



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



Video message by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General

Self-Assessment on Human Rights and Gender Sensitivity of the State Great Hural of Mongolia

22 November 2023

Dear Chairman of the State Great Hural,
Dear members of parliament,
Dear members of the National Human Rights Commission,
Dear participants,

I wish to extend a warm welcome to all of you. I wish to thank the State Great Hural of Mongolia for their collaboration in organizing this self-assessment on human rights and gender sensitivity of the Mongolian Parliament.

The Memorandum of Understanding which was signed in August 2022 between our two institutions underscores the important values and commitments we share towards building stronger and democratic parliaments, protecting human rights and achieving gender equality.

We have already started the effective implementation of that Memorandum in November 2022 with the organisation of a successful workshop on the Belgrade Principles, which identified the ways in which the State Great Hural and the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia can further improve their cooperation.

In line with the activities set out in the MoU, you are joined by my colleagues today to carry out a human rights and gender self-assessment exercise. Now, why is this exercise crucial for parliaments and their members?

A self-assessment is a unique opportunity for parliaments to identify good practices, gaps and lessons learned to enable them to chart a course of action to ensure better awareness of in this case human rights and gender equality, and promote them in all areas of their work. This internal reflection exercise aims to empower parliaments in assessing whether they are gender-sensitive and the extent to which international human rights norms and mechanisms are fully known inside parliament and are integrated into parliamentary processes, procedures and structures. The intention of a self-assessment is not to rank parliaments, but rather to help them identify their strengths and weaknesses in order to determine priorities for reforming and further strengthening the institution.

As you probably know, the gender self-assessment toolkit was designed by the IPU to support its Members in implementing the Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments unanimously adopted in October 2012 at the 127th IPU Assembly.

The gender toolkit has already been used by several parliaments worldwide to promote women's full participation in parliament, equality between its men and women members and staff, and gender responsive parliamentary structures, policies and processes. Last year, as we marked the 10-year anniversary of the Plan of Action, IPU Members adopted a new Declaration at the 145th Assembly in Kigali, renewing their commitment to do such self-assessments and adopt strong measures – ranging from promoting gender parity in parliament to adopting zero tolerance policies towards sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament.

The toolkit on Parliaments and Human Rights, is a recent publication, which was launched at the 147th IPU Assembly last October in Luanda, Angola. The IPU commends the State Great Hural for being the first Parliament to undertake this human rights self-assessment.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Parliaments embody the fundamental rights of all persons to decide about their future and participate in the conduct of the country's public affairs. Parliamentary action – be it the adoption of laws, allocation of resources, or oversight of government action – is critical in helping to ensure better promotion and respect for human rights at the national level. Similarly, by thoroughly reviewing its structures, operations, methods of work, parliaments ensure they respond to the needs and interest of both men and women.

What do we hope to achieve with this self-assessment? Let me mention two concrete outcomes.

First, we hope that it will lead to an enhanced capacity within parliament to promote and ensure human rights, and to embody and advance gender equality through its work.

Second, it is our hope that during these two days you will identify priorities, and then develop an action plan and monitor its implementation.

By doing this self-assessment, the State Great Hural will join others having done similar assessments and inspire yet more parliaments to follow suit. More importantly, your Parliament will serve as a model to other institutions in Mongolia.

The conclusions and recommendations from your discussions will constitute a valuable legacy and a roadmap to the next legislature.

I look forward to hearing about the conclusions of the self-assessment and having you showcase it at the upcoming IPU Assembly in March 2024. You can count on IPU's full support to implementing the action plan that will result from these two days.

I wish you a very successful meeting.

Thank you.