 **Questionnaire for the IPU Parline Database:**

**Annual activities of parliament in 2022**

## About this questionnaire

In the first quarter of each year the IPU collects factual data from all parliaments on their annual activities during the previous year. This data is published in the [Parline](https://data.ipu.org/) database on national parliaments.

This questionnaire collects data for the year 2022. It contains 14 routine questions about annual activities, such as the number of days the parliament met, the number of laws passed etc.

In addition, parliaments are requested to review, update and complete answers to 22 additional questions pertaining to the parliamentary budget, oversight tools and executive-legislative relations.

This and other data in the Parline database underpins analysis that supports [IPU’s Strategic objectives](https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/about-ipu/2022-01/strategy-2022-2026) and monitoring the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda via SDGs 5.5.1 and 16.7.1.

The questionnaire is available in English, French and Spanish. We expect that the questionnaire should take around 6-8 hours to complete. When completing the questionnaire, we recommend that parliaments:

1. consult past data reported via your parliament’s Parline page
2. consult [FAQs](https://www.ipu.org/file/12805/download) which provide guidance and real examples of answers
3. consult [model questionnaires](https://data.ipu.org/content/questionnaires)
4. contact parline@ipu.org for any further clarifications

Parliaments are kindly requested to complete the questionnaire by **24 May 2023**. The preferred method is to complete the questionnaire [online here](https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/90443876/Annual-Activities-of-parliament-in-2022). Alternatively, parliaments may complete the questionnaire in Word and return it to parline@ipu.org.

This questionnaire has been sent to the [Parline Correspondent](https://data.ipu.org/content/parliaments) in each parliament, with copy to the parliament’s IPU Group. Parliaments that have not yet designated a Parline Correspondent are requested to do so at the earliest opportunity.

More information about Parline Correspondents is available at <https://data.ipu.org/content/parliaments> along with a [‘Checklist’](https://www.ipu.org/file/9127/download) of what Parline updates should be reported and when, as well as [Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)](https://www.ipu.org/file/12805/download) pertaining to this questionnaire and others.

## Notes

Questions 1-8, 15-25 & 30-34 are applicable to the entire parliament, whether unicameral or bicameral. For others, space is provided to report data for each chamber of a bicameral parliament.

Please provide data for the calendar year (1 January to 31 December), whenever possible. If it is not possible to provide data for the calendar year, please specify the reference period (for example, 1 April to 31 March) in the Notes field at the end of the questionnaire. Any other supporting information can also be provided in this Notes field. If the supporting information refers to a specific question, please indicate the question number.

## About Parline

[Parline](https://data.ipu.org/) a unique and free source of comprehensive, accurate and up-to-date reference information on parliaments around the world. IPU depends on parliaments to regularly supply information and updates to ensure shared responsibility for Parline and the integrity of the data it houses. It provides parliaments, academics, students, international organizations, the media and many other database users with a comparative perspective on the composition and working methods of parliaments. Data is frequently used for research, correspondence, and briefing purposes. It is the official source of data for SDG indicators 5.5.1 and 16.7.1(a).

**For more information about Parline, please visit the “**[**About**](https://data.ipu.org/content/about-open-data-platform)**” page or contact Ms. Addie Erwin at** **parline@ipu.org**.

## Identification

## Country:

**Date:**

*Please provide contact details for the person that we can contact for further details or clarifications.*

**Name:**

**Job title:**

**E-mail:**

**Telephone:**

**Are you the** [**Parline Correspondent**](https://data.ipu.org/content/parliaments) **for your parliament/chamber?** [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

## Questions – for each of the following, in 2022:

1. **Were there any amendments to the Constitution or the electoral law affecting the structure of your parliament?**

 [ ]  Yes [ ]  No

*If* ***yes****, please provide details (e.g. structural changes, name change for chamber, date change(s) took place etc.)*

1. **Were there any amendments to the Constitution or the electoral law affecting the statutory number of members in your parliament?**

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No

*If* ***yes****, please provide details (e.g. previous number of members, new number of members, date change(s) took place etc.)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. **How many laws were adopted by Parliament?**

*Please briefly explain what types of laws are included in your response.* |  |
| 1. **How many times did the Head of State decline to give assent to legislation passed by Parliament?**

[ ] *If the Head of State cannot decline to give assent to legislation, please check this box and move on to question 5.* | **No. of times:****Source[[1]](#footnote-1):** |
| 1. **Consequences when the Head of State declines to give assent to legislation:**
 | [ ] Not applicable[ ] No further action is taken[ ] The legislation is rejected[ ] The legislation is returned to Parliament for re-examination[ ] The legislation is referred to the Constitutional/Supreme Court[ ] The legislation is put to a referendum[ ] Other (please specify): |
| 1. **How many times did the Executive use a procedure to introduce emergency legislation[[2]](#footnote-2) into Parliament?**

[ ]  *If there is no procedure for introducing emergency legislation, please check this box and move on to the next question.* | **No. of times:****Source:** |
| 1. **What was the State budget?**

*Reference date: 31 December of that year.**Please indicate the currency.* | **Currency:****Budget:** |

1. **What was Parliament's budget?**

*Please provide an overall figure for the Parliament. For bicameral parliaments: where applicable, please also provide the budget for the lower and upper chambers.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Parliament[[3]](#footnote-3) | Lower chamber | Upper chamber |
|  |  |  |

1. **How many staff[[4]](#footnote-4) were employed by parliament?**

*Please provide the number of full time equivalent (FTE) Secretariat staff and an overall figure for the Parliament. For bicameral parliaments: where applicable, please also provide the number of staff employed by the lower and upper chambers.*

*Reference date: 31 December of that year*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Parliament | Lower chamber | Upper chamber |
|  |  |  |

1. **How many written questions were submitted to and answered by the Executive?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber | Upper chamber |
| Submitted |  |  |
| Answered |  |  |

1. **How many parliamentary inquiries[[5]](#footnote-5) were carried out?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber | Upper chamber |
| **Number:****Source:**[ ] *If the chamber does not have the power to carry out parliamentary inquiries, please check this box*  | **Number:****Source:**[ ] *If the chamber does not have the power to carry out parliamentary inquiries, please check this box* |

1. **On what date did the Executive submit the draft budget to Parliament, and on what date did Parliament adopt the budget?**

*Please use the date format DD/MM/YYYY.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber | Upper chamber |
| Submitted |  |  |
| Adopted |  |  |

1. **How many days did parliament meet in plenary[[6]](#footnote-6)?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber | Upper chamber |
|  |  |

1. **How many parliamentary groups[[7]](#footnote-7) were there?** *Reference date: 31 December of that year*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber | Upper chamber |
|  |  |

1. **What was the basic annual salary of parliamentarians?**

*Please provide the gross basic annual salary (before tax), not including allowances.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber | Upper chamber |
|  |  |

**Parliamentary oversight, budget, and Executive-legislative relations**

|  |
| --- |
| *IPU collected data for questions 15-36 below from some parliaments in 2013-2014.**Data for these questions can be found in* [*Parline*](https://data.ipu.org/) *in the following sections:**- Law-making, Oversight and Budget >> Q15-29 & 35-36**- Administration >> Q30-34****If your parliament has not yet provided answers to these questions****, you will not see data corresponding to these questions in Parline for your parliament.** *Please complete questions 15-36 below.*

***If your parliament has already provided answers to these questions****, you will be able to see data in Parline for your parliament for these questions.* * *Please review existing data and check one of the below boxes:*

[ ]  *The data in Parline is correct and no changes are required*[ ]  *Corrections and updates to the data in Parline are indicated below* |

**Law-making: Legislative activity & Executive-Legislative Relations**

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **What is the outcome when there is a disagreement between two chambers on a piece of draft legislation?**

*Please select only one response.* |
| [ ]  The legislation cannot be adopted unless both chambers agree[ ]  The decision of the lower chamber will take effect after a certain deadline[ ]  The decision of the upper chamber will take effect after a certain deadline[ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Other (please specify): | ***Source / Notes:*** |
| 1. **Who has authority to take the final decision when there is no agreement between Parliament and the Head of State on a piece of legislation?**

*Please select only one response.* |
| [ ]  Parliament[ ]  Head of State[ ]  Constitutional/Supreme Court[ ]  Not applicable[ ]  Other (please specify): | ***Source / Notes:*** |

**Oversight: Head of State and/or Government**

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **What is Parliament’s role in the designation of the Head of Government?**

*Please select only one response.* |
| [ ]  Parliament elects the Head of Government[ ]  Parliament approves a nomination for the Head of Government[ ]  Parliament does not play a role[ ]  Other (please specify): | ***Source / Notes:*** |
| 1. **Is the Head of Government also the Head of State?** [ ]  Yes [ ]  No
 |
| 1. **If no, what is Parliament’s role in the designation of the Head of State?**

*Please select only one response.* |
| [ ]  Parliament elects the Head of State[ ]  Parliament does not play a role[ ]  Other (please specify): | ***Source / Notes:*** |

**Oversight tools & Impeachment and confidence motions**

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Is there a procedure for Parliament to dismiss (impeach) the following persons?**

*Dismissal (or impeachment) is a process that is used to charge, try, and remove public officials in the Executive branch for misconduct while in office.* *Please select all that can apply.* |
| [ ]  Not applicable (there is no procedure)[ ]  The whole Government[ ]  The Head of Government[ ]  The Head of State[ ]  Individual members of the Executive[ ]  Other (please specify): | ***Source / Notes:*** |
| 1. ***For bicameral parliaments:* Which chambers play a role in the impeachment procedure?**

*Please select all that can apply.*  |
| [ ]  Lower chamber[ ]  Upper chamber[ ]  Not applicable | ***Source / Notes:*** |
| 1. **Is there a procedure for parliament to express no confidence (or confidence) in the following persons/institution(s)?**

*Please select all that can apply.* |
|  [ ]  Not applicable (there is no procedure) [ ]  The whole Government [ ]  The Head of Government [ ]  Individual members of the Executive [ ]  Other (please specify): | ***Source / Notes:*** |
| 1. ***For bicameral parliaments:* Which chambers play a role in motions of no confidence?**

*Please select all that can apply.* |
| [ ]  Lower chamber[ ]  Upper chamber[ ]  Not applicable | ***Source / Notes:*** |
| 1. **Does the adoption of a motion of no-confidence in the Government automatically lead to the dissolution of Parliament?**

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No [ ]  Not applicable |
| 1. ***For bicameral parliaments:* Which chambers can be dissolved?**

 *Please select all that can apply.* |
| [ ]  Lower chamber[ ]  Upper chamber[ ]  Not applicable | ***Source / Notes:*** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber | Upper chamber |
| 1. **Does Parliament have the power to summon members of the Executive?**
 | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No |
| ***Source:*** |
| 1. **Does Parliament have the power to summon senior government officials?**
 | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No |
| ***Source:*** |
| Does Parliament have the power to approve key government appointments? *For example, ambassadors or the head of the central bank* | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No |
| ***Source:*** |
| If yes, approximately how many key government appointments are subject to parliamentary approval? | No. of appointments: [ ]  Not Applicable - Parliament/chamber does not have the power to approve key government appointments | No. of appointments: [ ]  Not Applicable - Parliament/chamber does not have the power to approve key government appointments |

 *For bicameral parliaments, please provide an answer for each chamber for questions 26-29.*

|  |
| --- |
| **Budget** |
| What powers does the parliament have to amend the budget proposed by the Executive?*Please select only one response.* | [ ]  Parliament has unrestricted powers to amend the budget[ ]  Parliament may modify the total deficit/surplus proposed by the Executive but the latter needs to agree to these amendments[ ]  Parliament may make amendments but only if it does not change the total deficit/surplus proposed by the Executive[ ]  Parliament may only decrease existing expenditures/revenues (i.e. Parliament cannot increase existing items or create new ones)[ ]  Parliament may not make any changes; it can only approve or reject the budget as a whole[ ]  Other (please specify):  |
| ***Source / Notes:***  |
| 1. **Does the parliamentary have a specialized unit to conduct budgetary analysis?**

*For example, a Parliamentary Budget Office* | [ ]  Yes [ ]  No |
| 1. ***If yes,* how many staff work for the specialized budget unit?**

*Please provide the number of full-time equivalent positions* | No. of staff: |
| **Parliamentary budget** |
| Which legal document(s) specify Parliament’s power over its budget?*Please select all that can apply.* | [ ]  Constitution[ ]  Standing Orders of the Parliament[ ]  Other (please specify): |
| Who is responsible for preparing the proposal for the parliamentary budget? *Please select only one response.* | [ ]  Parliament[ ]  The Executive[ ]  Parliament and the Executive together[ ]  Other (please specify): |
| How is the maximum amount of the parliamentary budget decided? *Please select only one response.* | [ ]  Parliament decides the maximum amount of the budget [ ]  The amount of the budget is agreed between Parliament and the Executive [ ]  The Executive decides the maximum amount of the budget [ ]  Other (please specify): |
| How is the allocation of the parliamentary budget decided?*Please select only one response.* | [ ]  Parliament decides how to allocate the budget[ ]  The Executive can request Parliament to modify the budget allocation[ ]  The Executive can require Parliament to modify the budget allocation[ ]  The Executive decides how to allocate the budget[ ]  Other (please specify):  |
| Which offices/institutions are included in the parliamentary budget? *Please select all that apply.* | [ ]  Ombudsman[ ]  Supreme Audit Institution/National Audit Office[ ]  National Budget Office[ ]  National Library[ ]  Other institutions (please specify): |

**Notes**

*Please provide any supporting information that is relevant to the answers provided.*

*Where appropriate, please specify the number of the question to which the note applies.*

1. ‘Source’, for all questions where it is asked, provides a reference, for example, Article 65, Rules of Procedure, or Article 99(2) of the Constitution. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The procedure may also be referred to differently depending on the parliament, for e.g., urgent proceedings. In general, this is a formalized procedure that involves speeding up the passage of legislation by circumventing normal processes. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. In absence of a figure being provided for a parliamentary budget for bicameral parliaments, a sum of figures provided for the lower and upper chamber will be input into Parline. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. This question aims to understand the human resources available to a parliament (i.e. total secretariat) thus should be an overall figure for the parliament, not including MPs or personal staff employed by the MP. The total should reflect full-time staff, thus any part-time staff should be included based on the time they work (e.g. calculated as 50% = .5, 80% = .75, full-time = 1). Both permanent and contracted staff may be included. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The aims and objectives of parliamentary inquiries cover a large spectrum: from a general examination of an issue of public interest to an investigative inquiry into a specific topic, the results of which may have penal implications. See page 39 of IPU (2007) “Tools for Parliamentary Oversight” which further describes parliamentary inquiries, <http://archive.ipu.org/PDF/publications/oversight08-e.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. This may include virtual sessions. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Parliamentary groups are the primary means by which political parties organize themselves in parliament. They may also be known as “party groups”, “coalitions”, “caucuses” or “factions”. They are different from all-party groups on specific issues, or inter-parliamentary friendship groups (which should not be included in the total). Only recognized groups and those that meet parliamentary rules should be included. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)