as well as our Member Parliaments.

## Members following up on IPU initiatives and outcomes

One of the key areas of accountability is to encourage IPU Members to follow up on the resolutions and outcomes emerging from IPU events across an array of issues, from climate change to gender equality and disarmament. These resolutions can, for example, provide a blueprint for future policy-making and even legislation.



Ms. Esperance Nyirasafari, Vice-President of the Senate (Rwanda) and Mr. Ivan Flores, Senator (Chile), present the Kigali Declaration [Gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers of change for a more resilient and peaceful world](#) at the end of the 145th IPU Assembly in Kigali, Rwanda. © Parliament of Rwanda

Every year, the IPU surveys its Members to take stock of the numerous ways in which they have followed up on IPU initiatives. During the Assemblies, plenary time is also allocated for delegations to explain how they have followed up in a special accountability segment, introduced in 2022.

In 2022, more than 90% of IPU Members surveyed said they had communicated the outcomes of IPU Assemblies to their respective parliaments. Almost half of them reported further action, with some notable examples of good parliamentary practice.

On climate action for example, the theme of the 144th IPU Assembly, the National People's Congress of China reported a raft of new legislation. Zimbabwe held a capacity-building workshop on a green COVID-19 recovery, which fed into the country's Climate Change Bill. Mauritius has also taken decisive action over the past two years, enacting its own Climate Change Act.

On gender equality, the theme of the 145th IPU Assembly, using the IPU toolkit on gender-sensitive parliaments, the National Assembly of Ecuador took concrete steps towards gender parity. In 2021, the law was amended to include gender parity and diversity criteria for leadership positions in parliament. Ecuador now has a female Speaker and two committees chaired by women.

Belgium has been advancing gender equality in the work of parliament, by also using the IPU toolkit for gender-sensitive parliaments. There are plans to transform the Belgian Federal Parliament into the most gender-sensitive assembly in Europe.

**See more examples** of Members taking action thanks to the IPU's influence **in Part 2** – In Focus.



17,000 people watched the live streaming of the 145th IPU Assembly in Kigali, Rwanda. © Parliament of Rwanda

## Increased transparency and better governance

A new Working Group on Transparency, Accountability and Openness was established by the Governing Council in May 2021 to oversee the IPU's effort to improve accountability and transparency in its deliberations.

The Working Group has drafted a road map with eight objectives. Progress so far includes the adoption of a new IPU Personal Data Protection Policy at the 145th IPU Assembly.

A code of conduct for office-holders, an anti-harassment policy and an IT Policy are also in progress and expected to be approved soon.

## Greening and digitalizing the IPU

To reflect the new strategic focus on climate action, the IPU has also started taking steps to become a greener organization with the objective of achieving carbon neutrality by 2026.

A key component of greening the IPU involves the digital transformation of the Organization's processes, platforms and tools. The pandemic highlighted the importance of enhancing capacity to make better use of information and communication technology, especially with regard to Member outreach and events.

With some 60 events organized in 2022, of which over half were virtual, the IPU brought together thousands of parliamentarians. Through hybrid or virtual event technology, the IPU is able to reach parts of the world that its traditional events did not necessarily cover, thus making it more accessible to and inclusive of all the 45,000 parliamentarians in the world.

## Enhanced communications in 2022

2022 was the first year of the refreshed Communications Strategy, designed to drive the IPU to succeed in its overall Strategy for 2022-2026. There was progress in all three strands of the Communications Strategy: accelerating the IPU's digital transformation; encouraging more engagement with Members and increasing the IPU's influence and visibility.

The IPU continued to invest heavily in digital platforms, especially its websites and social media platforms, with some notable successes. For example, despite the turmoil at Twitter, the IPU's follower base increased to 38,000 by the end of the year and its Tweets reached 568,000 more people compared to the previous year.

In terms of engaging with Members, the investment in centralizing the IPU's contacts into one database is beginning to pay off. At the end of 2022, the database contained 18,000 contacts (up from 12,000 at the end of 2021). Moving forward, we will continue to add more contacts, renewing the database when new chambers are elected, to reach as many MPs as possible.

The IPU had significant media exposure in 2022, especially in top-tier media or influential outlets such as the Washington Post, Le Monde and the World Economic Forum. Most coverage revolves around the IPU's work on gender equality, human rights, youth and innovation.

**568,000**

more people reached on Twitter in 2022 compared with 2021

## PART 2

# In focus



### POLICY GOAL 1 – CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change kills people, destroys lives, and disrupts society, environment and security all around the world. That is why climate action is the IPU's number one policy priority. We work with UN partners, including the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to help parliaments progress on implementation of the Paris Agreement and other climate treaties. We support the acceleration of decarbonization and adaptation, the reduction of parliamentary carbon footprints, and the transition to clean energy. The IPU is also endeavouring to reduce its own carbon footprint.

#### Supporting Seychelles to legislate on climate change

Climate change is never far from the news in Seychelles, an archipelago of 115 islands east of the African mainland, whose economy and people depend heavily on their environment. Like many Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the country's two key sectors are fisheries and tourism.

When COVID-19 led to a massive drop in arrivals, it showed just how important and vulnerable the country's tourism could be. The IPU supported Seychelles and other countries, however, drawing on international expertise – and connecting it with national parliaments – to enable a green recovery from the pandemic.

In late 2020, for example, when the IPU and UNEP produced a booklet on green recoveries from COVID-19, the Seychellois Parliament grabbed the chance to learn more. Written specifically for parliaments, the booklet focused on six themes: green infrastructure, the circular economy, clean energy, green jobs, biodiversity, and the rule of law and environmental protection.

On learning about the booklet, Seychelles' unicameral Parliament requested further training for its MPs and several staff. By September 2021, the IPU had worked with UNEP and the National Assembly to co-design a two-day training course tailored specifically for the Seychelles.



Parliament of Seychelles. © Alberto Pizzoli/AFP



A parliamentary roadshow in Djibouti. © Parliament of Djibouti

Delivered to 35 parliamentarians and 20 parliamentary staff, the training covered the booklet's main insights and the transition to clean energy. Speakers came from Seychelles, the IPU, UNEP, and even the Maldives, whose Chairperson of the parliamentary Committee on Environment and Climate Change, Ahmed Saleem, came to share his experiences. His country, another SIDS, is also greatly affected by climate change.

Linked directly to that training course, the National Assembly of Seychelles has been able to prioritize and progress on climate change, enabling some of the country's vital initiatives on climate and the economy.

First, the House is in the process of establishing a Committee on Climate Change, Islands, Blue Economy and Agriculture. Second, the National Assembly has adopted the wetland area surrounding its compound in order to protect local biodiversity. Third, the International Affairs Committee has shifted its focus to climate change, including implementation of promises made at COP26 in Glasgow. Finally, the House passed a Motion calling for the Government to manage the outer islands of Seychelles in a more sustainable manner.



## POLICY GOAL 2 – DEMOCRACY AND STRONG PARLIAMENTS

The IPU believes that democracy is the most effective form of governance and the best way to translate a population's wants and needs into a legislative reality. Strong parliaments are not just the cornerstones of democracy therefore, they are also essential for development. They represent the people, pass laws, adopt budgets and hold governments to account. As the global organization of parliaments, the IPU helps them to become more representative, gender-balanced, younger, transparent, accessible, accountable and effective.

### Connecting Djibouti's MPs with their constituents

Democracy requires that MPs are connected with their constituents, explaining their work to them and ensuring that constituents' needs are represented. In Djibouti, one of the hottest and smallest countries in Africa, the IPU has been helping with that two-way exchange of information, connecting parliament with the people.

First, it has enabled Djibouti's parliamentarians to become more accessible to their constituents. Djibouti's terrain is remote and difficult, meaning that many MPs do not visit their constituencies as often as they would like. But with IPU

support, some 15 MPs from the 65-seat National Assembly travelled to four of Djibouti's six regions in 2022.

The MPs typically spent an afternoon with their constituents, gathering under trees or in sizeable, makeshift tents, sitting on the ground or standing in open circles. These *caravans parlementaires* – which translate roughly as “parliamentary roadshows” – were organized around the theme of women's rights.

MPs explained to their communities the importance of women's rights, as well as parliamentary efforts to empower Djibouti's women. These have included the introduction of quotas to enforce a minimum 25% of female parliamentarians and new laws to prevent violence against women and girls.

In turn, the communities explained their daily lives and basic needs, including new roads to connect them with nearby markets. Djibouti's social traditions meant the audiences were mostly male, but local women's groups were well represented too. The meetings took place in pleasant, almost festive, atmospheres, and the communities even showed some MPs around their villages.

Back in the capital, Djibouti, the IPU helped MPs to connect with their audiences, especially youth, by supporting the production of short videos for digital use. In each of the videos, an MP explains the importance of human rights and his or her contributions. Focusing more on economic and social rights, the videos helped connect the MPs with their constituents and established channels of communication.

This need to connect also motivated the National Assembly's work – with IPU support – to record, transcribe and communicate its meetings. The *procès-verbaux* – or minutes – enable Djibouti's people to see what their parliament is saying. Besides engaging Djibouti's population, estimated at less than a million people, the work makes parliament more transparent.

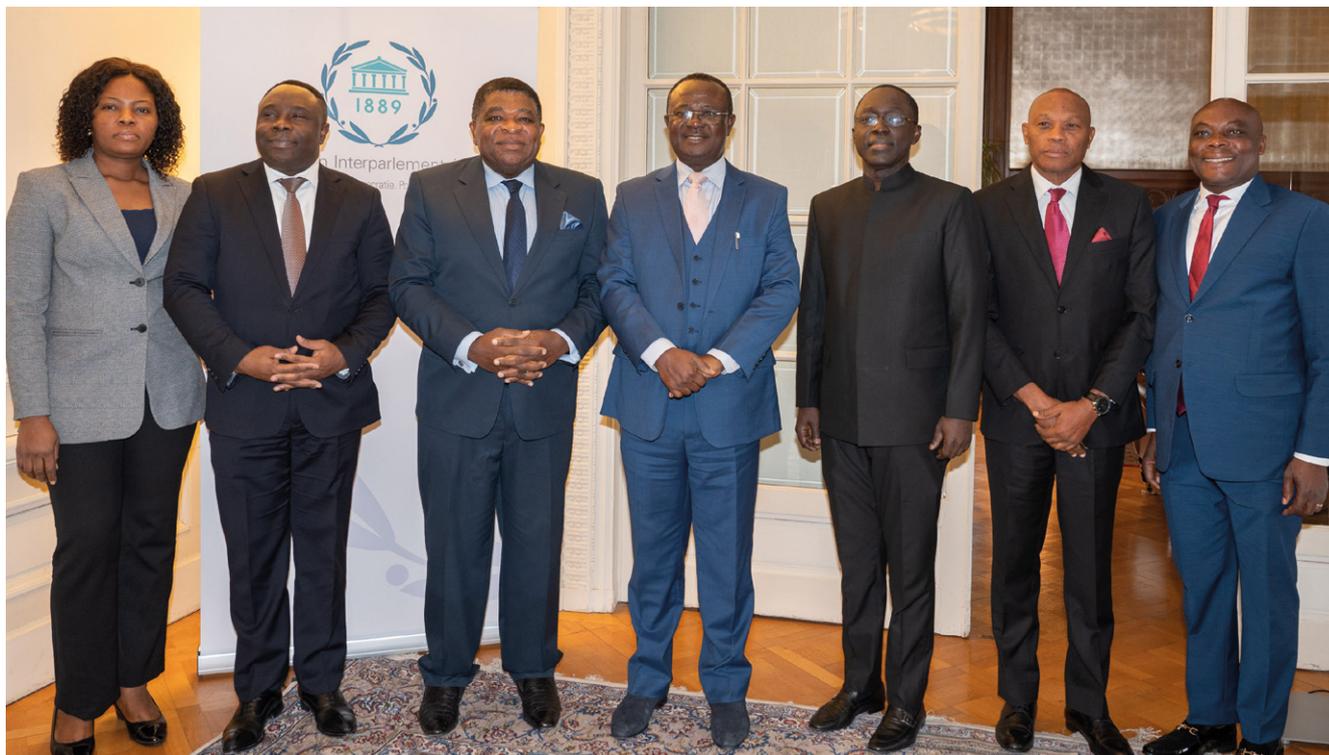
Funded by the European Union and applauded by external evaluators, the IPU's work in Djibouti shows how a well-motivated parliament can be enabled to perform some of its most basic functions more effectively: connecting with constituents and engaging.



### POLICY GOAL 3 – HUMAN RIGHTS

While an increasing number of parliamentarians face abuse, mistreatment or even death simply for doing their jobs, the IPU's core work on human rights, which are central to democracy and development, has been to defend and promote the rights of parliamentarians through its Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (see Part 1, Strategic Objective 1).

Beyond this, however, one emerging priority has been to provide MPs with information, knowledge and training, enabling parliaments to better connect with the UN's work on human rights. This enables them to improve the human rights of the people they represent – especially women, children, minorities, and indigenous peoples too.



Deputy Speaker Mr. Joseph Osei-Owusu and the Ghanaian delegation with the IPU Secretary General, Mr. Martin Chungong. The delegation was in Geneva to present their national report at the UPR. © IPU/Jorky

## Building Ghana's parliamentary capacity to address human rights

By connecting parliaments with UN work on human rights, the IPU has had more impact on this issue. In 2022, these efforts brought new success.

The UN's Universal Periodic Review (UPR), for example, provides the opportunity for every Member State to explain how they are improving human rights in their countries and how they are fulfilling their international obligations. In practice, this means that every Member State sees its human rights reviewed by the UN's Human Rights Council roughly every four years.

The Council, which consists of 47 rotating members, all of them Member States, reviews a country's record on human rights and makes relevant recommendations. The Member State can then adopt, note or even reject these recommendations.

When a Member State adopts a recommendation, however, implementation can be a challenge. Some recommendations require new legislation or the authorization of new spending. Implementing them thus becomes much easier when parliaments have been involved in the review right from the start.

Many national parliaments are unaware of the UPR, however, or somehow excluded from it. As a result, the IPU has been engaging with national parliaments to bring them into the process. A vital part of this work is to explain the UPR process, usually through an online briefing for parliamentarians that lasts about three hours.

These briefings are not necessarily high profile, but in May 2022 the Speaker of Ghana's unicameral National Assembly attended the briefing, enabling him and his parliamentary colleagues to contribute to their national report for submission to the UN. The Deputy Speaker also joined the Ghanaian national delegation to present the report in Geneva, thus directly involving the Parliament of Ghana in its country's discussions on human rights with the United Nations and others. At time of writing, these discussions are ongoing, but already the Parliament is better placed to help with the implementation of any recommendations.

The success of this working model means that other UN human rights mechanisms are working with the IPU too. The UN Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) works with the IPU in a similar manner.

In November 2022, the IPU and UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) announced that they too would be collaborating in support of children around the world. Many of the CRC recommendations also require parliamentary involvement, including on budgets, legislation, and the promotion of birth registrations for every child.



## POLICY GOAL 4 – GENDER EQUALITY

Although the proportion of women MPs is slowly growing, most parliaments remain male-dominated and women MPs are often under-represented in decision-making bodies. Besides, many women MPs still face discrimination and gender-based violence. Convinced of the links between gender equality and strong democracies, the IPU's work on gender equality has focused on promoting an increase in the number of women in parliament, supporting them in parliament and also more generally supporting women's rights in society.

### Tackling FGM in Sierra Leone

For more than a decade, the IPU has been supporting the Parliament of Sierra Leone to tackle violence against women. This partnership addresses several issues of vital importance to the West African country, including national reconciliation, human rights and the SDGs.

SDG 5 on gender equality, for example, includes a target to eliminate all harmful practices, including female genital mutilation (FGM), which constitutes a serious violation of human rights. Besides the pain, trauma and other consequences for health, the practice prevents millions of women and girls from living life to its fullest potential. In many countries, such as Sierra Leone, however, the practice is deeply rooted in tradition. Among women aged 15 to 49, its prevalence is 83%.



Demonstration against FGM in Sierra Leone on International Women's Day. © Saidu Bah/AFP

In 2019, the west African country's newly elected parliament requested the IPU's technical and financial support for a dialogue on FGM, thus making it a public and policy issue. The workshop, which took place in Bo in 2020, was attended by most MPs, who discussed the downsides of FGM for health and human rights. MPs were reminded that Sierra Leone had signed up to several international agreements. This practice ran contrary to those agreements.

The three-day workshop led directly to the establishment of a parliamentary caucus on the issue. COVID-19 slowed progress, but the IPU was able from a distance to keep in touch and to provide some support. It helped the caucus to build its status, rules and plan of action.

As IPU support picked up again in early 2022, the parliamentarians developed their key messages and a strategy. One key obstacle to ending Sierra Leone's FGM, for example, is its connection to tradition. For many, the excision is seen as an intrinsic part of the rite of passage, allowing young girls to enter the Bondo society, a secret women's society influential in social, cultural and political life.

If the parliamentary caucus can persuade traditional leaders and the excisors ("Soweis") that they can protect tradition while removing the practice of cutting from Bondo, then they will have a good chance of eliminating FGM from Sierra Leone.



## POLICY GOAL 5 – YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Young people are the future of any democracy; they are the leaders of tomorrow. Despite their capacity for bringing new ideas to the world's most intractable problems however, young people are severely under-represented in parliaments around the world. For over a decade, the IPU has been supporting parliaments to become more representative of all generations, while empowering young politicians too. We monitor youth representation and participation, empower young MPs, including through training and providing networking opportunities, and organize awareness and motivational campaigns to mobilize action.

### Promoting youth in Paraguay

Some 50% of the world's population are younger than 30 years old, but under 30s represented just 2.6% of MPs, according to IPU figures at the end of 2022. The IPU has proposed several measures to address this serious under-representation. Its 2010 resolution on youth participation in the democratic process led to the creation of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, the premier global body for the world's young MPs.

The IPU's work on youth has gained momentum around the world, enabling young MPs and others to advance the youth agenda in their own countries, correcting a major deficit.

In April 2021, for example, the IPU introduced its *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign to reduce the average ages of parliaments and increase the number of young parliamentarians. The campaign, which has given new energy to the push for younger parliaments, consists of six individual pledges.



Launch of the IPU's "I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!" campaign in Paraguay. © Parliament of Paraguay

That same year, many parliaments launched their own campaigns and, by August 2022, some 1,000 “changemakers” had signed up to the campaign, including MPs from more than 120 countries.

The *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign has six pledges, all identified by young parliamentarians as the most impactful way to generate transformative change.

The six pledges are:

1. Promoting youth quotas
2. Aligning the age of eligibility with that of voting
3. Supporting youth channels in parliament
4. Empowering young parliamentarians
5. Mentoring young aspirants
6. Advocating for youth participation.

In 2022, Paraguay became a notable success also when its *Yo digo sí a la juventud en el parlamento* campaign was launched by two politicians, Senators Blas Llano, former Speaker of the Senate, and Patrick Kemper, Member of the IPU Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians.

By May 2022, their bill had been presented to – and approved by – both houses of the Paraguayan Parliament, reducing the age of eligibility for mayoral elections from 25 to 22 years old, and for municipal councillors from 23 to 20 years old, and in line with the campaign’s second pledge.

The impact may travel even further, since the two senators organized a press conference to launch their campaign, set up an information booth within the Paraguayan Parliament, and translated IPU materials into Spanish for use throughout the Latin American region.

Nor was Paraguay the only parliament to run a major event for youth this year. Guyana’s Parliament, which had endorsed the IPU campaign in 2021, organized a national debating competition for youth in 2022, while Zambia set up a caucus of young parliamentarians. This caucus has also received IPU support, and is now poised to infuse more youthful perspectives into the country’s politics.

Meanwhile, the IPU continues to organize its annual Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, welcoming about 150 young MPs from as many as 60 countries. In 2022, the Conference took place in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt, enabling young MPs to exchange, learn and identify common and innovative strategies for tackling climate change.



## POLICY GOAL 6 – PEACE AND SECURITY

When the IPU was founded in 1889, it was the world’s first political multilateral organization that encouraged countries to talk to each other rather than to resolve their differences through war. Throughout its history, the IPU has continued to provide a forum for diplomacy and dialogue between parliaments from different nations. We play a special role in countries emerging from conflict or in transition to democracy, helping to develop their parliaments as robust and democratic institutions that can heal divisions. Support for international treaties, as well as dialogue on counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism, are also vital parts of our work.

### Bringing fresh momentum to peace and security treaties

Renewed IPU efforts and advocacy have brought new ratifications to international treaties on peace and security, including both the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

The ratification of such treaties does not necessarily bring instantaneous peace, but it helps to build trust and can create its own momentum. The treaties are an effective contribution to peace and security.

When the IPU adopted its first resolution on the CTBT in 1995, few countries took much action, but the IPU and CTBT Organization initiated a new campaign in late 2018, writing to parliaments in countries that had not yet ratified.

States benefit from ratification in several ways. The CTBT’s verification system has a strong seismic component, for example, meaning that it can also help to monitor earthquakes and tsunamis. Meanwhile, researchers can access selected data to better understand the natural world, from whale behaviour to climate change or the timing of monsoon rains.

With these arguments made, the ratifications began to tick up, including Comoros and Cuba in 2021. In March 2022, following a workshop at the IPU’s 144th Assembly in Indonesia, another five IPU Members ratified – Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Sao Tome and Principe, Timor Leste, and Tuvalu – meaning that of 196 total States, some 177 have now ratified.

*“With these recent ratifications, we now have complete adherence to the Treaty in Central Africa. This is a historical milestone, and I cannot thank you and the IPU enough for your continued support and contribution throughout this process”*

Dr. Robert Floyd, Executive Secretary of the CTBTO Preparatory Commission

In 2022, the IPU saw results from its work on another treaty, the ATT. The treaty addresses the availability of small arms and light weapons, which continue to kill and maim, including in Africa and Asia, where many countries have not yet signed or ratified the treaty. Public debate on the treaty is often limited, while governments worry about the treaty obligations. But reducing the availability of small arms saves lives, especially of women and children.



Nigerian soldiers make an inventory of small arms and light weapons recovered from militia. © Pius Utomi Ekpei/AFP

Building on an IPU resolution from 2006, the IPU had approached more than 80 parliaments in 2021, marking the start of its new ATT campaign. Following this, and with significant push from a single MP, the Philippines ratified in March 2022. In October, also with major effort from a single politician, the west African state of Gabon ratified too.

The year 2022 may not have been an easy context in which to push for disarmament, but the combination of personal relationships and persistent lobbying has brought some momentum. Meanwhile, the IPU continues to highlight the data linking small arms and excess mortality.



## POLICY GOAL 7 – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

With only a few years left to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), mobilizing parliaments around the global development agenda has become increasingly urgent. Parliaments' legislative, oversight and budget responsibilities make them key players in, for example, reducing social and economic inequalities, improving the health of the people they represent, and taking action to save the planet from climate change.

### Bringing universal health coverage to Benin

Good health is an essential part of the SDGs, and yet by 2030 an anticipated five billion people will still not have access to essential health services. The alternative, universal health coverage (UHC), is that everybody has access to the full range of quality health services they need, when and where they need them, without incurring financial hardship.

As custodians of their country's well-being, parliaments and parliamentarians are well-placed to champion UHC. For its part, the IPU helps connect these parliaments to international expertise, thus translating international agreements into national realities for countries and their populations. It has put UHC onto parliamentary agendas.

In October 2019, for example, the IPU Assembly passed a landmark resolution calling for parliaments to achieve UHC by 2030. The resolution, which came one month after a UN political declaration on the same theme, was followed by virtual workshops, capacity building, and an accountability framework for the resolution led by the IPU Advisory Group on Health.

In May 2022, when the worst of the global pandemic had passed, the IPU organized a two-day workshop in Benin, enabling 50 parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of their country's existing legal framework for UHC.

Requested by the west African country's Parliament, the workshop took place two days before a parliamentary discussion on Benin's existing law regarding the right to health and led directly to the development and passage of a new law, part of which was to make employer insurance mandatory in both the public and private sectors.

Parliaments usually know what direction they wish to take, while IPU technical support gives them the confidence and detail to get there. In 2022, the IPU also supported Uganda to develop a national insurance scheme, aided by the organization of an exchange with Rwanda and Tanzania.



A consultation at the Cadjehoun Health Center in Cotonou, Benin. ©Yanick Folly/AFP

Finally, the IPU worked with the World Health Organization in 2022 to produce three new publications, covering health security, health taxes, and universal health coverage.

The worst of the COVID-19 pandemic may be over, but health systems around the world are still buckling under the strain. Preparing for further emergencies, ensuring that everybody has access to quality health care and funding this work will be vital government priorities in the years ahead. The IPU is well-positioned to offer further support.

# Towards universal membership

## Members (178)

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras\*, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea\*, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

## Associate Members (14)

Andean Parliament, Arab Parliament, Central American Parliament (PARLACEN), East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), European Parliament (EP), Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO), Pan-African Parliament, Parliament of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF), Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), and Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC).

\* The membership rights of Honduras and Papua New Guinea are now suspended due to arrears of three or more years of contributions (non-participating Members).

## Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments

The Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP) brings together Secretaries General and other senior office holders in charge of parliamentary services. It studies the law, procedure, practice and working methods of different parliaments and proposes measures for improvement and for securing cooperation between the services of different parliaments. It is a consultative body of the IPU, and the ASGP President reports annually to the IPU Executive Committee on the ASGP's activities. The ASGP assists the IPU on subjects within the scope of the Association. Studies carried out by the IPU relating to parliamentary law and practices are routinely shared with the ASGP and benefit from its input.

The ASGP collaborated closely with the IPU, including by regularly organizing joint IPU-ASGP sessions at the IPU Assembly. To give just three examples of areas of mutual cooperation:

The IPU and ASGP agreed to jointly prepare a guide to digital transformation in parliament, to be published in October 2023. ASGP members contributed data and good practice examples in response to a survey in late 2022.

Secretaries General took part in online focus groups as part of the research for the *World e-Parliament Report 2022*. They exchanged perspectives on how the COVID-19 pandemic had impacted the functioning of parliament, and which changes from this period of enforced innovation were likely to be retained.

The ASGP contributed to the development of IPU's Indicators for democratic parliaments in various ways. The ASGP President spoke at the online launch of the Preliminary version of the Indicators in June 2022, and a joint IPU-ASGP session at the Assembly in October provided the opportunity for Secretaries General to provide feedback on the document and to discuss how it could be used in their parliaments.

# IPU Executive Committee



**Mr. D. Pacheco** (PORTUGAL)  
Ex-Officio President  
End of mandate: Nov 2023



**Ms. A.D. Mergane Kanouté** (SENEGAL)  
Vice-President, IPU and Africa Group  
End of mandate: Apr 2023



**Mr. Ali Rashid Al Nuaimi** (UAE)  
IPU Vice-President, Arab Group  
End of mandate: Apr 2025



**Ms. P. Krairiksh** (THAILAND)  
IPU Vice-President, Asia-Pacific Group  
End of mandate: Oct 2023



**Ms. B. Argimón** (URUGUAY)  
IPU Vice-President, Grulac  
End of mandate: Oct 2024



**Mr. A. Saidov** (UZBEKISTAN)  
IPU Vice-President, Eurasia Group  
End of mandate: Oct 2023



**Mr. J. Echániz** (SPAIN)  
IPU Vice-President, Twelve Plus Group  
End of mandate: Oct 2025



**Mr. A. Kharchi** (ALGERIA)  
Member  
End of mandate: Oct 2025



**Mr. I. Flores García** (CHILE)  
Member  
End of mandate: Oct 2023



**Mr. F. Marchand** (FRANCE)  
Member  
End of mandate: Oct 2026



**Ms. O. Kefalogianni** (GREECE)  
Member  
End of mandate: Oct 2025



**Ms. A. Sarangi** (INDIA)  
Member  
End of mandate: Oct 2026



**Mr. R. Rabbani** (PAKISTAN)  
Member  
End of mandate: Oct 2023



**Ms. E. Anyakun** (UGANDA)  
Member  
End of mandate: Oct 2023



**Mr. J. F. N. Mudenda** (ZIMBABWE)  
Member  
End of mandate: Oct 2023



**Ms. S. Albazar** (EGYPT)  
Ex Officio Member (Bureau of Young MPs)  
End of mandate: Apr 2023



**Ms. L. Vasylenko** (UKRAINE)  
Ex Officio Member (Bureau of Women MPs)  
End of mandate: Apr 2023



**Vacancy**

## How the IPU is funded

The IPU's work to promote peace, democracy and sustainable development is financed primarily by our Members and Associate Members. We also receive a regular flow of voluntary contributions from governments, development agencies, UN bodies and foundations. Several donors have concluded multi-year funding agreements that were active during 2022. These include the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the European Union, DFATD Canada, Irish Aid, International IDEA and the parliaments of China, Micronesia, Qatar, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates, as well as the Arab Parliament.

Partnerships with the UN family, particularly UNDP, WHO, UN-OHRLLS, UNHCR and UN Women, deliver support to a number of country-level programmes. The Republic of Korea continued to offer support in terms of secondment of senior research staff to the IPU. The IPU remains committed to looking for more voluntary funding to help meet its strategic objectives.

# 2022 publications

## Handbooks

- [Strengthening health security preparedness: The International Health Regulations \(2005\)](#)
- [Guidelines for Parliamentary Libraries \(3rd edition\)](#)
- [Saving Lives and Mobilizing Revenue: A parliamentary action guide to health taxes](#)
- [The path towards universal health coverage](#)
- [Gender-responsive law-making](#) (now available in French, Spanish and Arabic)
- [Good practices in nationality laws for the prevention and reduction of statelessness](#) (now available in Kazakh and Kyrgyz)
- [A Guide to international refugee protection and building state asylum systems](#) (now available in Kazakh)
- [Migration, human rights and governance](#) (now available in Portuguese)

## Toolkits

- [Highlights from the Toolkit on Disaster Risk Reduction to achieve the SDGS](#)
- [Parliaments and the Sustainable Development Goals: A self-assessment toolkit](#) (now available in Thai)

## Reports

- [First Global Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism Strategy 2022-2026](#)
- [Women in Parliament in 2021](#)
- [Impact Report 2017-2021](#)
- [Global Parliamentary Report 2022](#)
- [World e-Parliament Report 2022](#)

## Reference publications

- [Social Media Guidelines](#) (now available in Turkish)

## Infographics

- [Violations of the human rights of MPs – 2022](#)

# IPU collections

The IPU has seven collections primarily meant for parliamentarians and policymakers. All IPU publications are available [here](#).

**Issues Briefs** are designed to raise awareness on a particular issue. They give an overview of a particular theme with statistics, tables, graphs, facts and figures.

**Handbooks** are an in-depth look at a theme designed for legislators involved in preparing laws and policies. They contain best practice, examples from other countries, definitions of key concepts, background information and advice for implementation.

**Toolkits** allow parliaments to self-evaluate what they have, what's missing and what action they need to take in a particular area.

**Reports** generally go into detail on a particular strategic theme to report on progress or setbacks. They contain new data and are published either annually or periodically.

**Reference publications** are designed as guidelines to help support parliamentary development.

**Guidelines** are aimed to turn attention from analysis to solutions. They support and better equip parliaments in efforts to put their own houses in order.

**Infographics** are usually in the form of maps to highlight visually a particular theme.

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#Parliaments4thePlanet

# My parliament, my planet!

At the IPU we believe that climate action begins at home. Parliaments and parliamentarians must lead by example before preaching to the people.

That's why we're launching a new campaign called **Parliaments for the Planet** to mobilize parliaments and parliamentarians to act on the climate emergency.

## My parliament!

**Part 1** of the campaign will encourage parliaments and those who work in them to reduce their carbon footprint and become greener.

## My planet!

Overlapping with Part 1 of the campaign, Part 2 will help parliaments step up action through legislation, budgets and, in particular, scrutiny of government measures to implement the Paris Agreement.

Write to [press@ipu.org](mailto:press@ipu.org) and tell us what your parliament is doing for the planet!

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