



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

# Impact Report 2017-2021



# 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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# 5 YEARS OF IMPACT IN FIGURES

2021 compared with 2017

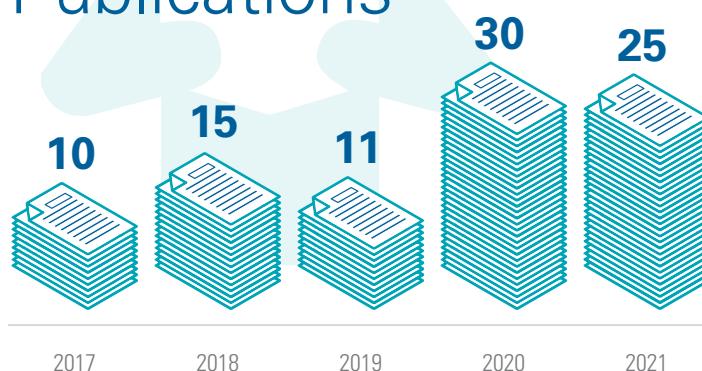
## Offices worldwide

2 in 2017

**3 in 2021**

(Geneva, Vienna, New York)

## Publications



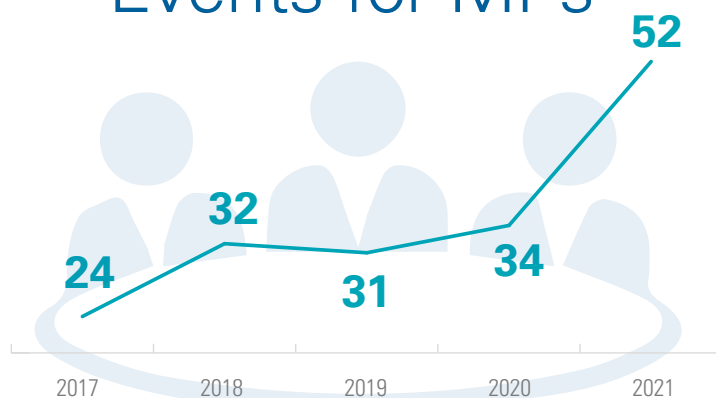
## Membership

171 parliaments in 2017

**178 in 2021**

**+7**

## Events for MPs



A light blue rounded rectangle with a small circle in the top right corner, resembling a browser window.

## Website

65,000 visitors in 2017

**380,000 in 2021**

A light blue silhouette of a bird in flight, representing the Twitter logo.

## Twitter

5,000 followers in 2017

**33,000 in 2021**

A series of concentric orange arcs, resembling a stylized globe or a fan of pages.

## IPU Assemblies

Number of women MPs

**+8%**

31% in 2017

**39% in 2021**

Number of young MPs

**+6%**

19% in 2018

**25% in 2021**

A light blue silhouette of a hand with fingers spread, representing human rights.

## MP human rights cases at the IPU

507 MPs in 2017

**673 in 2021**



# 2017-2021: Five years of IPU Impact



IPU Secretary General Martin Chungong  
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In 2017, as we set out on a new strategic cycle, our objective was “the advancement of democratic values, the rule of law and strong, representative institutions, and the promotion of gender equality and human rights.” Five years on, what impact have we had? What difference has the IPU made? And can we claim to have had a lasting and positive impact on people’s lives?

This report describes some of our most significant results in the eight strategic objectives set by the IPU’s Member Parliaments five years ago.

Despite setbacks for democracy in many countries, we remained steadfast in our mission to **build strong, democratic parliaments**.

The COVID-19 pandemic was an opportunity to confirm our role as the global link between national parliaments, facilitating knowledge exchange on digital innovations to help them keep functioning during lockdowns. Over 100 parliaments contributed to our campaign ‘[Parliaments in a time of pandemic](#)’.

One silver lining of the pandemic has been the acceleration of the IPU’s digital transformation, enabling us to fast forward significant investments in IT and improved technology for virtual meetings. These investments helped us organize the online election of the IPU President, Duarte Pacheco, in November 2020, a first in digital democracy at the IPU and possibly the world.

Our work to **advance gender equality and respect for women’s rights** also intensified in the past strategic cycle. The IPU has undoubtedly contributed to a steady increase in the number of women MPs in the world, from 23.4% in 2017 to close to 26% at the end of 2021, as we encourage parliaments to become more inclusive and gender sensitive.

Indeed, our data on the proportion of women in political leadership have become the global reference, frequently cited in top-tier media outlets, academic publications and used as the official reference indicator by the United Nations for Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality.

IPU data also shone a light for the first time on the shocking levels of violence against women in parliaments with ground-breaking pieces of research covering the world, as well as focusing on Europe and Africa. The IPU also offered solutions to eliminate sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament, which many Members are now starting to put in place.

Attacks against MPs, both women and men, has become a growing phenomenon tracked by the IPU Committee on the **Human Rights** of Parliamentarians. Year on year, this unique global committee has taken multiple actions to defend hundreds of MPs in danger –947 parliamentarians from 51 countries between 2017 and 2021, a figure which is probably just the tip of the iceberg.

The Committee has recorded many success stories with its interventions helping to resolve human rights violations suffered by MPs in Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq and Malaysia.

The founding IPU values of dialogue for **peace-building, conflict prevention and security** are as relevant today as they were 133 years ago when the IPU was born. Over the past five years, we organized numerous mediation talks, including between parliamentarians from opposite sides of the Korean peninsula, the two communities in Cyprus and in the Middle East.

We also helped Members develop parliamentary strategies for comprehensive disarmament as well as for countering terrorism and violent extremism.

As the global organization of national parliaments, we were able to rally parliamentarians from all over the world to our in-person or online meetings, fulfilling our long-standing role to promote **inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation**.

Over the past five years, we have brought together thousands of MPs from around the world to take action on the issues of the day at our Assemblies in Dhaka, St. Petersburg, Geneva, Doha, Belgrade, online and in Madrid. The pandemic in 2020 did not prevent us from organizing a virtual segment of the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, followed by an in-person segment in Vienna 2021, the first global summit to be held since the beginning of the health crisis.

IPU meetings saw a notable increase in the participation of young MPs – from 19% in 2017 to 25% in 2021, as we put in place incentives to encourage younger delegations.

In 2020, we marked the ten-year anniversary of the IPU resolution on **youth participation** in parliaments. Over the decade, we have helped parliaments lower the age of eligibility, introduce youth quotas and establish new parliamentary structures for youth.

However, the number of young MPs under 30 remains low at just 2.6% of MPs. To help improve this, we launched a new communications campaign in 2020: [I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!](#) In just a few months, hundreds of global leaders signed up to the campaign, pledging to take action to rejuvenate their parliaments. Next steps are to follow up on these pledges.

The past five years have also seen a marked increase in our action to **mobilize parliaments around the global development agenda**, including climate change and health.

As more parliaments engage with the Sustainable Development Goals, the IPU has helped them build up their knowledge and skills. For example, [Parliaments and the Sustainable Development Goals – a self-assessment toolkit](#), an IPU publication produced with the United Nations Development Programme, is now available in 15 languages, proving its usefulness.

Finally, another example of how the IPU has influenced parliaments in the global development agenda is its work to engage parliaments in United Nations processes, and vice versa, to **bridge the democracy gap in international relations**.

We have witnessed a steady increase in the number of parliaments reviewing national progress on the Sustainable Development Goals as part of the United Nations voluntary national review process - from under 25% of Members polled in 2016 to over 55% in 2020.

As we close this chapter and start implementing the next IPU Strategy 2022-2026, we will continue to be guided by our Members to build stronger and more resilient parliamentary ecosystems, with parliaments as the centerpiece, for democracy, for everyone.

The work of the IPU's Centre for Innovation in Parliament and the forthcoming Global Parliamentary Report on Public engagement in the work of parliament are good examples of how the IPU will embrace resilience and adaptability in its next agenda.



Martin Chungong  
Secretary General



# OBJECTIVE 1

## Build strong, democratic parliaments

The last five years, and particularly 2021, have seen major assaults on democracy in many parts of the world. These upheavals are often a result of wider historical or political factors, but they highlight the fact that democracy is a work in progress and needs constant support to thrive.

The IPU's Strategy for 2017-2021 has focused on strengthening the core legislative, oversight, budgetary and representative functions of parliaments by collecting and disseminating data, providing technical assistance, and fostering opportunities for peer networking. By strengthening these core functions, the IPU enables parliaments to become stronger democratic institutions to help meet the aspirations of the people.





## Our impact between 2017-2021

### Parliaments innovate in response to COVID-19

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, parliaments were forced to find new ways of working. Building on its network of contacts, the IPU has helped parliaments to share knowledge and experience of remote working, enabling parliaments to keep operating despite the pandemic. Since March 2020, more than 100 parliaments have participated in this knowledge exchange.

## Bolstering core parliamentary functions

One of the key areas of support in the past five years has been to legislation and oversight, including budget oversight. The IPU has built parliamentary capacity for these functions in Benin, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, the Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sierra Leone and Tunisia.

In Benin, the IPU helped MPs – and staff – to draft legislation, including by working more effectively together. In the Maldives, parliamentary staff learned to identify daily tasks and how better to support legislative drafting. In Sierra Leone, an IPU-supported workshop helped MPs to better understand their new budget approval process. MPs and staff in Chad also honed their skills in legislative drafting as well as public policy oversight, highlighting the importance of collaboration and trust.

In Djibouti, the IPU helped create a standing parliamentary committee on human rights, as well as a caucus of women parliamentarians. IPU support strengthened representation, oversight and legislative work by Djibouti's National Assembly, which adopted a new law on violence against women in 2020.

*"Indeed, the seminar that the IPU organized for our benefit enabled us to be more than ready to welcome the members of the Transitional National Council, Chad's new legislative body. The members of the new chamber told us they were bowled over by how well-organized we were."*

Senior staff, parliament of Chad (2021)

## Putting parliaments in the driving seat

Self-assessments are important first steps to strengthening parliamentary capacity. The IPU supported self-assessments, using an IPU suite of toolkits, with the national parliaments of Djibouti, Georgia, Myanmar and Zambia. Zambia's self-assessment led to further collaboration with the IPU in 2020 and 2021.

From 2012 until Myanmar's military coup in February 2021, the IPU had also been providing long-term assistance to the country's national parliament, including the establishment of an international-standard parliamentary learning centre and related technical assistance. The centre was used to build capacity for more than 800 MPs and 2,000 parliamentary staff.

*"Support provided by the IPU over many years is standing the test of time and being used even now (since the coup)."*

Chair, Committee Representing the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (parliament of Myanmar), (2021)

## Setting standards to strengthen parliaments

By referring to "effective, accountable and inclusive institutions," Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) highlights the importance of parliaments for development. The IPU worked with Member Parliaments during this period to

Olaf Scholz is applauded by MPs after he was elected as Germany's new Chancellor during a session at the Bundestag in Berlin in December 2021. © Ina Fassbender/AFP

139

parliaments  
have endorsed the  
Common Principles



Seminar on the role of parliaments in peace processes, held in February 2020 in Myanmar as part of the IPU's long-standing work in strengthening the Myanmar Parliament. © IPU Myanmar

identify standards, guidelines and good practices that will help them to operationalize the 2030 Agenda.

The 2017 IPU-UNDP Global Parliamentary Report, for example, made 26 recommendations for strengthened parliamentary oversight. In 2018 and 2020, the World e-Parliament Reports tracked baseline data on parliaments' use of technology, including their engagement with citizens. Since late 2019, a new IPU initiative has been helping parliaments to measure themselves against the 2030 Agenda targets.

These standards, guidelines and good practices are expected to have long-term impact, since stakeholders, including civil society, can also use them to advocate for change.

### Producing data to support change

The IPU's Parline database is the global standard for data on national parliaments. In 2021, more than 450,000 users consulted Parline, and its data has been referenced by the OECD, UN and the World Bank.

The data is often used as evidence to advocate for change. For example, IPU data shows the continued imbalance between men and women in legislatures, including leadership positions on parliamentary committees. Whereas women chaired 69 per cent of committees on gender equality in 2020, they chaired just 17 per cent of committees on finance, defence and foreign affairs. We are still far from gender parity in parliamentary leadership positions.

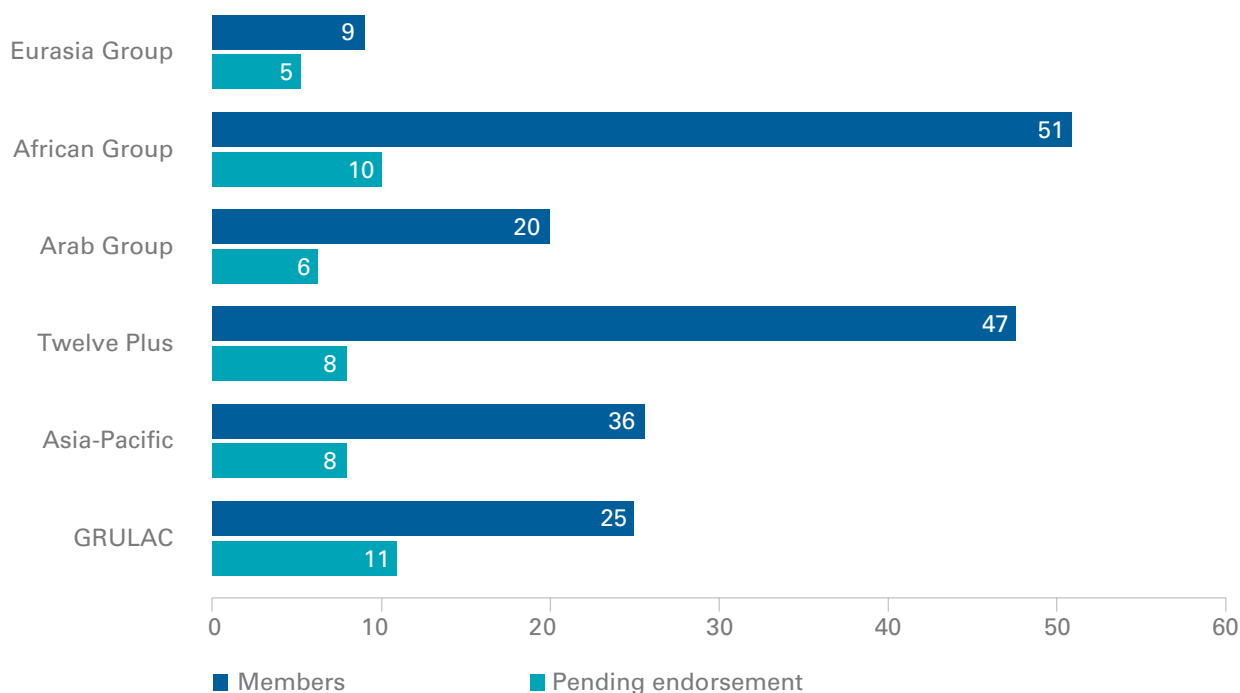
### Using ICT more effectively in Parliament

Information and communications technology (ICT) helps parliaments to operate more effectively. Throughout this strategy period, the IPU provided ICT support, such as training, resources and advice to the parliaments of Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Zambia.

The IPU also facilitated south-south and peer-to-peer knowledge sharing between New Zealand, Vanuatu and Tuvalu. In Tuvalu, the parliament now has an ICT action plan, including a set of short- and long-term milestones. Vanuatu's parliament has a new data storage system, allowing it to digitalize and store parliamentary documents.

### Facilitating learning between parliaments

In 2020, the IPU began to develop an online learning initiative, covering topics such as gender equality, human rights, sustainable development and climate change. The pilot of this initiative was launched with the National Assembly of Zambia in late 2021.



## Promoting the Common Principles for Support to Parliaments

The Common Principles are now the most widely accepted framework for parliamentary development, providing a common language and set of values to frame parliamentary support. Since 2016, the IPU has hosted three expert roundtables to share good practice and facilitate their application. In 2020, the IPU launched a guide, *Putting parliamentary self-development into practice*.

By the end of 2021, some 139 national parliaments had endorsed the Common Principles, together with 27 parliamentary assemblies and partner organizations.

## Case study

### Virtual World e-Parliament Conference 2021

In 2021, the IPU organized an online World e-Parliament Conference, bringing together 650 participants from 119 countries. Held 15 months after the global pandemic began, the Conference was an important opportunity to exchange good practices and take stock of the rapid changes in parliamentary working methods. Discussions focused on the digital transformation, relations with citizens, open data, cloud computing and artificial intelligence.

#### Participant feedback

*"I am a technology auditor within Parliament and the Conference assisted me to identify areas of best practice that my Parliament could adopt and customize. When making recommendations to management, I will use some of the Conference material."*

*"Excellent space to exchange experiences and to implement in our realities everything that has worked in other latitudes."*





## OBJECTIVE 2

# Advance gender equality and respect for women's rights

In the five-year period 2017-2021, the proportion of women parliamentarians grew slowly from 23.4 per cent to 26 per cent. The IPU supported parliaments to become more inclusive, have more women in their chambers, become more gender-sensitive and be better able to drive the gender equality agenda. It tracked progress in women's participation in parliament, made strong calls for parity, promoted legal reform, broke new ground with its campaigns to eliminate sexual violence and continued to share its data with advocates of reform.

COVID-19 threatened – or even reversed in some cases – some hard-won advances on women's empowerment and the fight against gender-based violence. However, the 25-year anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was an important opportunity to raise awareness on this vital issue.

Many parliaments developed good practices on gender-responsive legislation, including the introduction of gender quotas. They have also benefitted from IPU knowledge-sharing platforms.





## Our impact 2017-2021

### Eliminating violence against women in parliament

IPU data shone a light on the levels of violence against women in parliament, a previously unexplored field of research. The IPU also offered solutions to help parliaments reduce violence against women MPs and parliamentary staff. Many parliaments have since put in place more stringent policies.

## Using data to advocate for parity

IPU data and research on women's participation in parliament has enabled monitoring of progress and setbacks on gender parity in parliaments. Indicator 5.5.1 of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, which is the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments, draws on the IPU's data.

The IPU also called for more efforts to reach gender parity in political leadership by 2030. Besides advocacy and support for legal reform, we provided examples of good practices through our publications. Between 2017 and 2021, our annual report on Women in Parliament highlighted good practice and legal efforts towards parity. In 2020, a special edition analysed the 25 years since the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

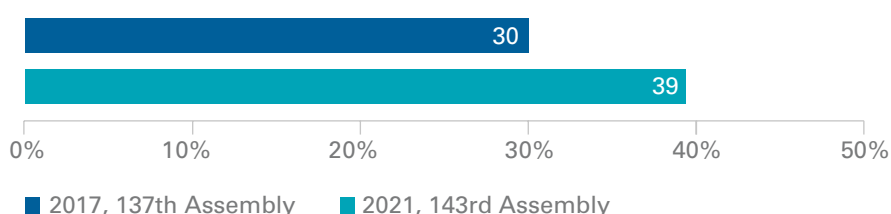
Meanwhile, in partnership with UN Women, our maps on Women in Politics, illustrating the levels of women's participation in political leadership, helped us to advocate for change. We also published reports in 2016, 2018 and 2021 on sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament, revealing the huge barriers to women's participation in politics. Our 2019 guidelines on preventing sexism also provided solutions that were taken on board by many parliaments.

Since 2020, we have been part of the Generation Equality Forum, in which we advocate for parity and the participation of young women in politics. Generation Equality and the UN's Commission on the Status of Women are both committed to the goal of gender parity.

Sustained collaboration with multiple parliaments led to constitutional or legislative amendments and the adoption, improvement and enhanced implementation of robust quota laws, including in: Benin, Djibouti, Egypt, Georgia, Mali and Serbia. Our advocacy has also led to changes in countries such as Micronesia and Qatar.

Practising what we preach, the IPU amended its Assembly Rules, strengthening sanctions on single-sex delegations. The new Rules have had an impact, since over 39 per cent of delegates at the November 2021 IPU Assembly were women, compared with an average of 30 per cent in 2017. Such proactive gender mainstreaming practices set an example for other organizations.

### Women at IPU Assemblies: progression from 2017 to 2021



**39%**

of delegates  
were women at the  
143<sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly.

### Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Africa, Europe and the world

**Table 1 – Extent and nature of violence:**

Prevalence of the different forms of violence experienced by the women parliamentarians interviewed

	Africa (2021)	Europe (2018)	World (2016)
Psychological violence	80%	85%	82%
Sexual violence	39%	25%	22%
Physical violence	23%	15%	25%
Economic violence	29%	14%	33%

246 women take part in a session at the Swiss Parliament organized by "alliance F", a non-political organization of Swiss women, in October 2021. This number is symbolic as it corresponds to the total number of Swiss MPs. © Fabrice Coffrini/AFP



Launch of the IPU/APU study on *Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Africa* during the 143<sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly in Madrid. ©IPU/Spanish Parliament

## Self-assessing gender-sensitivity

Between 2017 and 2021, we supported five parliaments in self-assessing their gender-sensitivity, a first step on the path to reform.

In Georgia, the self-assessment led to a debate on how the parliament could change the law to increase women's parliamentary participation and prevent sexual harassment. Namibia's self-assessment showed the prominence of women in senior parliamentary positions and led to the creation of a group of women parliamentarians from both the parliamentary houses. In the United Kingdom, a gender-sensitivity audit raised awareness of violence against women in parliament.

Colombia's parliament took immediate action to improve the working environment for women, including a campaign, *Congreso En Igualdad*, to sensitize MPs and the general public on representative equality. In Serbia, the Parliament has amended the electoral laws to introduce a quota, requiring at least 40 per cent of electoral candidates for parliamentary and local elections to be women.

Between 2017 and 2021, the number of caucuses of women parliamentarians grew from 81 to 112, an increase of 38 per cent. In the past five years, the IPU has supported such caucuses in Djibouti, Mauritania, Namibia, Serbia, Sierra Leone and Tanzania.

*"A gender-sensitive parliament [...] plays a relevant role in correcting inequalities and facilitating equal participation of men and women. The IPU's work to define gender-sensitive parliaments is particularly valuable."*

Claudia Mix  
Member of the Chamber of Deputies (Chile)  
IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians, November 2021

## Combatting discrimination and violence against women

We continued and expanded our partnership with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), connecting the Committee with parliaments. We also called on parliaments to mainstream the CEDAW Convention into their national laws and oversee the elimination of gender-based discrimination.

Between 2017 and 2021, we organized 13 gender equality workshops for parliamentarians in Benin, Colombia, Djibouti, Georgia, Kenya, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

IPU support also enabled new legislation on violence against women in several countries. In Romania, MPs proposed an amendment to the Penal Code, eliminating the possibility for aggressors to be exempt from criminal responsibility when a victim's complaint is withdrawn. A working group of MPs and civil society representatives reviewed the law on domestic

violence to ensure conformity with obligations under the Istanbul Convention.

In Mauritania, the IPU helped the women's parliamentary caucus to enhance the capacities of its members to advocate for legislation on gender-based violence and reproductive health. Subsequently, the caucus succeeded in including the criminalization of sexual violence and female genital mutilation in both bills.

Georgia's parliament adopted anti-harassment legislation after their 2018 self-assessment, supported by the IPU. In Djibouti, the IPU's technical assistance led to new legislation on gender-based violence. And in Sierra Leone, the parliament took steps to eliminate female genital mutilation, after the IPU helped build technical capacity and political support. A parliamentary caucus was established and is now driving parliamentary action on the issue with continued support from the IPU.

In 2021, we helped parliaments to introduce gender-sensitive responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. The online 2020 and in-person 2021 Summits of Women Speakers of Parliament also showcased good practices in this respect.

## Case study

### Fighting sexism

The IPU Guidelines against sexism and gender-based violence in parliament created momentum and direction that prompted several parliaments to use this resource to develop and implement concrete measures. Between 2019 and 2021, at least 14 parliaments developed new measures to address harassment and violence against women in their own settings: Australia, Denmark, France (National Assembly), Ireland, Japan, Mexico (Senate), New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Uganda, United Kingdom and United States.

Measures include a comprehensive assessment of the situation, policies with complaint and investigation mechanisms, disciplinary sanctions against perpetrators, and the provision of confidential access to assistance for victims. The guidelines have also inspired the model anti-harassment policy of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and of the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie.



## OBJECTIVE 3

### Protect and promote human rights

Parliaments play a critical role in protecting human rights through the translation of international norms and standards into national realities. In the five-year strategy period, 2017-2021, the IPU supported Member Parliaments in carrying out these responsibilities, providing them with information, knowledge and training. Parliaments can only stand up for human rights, however, if they can work without fear of reprisal.

The IPU assisted almost 1000 MPs facing violations of their human rights during this period, an increasing number of them victims of physical attacks and some even assassinated. Most of them are opposition MPs working in difficult political environments.





## Our impact between 2017-2021

947 MPs in danger from 51 countries received direct IPU support

175 Women MPs in danger received direct support

71 Hearings held

7 Fact-finding missions carried out

58 Cases resolved satisfactorily

11 Trial observations conducted

228 Decisions adopted

## Protecting the human rights of MPs

Human rights violations against MPs have been increasing since the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (CHRP) was established more than 40 years ago. A unique mechanism to defend MPs' rights, the Committee lobbies national authorities, mobilizes international parliamentary support, conducts on-site visits and sends observers to trials. The Committee follows a case until a satisfactory settlement has been reached in line with international standards.

Over the past five years, the Committee investigated the cases of 947 parliamentarians in 51 countries. Most cases involve undue government pressure on opposition MPs in countries suffering a political crisis. The most common violations of MPs' human rights were undue suspension of parliamentary mandates, lack of fair trial and violations of freedom of expression.

- The case of former Iraqi MP Mohamed Al-Dainy was satisfactorily resolved in 2017. Al-Dainy fled Iraq before being wrongly sentenced to death in 2010 and was jailed upon his return home to undergo a retrial. Seven years later, he was finally cleared of all charges and released under a presidential pardon.
- After years of IPU lobbying, Malaysian MP Anwar Ibrahim was released in 2018, enabling him to return to parliamentary life.
- Also in 2018, the IPU closed its files on the long-standing case of Piedad Cordoba, a Colombian MP, when the Council of State finally revoked her 2010 disbarments, which had prevented her from holding public office.
- In September 2020, after extensive IPU lobbying, four of five MPs were released from prison in Côte d'Ivoire. The five MPs had been arbitrarily detained and held since December 2019.
- In 2020, intervention by the IPU in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) allowed MP Jean-Jacques Mamba to return to his country and work without fear of arrest. He had filed a petition that led to the removal of the First Deputy Speaker, then left the country to avoid detention on politically motivated charges. He was acquitted in March 2021.

*"I thank the IPU and praise its constant and tireless efforts over the years to defend the human rights of DRC parliamentarians, and in particular my case."*

Eugène Diomi Ndongala  
Former MP from the Democratic Republic of the Congo,  
released in March 2019 after intense IPU lobbying

## Parliamentary solidarity

When working on such cases, the IPU mobilizes other parliaments to take action for the individual MP in question. In the past five years, it mobilized 93 such actions.

Malaysian MP Anwar Ibrahim was released in 2018, partly thanks to many years of intense IPU lobbying.  
© Samsul Said/Reuters

947

MPs in danger  
received direct and  
continuous support  
from the IPU.



An IPU human rights mission in January 2020 in Uganda. From left to right: Ali Alaradi, MP (Bahrain), Aleksandra Jerkov, MP (Serbia) from the IPU Committee for the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, with Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu (aka Bobi Wine), David Lewis Rubongoya, Secretary General of the National Unity Platform, and two other members of Bobi Wine's party. © IPU/R. Rodriguez Valencia

- Cambodia's 2018 elections were discussed in Malaysia's Parliament, with several MPs expressing concern about dissolution of the main opposition party and a five-year ban on its members from political participation. MPs requested the Foreign Minister to clarify their government's position.
- In 2021, a Swedish IPU delegation met with the Ambassador of Tanzania to discuss Tundu Lissu, a Tanzanian MP facing multiple threats, and the possibility of an IPU visit to the country for further dialogue on the alleged human rights violations.
- Visiting Iraq in 2018, Ann Clwyd, a British MP and former member of the CHRP, raised the case of former Iraqi MP Ahmed Al-Alwani. She encouraged the Iraqi Parliament and relevant officials to discuss the case directly with the CHRP.
- In 2019, the Danish Parliament mandated MPs to attend the court hearings of Selahattin Demirtas, Figen Yüksekdağ and Leyla Güven from Turkey.
- In September 2020, the European Parliament adopted a new resolution on Philippine Senator Leila De Lima, urging the authorities to drop all charges and set her free.
- In 2021, Tanzania's parliament supported IPU mobilization efforts to protect the human rights of MPs in Myanmar, pledging diplomatic engagement with the relevant ministry.

## Motivating parliaments to promote and protect human rights

To accelerate implementation of human rights at national level, the IPU pursued a two-pronged strategy. First, it persuaded the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to recognize that parliaments play a key role in the promotion and protection of human rights and to engage more closely with them through the IPU and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

### Our impact at key moments

**June 2017** The UN Human Rights Council adopts a resolution in support of stronger engagement with parliaments

**March 2017-June 2019** Four side-events organized during the UN Human Rights Council's sessions to raise awareness about parliamentary action in support of human rights

**June 2018** Major contribution to UN report to UN Human Rights Council on good practices of parliamentary action to promote human rights

**November 2018** UN Human Rights Council's Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, presided over by the IPU Secretary General, adopts key recommendations for further parliamentary engagement.

The IPU also sought to engage parliaments in the work of the UN Human Rights Council and UN human rights treaty bodies. States must report regularly on their human rights work to these UN mechanisms, and parliaments can play a crucial role. They can discuss the national report before submission to the UN, participate in presenting the reports and even debate the UN recommendations when reviews are complete.

Parliaments can also get involved in the examination of their country's human rights record by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The UPR provides an opportunity for UN Member States to declare actions taken to improve human rights in their countries and to fulfil their human rights obligations.

The IPU actively encourages parliamentary involvement. For example, the IPU noted that parliamentarians from Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Qatar, Togo and Uzbekistan participated in the presentation of the national reports as part of the UPR process. The Parliament of Chad adopted a law creating a National Human Rights Commission and the National Assembly of Burkina Faso abolished the death penalty, both of which were recommendations from the UN Human Rights Council.

The IPU also collects information on parliamentary committees dedicated to human rights. Besides sending a strong political message, such committees keep human rights on the agenda, mainstream the issues, and facilitate interactions between parliament and other human rights stakeholders.

Specific focus has been placed on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, especially in West Africa to promote child nutrition and to eradicate child labour and trafficking. Successes include the adoption by Burkina Faso's National Assembly of a national action plan against trafficking and child labour. The IPU supported first steps by Ivorian parliamentarians to create a fully-fledged parliamentary committee on human rights.

The IPU also joined forces with the Kailash Satyarthi Foundation for Children to combat child labour and promote a fair share for children. Actions include raising awareness and capacity-building in the regions most impacted.

*"The meetings organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union are a real platform for sharing experiences. They provide us with the missing piece in the puzzle of the ongoing fight for human rights. We call for them to be held regularly."*

**Kouassi Koffi Kra Paulin**  
MP, Chair of the IPU Group,  
Parliament of Côte d'Ivoire

## More impact

**875** MPs attend IPU seminars on human rights

**434** Written appeals sent to parliaments to help implement human rights recommendations

**40** MPs participating in national delegations to the UN Universal Periodic Review

**134** Parliaments that have set up dedicated human rights committees

## Case study

### Burkina Faso

In line with the UPR recommendations, in May 2018, the National Assembly of Burkina Faso abolished the death penalty. It also adopted, in March 2021, a new law designating the National Human Rights Commission to function as the country's National Prevention Mechanism against Torture.

## Enhanced institutional cooperation to mobilize parliaments on human rights

Throughout the IPU's work on human rights, partnerships have provided fresh energy, ideas and networks. Between 2017 and 2021, the IPU joined forces with the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), the Secretariat of the Commonwealth and the OHCHR.

The IPU also worked increasingly with non-governmental organizations, including UPR Info, GANHRI and the Universal Rights Group, to encourage parliamentary action on human rights. For children, the IPU teamed up with UNICEF, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Kailash Satyarthi Foundation for Children.

On humanitarian law and refugee protection, the IPU worked with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and generated parliamentary support for the Global Compact on Refugees, as well as the UN Conventions on Statelessness.

To support parliaments in strengthening their action, the IPU and UNHCR produced several handbooks for MPs on model legislation to reduce and prevent statelessness, as well as on state asylum systems and refugee protection.





## OBJECTIVE 4

# Contribute to peacebuilding, conflict prevention and security

The IPU was founded with the view that dialogue is central to the peaceful resolution of conflict. More than 130 years later, inter-parliamentary dialogue is still helping to prevent conflict and restore peace around the world. Such dialogue can help parliaments uphold the rule of law and counter terrorism. By contributing to global peace and security, parliaments can play a fundamental role in socio-economic development.

During the five-year strategic period, the IPU supported parliaments in such roles by building their capacity for legislation, preparing national budgets and exercising parliamentary oversight. The IPU also supported parliaments in efforts to tackle violent extremism and terrorism and to act on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.







## Promoting cooperation and co-existence

Parliaments help to build peace and resolve conflict through dialogue and their legislative, oversight and representative functions. The IPU has a special role to play in countries at risk of conflict and, during the period in question, supported parliaments in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Guinea Bissau, Madagascar and Mali, recommending solutions to help end the countries' political crises.

Parliamentary diplomacy can help protect international peace too, building bridges where governmental initiatives have failed. On this basis, the IPU facilitated talks between North and South Korea, and between the two communities of Cyprus. It also supported parliamentary discussions in the Middle East, unlocking concrete measures to tackle the water crisis and to prevent further regional instability.

### Our impact 2017-2021

#### Innovation, science and technology for peace

The 2017 Middle East parliamentary roundtable on water showed how science-based solutions could transform disagreement and conflict into opportunities for cooperation and co-existence. It paved the way for the launch of the IPU Science for Peace Schools and the establishment of a Working Group on Science and Technology. Partnerships with CERN and the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA) reinforced the IPU as a platform for parliamentary cooperation on science and technology.

## Countering terror and pursuing disarmament

Peace and security are fundamental pre-conditions for development. For more than 20 years, the IPU has supported parliaments in tackling global terrorism and developing parliamentary strategies for comprehensive disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

Following its resolution on *Terrorism: The need to enhance global cooperation against the threat to democracy and human rights*, the IPU established a formal body, the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG). The HLAG serves as the global focal point for parliamentary work on counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism, promoting cooperation and information exchanges. It also facilitates dialogue between MPs and experts and guides the Joint Programme on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, a tripartite programme involving the IPU, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT).

The joint programme has organized counter-terrorism conferences for the African, Middle Eastern and Asia-Pacific regions and supported the establishment of a parliamentary committee to combat hate speech and extremism in Egypt.

In 2021, the joint programme also organized the First Global Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism, which highlighted parliamentary efforts to support the victims of terrorism as well as to prevent terrorism, radicalization and hate speech. The Summit saw the launch of the *Call of the Sahel* appeal for resources to fund specific projects in the region aimed at preventing terrorism. The Summit also saw the IPU unveil a suite of digital tools, including an interactive map and mobile application, allowing parliamentarians to coordinate their counter-terrorism legislation and strategies.

1,000

Over 1000 stakeholders learnt about good practices in the disarmament sector through the 2020 guide *Assuring our Common Future*.

A porter carries a bag of rice in Wuse Market, Abuja, Nigeria, August 2021. Nigeria's Middle Belt and northwestern states have been caught in increasing violence between nomadic herdsman and farmers as climate change intensifies rivalries over water and land. ©Kola Sulaimon/AFP

Model legislative provisions (MLPs) were an important initiative of the joint programme, offering a basis against which to review existing laws and procedures to protect the victims of terrorism. The MLPs were developed in line with the latest thinking to help countries without legislation on this issue. They help with the sharing of best practices and draw attention to the urgent needs of terrorism victims.

On disarmament and non-proliferation, the IPU supported parliaments and UN Member States to operationalize their commitments. Working with partners, the IPU ran various campaigns between 2017 and 2021 to raise parliamentary awareness of the UN's disarmament treaties.

These campaigns led several countries to sign or ratify both the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The IPU also mobilized MPs to engage with UN Security Council Resolution 1540, preventing non-state actors from accessing weapons of mass destruction. Finally, the IPU helped to eradicate illicit arms flows by encouraging parliaments to sign or ratify the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

To support the UN Secretary-General's new disarmament agenda, the IPU helped produce a guide, *Assuring our Common Future*, explaining disarmament and highlighting examples of successful treaties and policies. Subsequent webinars showed the role that MPs can play and outlined the links

between disarmament and sustainable development, including climate protection. Complementary digital products were designed to highlight the link between parliaments, good governance in the security sector and human development.

*"Faced with pressure to decrease military defence spending, governments acknowledge that threats like the COVID-19 pandemic cannot be handled with military-type responses and there is a clear imperative to shift budget priorities to meet the new challenges."*

Anusart Suwanmongkol  
Senator from Thailand  
(April 2021)



In January 2020, the IPU held the fifth meeting of the HLAG, in Geneva. The HLAG serves as the global focal point for parliamentary work on counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism. © IPU/Pieyre-Bernard Castelier



Nadia Ghulam Dastgir, a victim of terrorism in Afghanistan who spoke at the First Global Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism.  
© Parlamentsdirektion/Thomas Topf

## Case study

### **Disarmament to advance sustaining peace; implementing the human security approach**

IPU activities on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control link to a broader prevention agenda, which is based on the principle of humanity. The latest parliamentary guide on disarmament, [\*Assuring our Common Future\*](#), opens doors to discussion of the need to reduce military spending in favour of long-term investments in health, education and social security.





## OBJECTIVE 5

# Promote inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation

As the global focal point for inter-parliamentary cooperation, the IPU provides a unique and effective forum for political dialogue. It held Assemblies over the five-year strategic period in Dhaka, St Petersburg, Geneva, Doha, Belgrade and Madrid. Digital technology enabled the IPU to continue its work during the pandemic. The IPU was also able to continue progress towards universal membership, engaging with non-Member Parliaments, many of them Small Island Developing States.

The Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, which included a virtual segment in 2020 followed by the in-person event in Vienna in 2021, was the first global summit to be held during the pandemic.





## Our impact between 2017-2021

### More follow-up from IPU Members

In 2017, we introduced a new reporting system, to help enhance the implementation of IPU decisions. Since its introduction, the response rate by Members has increased from an average 40 per cent in 2017 to almost 70 per cent in 2021.

## Moving IPU Assemblies online, adopting hybrid formats

IPU Assemblies are central to the IPU's role of promoting peace through dialogue. The Assemblies allow parliamentarians from around the world to come together to find solutions to the challenges of our time. They conclude with substantive outcomes for peace, democracy and sustainable development.

In the five-year period, 2017-2021, the IPU mobilized thousands of legislators through its Assemblies, whether in-person or online.

In 2020-2021, the IPU moved its work online to continue supporting inter-parliamentary dialogue during the pandemic. In August 2020, for example, the first part of the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament connected more than 115 of the world's most senior legislators online. They were joined by hundreds of other members of parliament, experts and representatives from multilateral organizations to discuss the overall theme of parliamentary leadership that delivers for the people and the planet.

Then, in November 2020, an extraordinary session of the IPU's Governing Council was held online, during which a new IPU President was elected. Despite the challenges of technology and multiple time zones, the election was certified as transparent and inclusive. Some 458 MPs from 145 countries took part in the remote voting, and several other important decisions were taken regarding the functioning and governance of the IPU in a notable example of digital democracy.

The first Assembly of 2021 was completely digital, with 42 meetings held over a six-week period. In November 2021, the Spanish Parliament was able to host the first in-person IPU Assembly in over two years, in Madrid. The previous 18 months had provided some important lessons however, including the benefits of live-streaming the Assembly, equipping meeting rooms for hybrid sessions and holding multiple hearings remotely.

The second part of the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament was held in person in Vienna in September 2021. Rigorous health measures, including regular testing, social distancing and mask-wearing, protected over 700 participants, including some 90 Speakers and 40 Deputy Speakers. Remote interpretation in 12 languages, as well as live-streaming, gave the meeting a hybrid character.

The IPU's success with modern technology has enabled its Members to continue their conversations and reinforced the IPU's resilience and ability to adapt. Based on this, the IPU expects future meetings to continue being hybrid, keeping the inter-parliamentary discussions as broad and inclusive as possible.

*"The IPU has demonstrated an impressive capacity to overcome technical and logistical challenges while facilitating virtual and hybrid meetings over the past year and a half. The Canadian Group is grateful for the Secretariat's efforts to ensure that all Member Parliaments can continue to contribute to and benefit from the important work of the IPU."*

David McGuinty  
MP, Canada



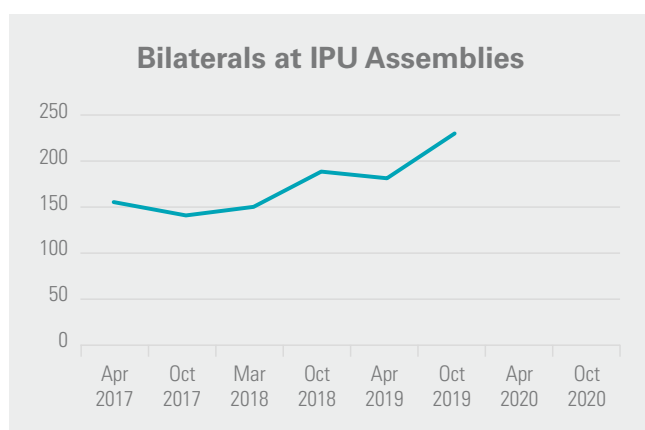
Delegates at the entrance to the 143<sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly. © IPU/Spanish Parliament



Group photo (photo montage due to social distancing) of participants in the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments, held in Vienna in 2021. © IPU/Thomas Jantzen

## Facilitating dialogue

The last five years have seen a significant increase in the number of bilateral meetings on the sidelines of IPU Assemblies, increasing from 160 to 220 in the pre-pandemic period. These meetings tend to be more informal and open than official government meetings and they allow parliamentarians to talk freely with their counterparts from around the world, mindful of the interests of the people they represent. Bilateral meetings help to build bridges of trust, understanding and mutual respect.



## Advancing towards universal membership

The IPU moved closer to its strategic goal of universal membership during the period, as the number of Member Parliaments grew from 171 to 178. Changes to the IPU Statutes and Rules in 2018 also mean that a Parliament can keep its membership but loses some of its rights if it is more than three years in arrears of its contributions. A Member Parliament will, however, lose its membership in the event



Duarte Pacheco, IPU President, ready to take the floor during the virtual 142<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly in May 2021. © IPU/Tito Calado

of its unconstitutional dissolution, as was the case for Sudan following the April 2019 military coup.

The IPU has also endeavoured to reach out to non-Member Parliaments by inviting them to events organized in their regions as well as paying for attendance of some of their MPs at IPU events through its Parliamentary Solidarity Fund.



Participants in the virtual extraordinary IPU Governing Council session in November 2020. © IPU

## Encouraging accountability from Members

The IPU's impact depends on the extent to which Member Parliaments follow up on the decisions they take at our meetings, especially the Assemblies.

Examples of notable follow-up actions include the following:

- The National Assembly of Zambia has established regular seminars to discuss IPU resolutions and possible implementation.
- When Cyclone Idai hit Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe in April 2019, an IPU resolution called for urgent support. The delegation of the Netherlands relayed the resolution to their government, which then provided substantial financial support and technical experts.
- In 2018, the Colombian Parliament launched the "Congreso en Igualdad" initiative to implement the IPU's 2012 Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments.
- Egypt's parliament amended a law on the protection of antiquities, bringing it into line with an IPU resolution. It has also adopted new legislation to combat illegal migration and trafficking.
- In 2019, Switzerland participated in international discussions on universal health coverage, focusing on patient safety, quality of health services, sustainable financing of care and the importance of universal health coverage in emergencies.
- Following an IPU resolution on women's political participation, a Presidential Resolution in the UAE raised women's representation in the Federal National Council (FNC) to a minimum of 50 per cent.
- Thailand introduced a parliamentary Code of Ethics, prohibiting all forms of sexual harassment against women in parliament.
- In October 2017, Ecuador's National Assembly approved a resolution on attainment of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The resolution followed the IPU's 2015 Hanoi Declaration, which explored the role of parliaments in achieving the SDGs.
- The UK Parliament systematically writes to the Foreign Secretary, highlighting decisions by the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and other IPU matters.
- In 2019, following an IPU resolution on the same issue, South Africa's ministry of health introduced the National Health Insurance Bill to parliament, which seeks universal health coverage by 2030.





## OBJECTIVE 6

### Youth empowerment

Youth participation is key to democracy and inclusive, efficient political processes. Young women and men are central to social challenges such as poverty, discrimination and climate change. And their participation in politics promotes active citizenship and strengthens social responsibility. It offers innovation, creativity and new thinking.

In the five-year strategic period, the IPU developed new youth targets for parliaments, which have become an important benchmark for parliaments around the world. We also worked to get more young people into decision-making processes and to occupy parliamentary seats. However, as we showed in our flagship report on youth participation in national parliaments in 2021, the number of MPs under the age of 30 remains low, at just 2.6 per cent of MPs, nudging up from 2.2 per cent in 2018. In 2021, therefore, we launched a global campaign – *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament* – in which hundreds of MPs, leaders and advocates pledged to rejuvenate their parliaments.



## Our impact between 2017-2021

### Youth targets for parliaments

After months of consultation, we selected a target for youth representation in parliament based on the proportion of young people in the population.

Subsequently adopted as a goal by multiple parliaments and other international stakeholders, the objective is for parliaments to achieve the following minimum proportions by 2035:

- 15 per cent of MPs under 30 years of age;
- 35 per cent of MPs under 40; and
- 45 per cent of MPs under 45.

Each target includes a gender parity provision of 50 per cent men and 50 per cent women. The targets are central to the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign.

## Innovating for youth year after year

In 2017, we produced a paper on the role of young MPs in peace and security and organized regional conferences for young legislators in Asia and Africa. The same year, we adopted new internal measures to enhance youth participation at the IPU.

The next year, 2018, we published our flagship report on youth participation in national parliaments, showing that just 2.2 per cent of the world's MPs were under 30. This is far short of our 15 per cent target, one of the first ever global targets on young MPs in parliament.

In 2019, we organized our first workshops for young MPs, engaging 100 young legislators to enhance their communication, leadership and mentorship skills. We also helped to organize the year's "Future Policy Awards" on youth empowerment, in partnership with the World Future Council, United Nations and others.

A year later, in 2020, we marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IPU resolution on youth participation. A survey highlighted good practices to enhance youth participation, which we shared more widely. Then, to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, we provided a plan of action to get more young women participating in politics.

Last year, in 2021, we focused on the impact of COVID-19 on youth, working with young MPs to map out the key elements of a youth responsive recovery.

The *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* includes six pledges for parliamentarians, as shown below.



Boys and girls scouts wave Pakistani national flags while gathering in front of the parliament building to mark the World Environment day rally in Islamabad on June 2021. © Farooq Naeem/AFP

# 1,112

Some **1,112 Young MPs** (of whom 30% per cent were women) came together to support youth empowerment at the IPU's unique Forum of Young MPs.



Promotion stand during the 143<sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly in Madrid. © IPU/Spanish Parliament

## Advancing youth participation

In the past ten years, from youth quotas to lowering the age of eligibility and creating new parliamentary structures for youth, parliaments have made significant progress.

- Parliaments have lowered their voting ages for parliamentary elections to 16 in Malta and 18 in the Gambia, Malaysia and Turkey.
- Micronesia's Congress supported the participation of their youth in national delegations at international meetings. It has also prioritized and increased employment among youth, who are socially and economically disadvantaged.
- In El Salvador, the parliament established its first Parliamentary Youth Group, consisting of MPs between 25 and 35 years of age.
- In Norway, the Speaker of Parliament regularly meets with youth and, in partnership with non-profit organizations, produced a guide for youth to participate in social debates.
- In Mexico, the Chamber of Deputies introduced measures to enhance youth representation in parliament. It has established a committee on youth and holds regular parliamentary hearings and youth consultations.

- In Nigeria, in 2018, with IPU support, the National Assembly lowered the minimum age of candidates running for the House of Representatives. The impact on elections the next year was impressive: more than 34 per cent of candidates were young men or women, up from 21 per cent in 2015. The number of elected officials under 35 rose to 103 from 60 in 2015.

## Using data to advocate for change

We published data and analysis on youth participation in our 2018 and 2021 flagship reports. We made data available on young MPs through the IPU's Parline, an open-source data platform for parliaments. IPU data is also used as an official data source for SDG indicator 16.7.1 to "ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making".

## Pushing for more young women in politics

Over the past five years, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we brought together a total of 1,112 young legislators, including through our annual Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians.



In 2020, we met online, calling for greater political participation and leadership from young women. At a celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, we teamed up with the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth to connect serving politicians with young women. Recommendations from the meeting included more funds for young women to engage in politics, the recruitment of more young women into public service leadership, and the establishment of quotas. It also recommended that parliaments and political parties be gender-sensitive and free of violence, sexual harassment and bullying.

## Opening a new area of support to young MPs

In 2019, we launched a series of courses for young parliamentarians to hone their political skills, working with a first group of 100 young MPs from 40 countries. The training courses focused on political leadership and communications through group work and one-to-one sessions. A mentorship café allowed young and more senior MPs to swap experiences and advice. MPs said the courses left them feeling empowered and equipped to be more effective leaders.

In Djibouti, we worked with young parliamentarians elected to office in the 2018 elections. Some 70 percent of the National Assembly's young MPs attended a two-day workshop in 2020. We developed their leadership and com-

munications skills and helped them to incorporate a youth perspective into their parliamentary work.

*"Although we face many obstacles to be elected to parliament, we also face them once we are elected. As young MPs, we need to be empowered to lead change."*

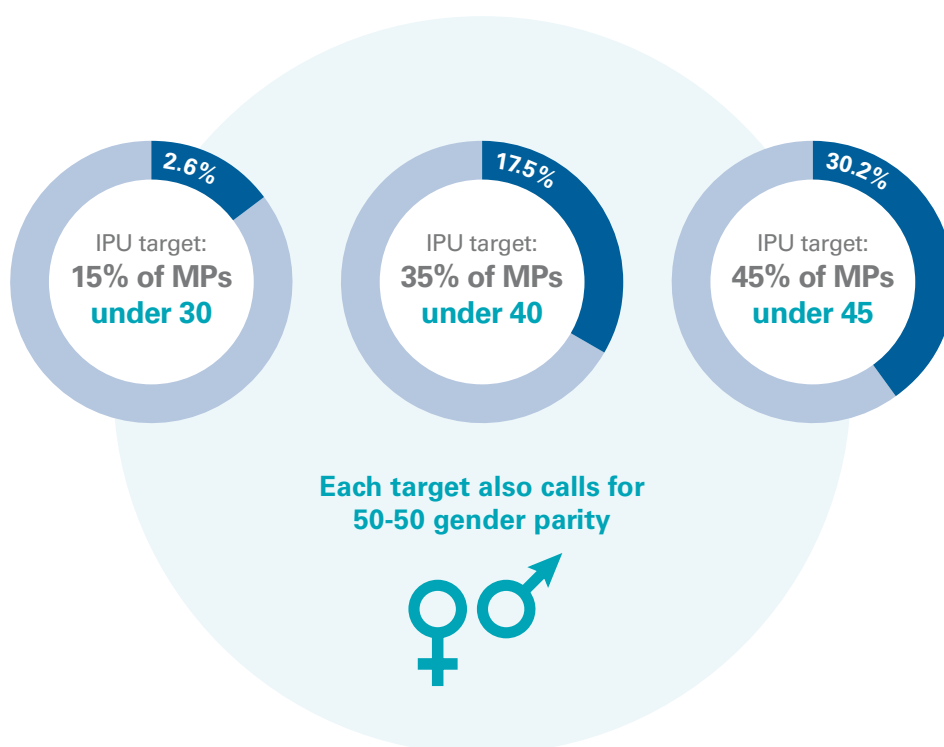
Outcome Document from the Sixth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians (Paraguay, 2019)

## Case study

### The IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians

The Forum of Young Parliamentarians is the driving force behind the IPU's work on youth issues. A youth-led statutory body dedicated to enhancing the role of young people in the IPU and parliaments more generally, it enriches the Organization's work with a youth perspective. In 2018, in order to ensure that more young people attend IPU Assemblies, the Forum won the membership's support for new incentives for parliaments to include young MPs in their delegations. The IPU is now aiming for a minimum of 25 per cent young MPs at future IPU Assemblies. The IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians is sending a clear signal that the IPU is "walking the talk" on politics for young people.

Progression of number of young MPs towards the respective targets set by the IPU





## OBJECTIVE 7

# Mobilize parliaments around the global development agenda

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 was a pivotal moment for international development. It provided an excellent opportunity for the IPU to leverage political will to achieve broad development objectives, working with parliaments to catalyse change at the national, regional and global levels. Throughout the strategic period, IPU support has emphasized the needs of vulnerable and marginalized populations, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, which, combined with climate change, has accelerated the need for action.





## Our impact between 2017-2021

Following IPU advice and support, the Parliament of Rwanda amended its legislation in 2020 to enable civil registration at health facilities, where more than 90 per cent of children are born. The amendment unlocks access to legal identity for many and thus to vital healthcare and other services. When the collaboration began, more than 40 per cent of children under five were not registered. Rwanda's Parliament and the IPU have had a long-standing collaboration, building parliamentary capacity and shaping the country's legislative agenda on women's, children's and adolescents' health. To reach birth registration targets in line with the SDGs, this progress must be sustained.

## Empowering parliaments to make a difference

For five years, the IPU has been supporting parliaments to have the necessary skills, resources and tools for meaningful action on the SDGs, especially on climate change and health.

As more and more parliaments have engaged with the SDGs, the IPU has provided more support. Between 2016 and 2020, for example, the number of parliaments reviewing national progress on the SDGs grew from less than 25 per cent to more than 55 per cent. This number dipped slightly in 2021, but the overall trend is clear.

Ten parliaments have used the IPU's self-assessment toolkit to develop their own SDG action plans and integrate the goals into their parliamentary work. The Parliament of Chad set up a Special Committee on Sustainable Development, while Fiji's Parliament developed an SDG guidance note for its committees. Serbia's National Assembly did a second self-assessment to evaluate its progress, two years after its first. This helped its Parliamentary SDG Focus Group to amend the budget bill and sharpen the budgetary focus on the SDGs. In a 2018 IPU global survey, more than 50 per cent of parliamentary respondents said they had set up at least one parliamentary mechanism on the SDGs.

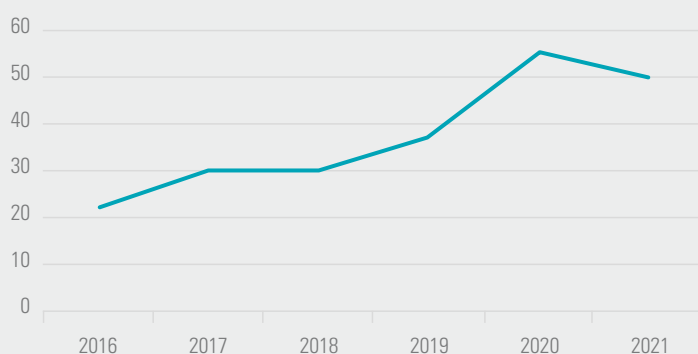
Health has been a major priority. Collaboration with parliaments in Bangladesh, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia led to legislative amendments and proposals on women's, children's and adolescents' health and on combatting child marriage.

Publications, facilitating this work, included new research on child marriage legislation in the Asia-Pacific region, guidelines on SDG budgeting, a roadmap for parliamentary action on women's, children's and adolescents' health, and a handbook on food and nutrition systems.

11

resolutions at  
IPU Assemblies on  
sustainable development  
in the past five years

**Steady growth in number of parliaments reviewing national progress on the SDGs**



Coloso (Colombia), a town that almost disappeared due to war between guerrillas and paramilitaries, and today is betting on eco-tourism as a form of sustainable development. © Juancho Torres/Anadolu Agency via AFP



Uganda's parliament has been proactive on maternal health, recognizing the need for further dialogue on sexual and reproductive health, including abortion. Tanzania's parliament has increased funding for maternal health and immunization.

Later, as the COVID-19 pandemic spread, the IPU trained more than 100 parliamentary staff in 12 sub-Saharan countries on how legislation can better meet the needs of women, children and adolescents. Botswana's parliament subsequently reviewed its legislation on adolescent sexual and reproductive health. Recognizing the links between COVID-19 and gender-based violence, Botswana's parliament is also developing new legislation on this topic. In 2020, it passed the Sexual Offenders Registry Bill.

Climate change remained a concern for many parliaments. The IPU gave tailored support on climate change and on green recoveries from COVID-19 to parliaments in Burundi, Seychelles, Zambia and Zimbabwe, as well as in Central Asia. In Burundi, parliamentarians agreed to raise public awareness on climate change and biodiversity. In 2019, Zimbabwe's parliament amended its carbon tax policy. In 2021, the IPU and UN Environment Programme (UNEP) supported the Zimbabwean parliament in developing a bill on climate change.

Underpinning its work on climate change, the IPU has developed a range of knowledge products, including toolkits, with partners such as UNEP and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). Available in up to five languages, the publications respond to interests frequently cited by parliaments.

## The IPU facilitates parliamentary engagement

Partnerships have been central to the IPU's work, helping to ensure that legislation is based on the best available scientific evidence. To connect scientific and parliamentary communities, for example, the IPU has partnered with the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UN Economic Commissions, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF), UNICEF and the London School of Economics (LSE). Throughout the global pandemic, these partners delivered timely information, helping parliaments to respond appropriately.

In France, Paraguay and South Africa, the IPU and PMNCH helped parliaments to consider women's, children's and adolescents' health in their plans for recovery from COVID-19. The PMNCH has said that the IPU played a key role in its work in 20 countries.

Some 41 national parliaments received help from the IPU to connect with the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, unlocking national dialogue and discussions on investments in nutrition.

In total over the past five years, the IPU has organized 28 regional and 23 global events on development issues, enabling thousands of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to engage with UN processes. These processes have facilitated peer-to-peer discussions, knowledge acquisition and other opportunities for cooperation. The events have stimulated



IPU Advisory Group on Health field visit in Rwanda, held in January 2018. © IPU/Lucien Gatete

widescale political will for dialogue and the use of sustainable development as a platform for international collaboration.

IPU Assemblies adopted some 11 resolutions on sustainable development. One of these, a 2019 resolution on universal health coverage, led to follow-up action in 70 parliaments either through awareness-raising workshops or outreach activities.

*“Even when the global economy shut down as a result of the pandemic, our emissions only dropped by 6 per cent. This illustrates the enormity of the challenge ahead of us. We have to find real, radical and alternative solutions to reduce global temperatures. As parliamentarians we have a real responsibility. We have a duty to speak for all the people of this planet, including those whose voices are not always heard, and yet are the most affected.”*

Lord Speaker of the UK House of Lords  
Rt. Hon. the Lord McFall of Alcluith at  
the Parliamentary Meeting at COP26

### Case study

An IPU-UNDP toolkit on the SDGs became the IPU’s most translated publication. First published in English, Spanish, French and Arabic, the 2016 publication – *Parliaments and the Sustainable Development Goals: A self-assessment toolkit* – is now available in a total of 15 languages. The translations show how the toolkits add value, helping parliaments to engage with the SDGs.





## OBJECTIVE 8

# Bridge the democracy gap in international relations

Parliaments can play a critical role in facilitating the implementation of their countries' international commitments and translating these into national realities. In the past five years, the IPU has helped to connect parliaments and parliamentarians with some of the world's most important issues. We also brought a parliamentary perspective to global talks at the United Nations, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the G20, helping to bridge the democracy gap in international relations.





## Our impact between 2017-2021

### UN recognizes the importance of youth representation in parliament

In 2021, the IPU provided substantive input to a UN General Assembly resolution on Policies and Programmes Involving Youth. Through the resolution, the General Assembly recognized that “49 per cent of the world’s population is under 30 and only 2.6 per cent of members of parliament belong to this age group” and encouraged “the increase of youth representation in national and local legislatures”.

## Engaging with the United Nations

The IPU deepened its engagement with the UN, which also recognizes the shared interests and mutual benefits of deeper cooperation.

A range of IPU activities brought a parliamentary perspective to UN debates. The annual UN-IPU Parliamentary Hearings, for example, saw on average over 200 parliamentarians from some 60 countries attend two-day sessions on major UN decision-making processes. The most recent Hearing, held in 2021 in virtual format, contributed to the UN General Assembly Special Session on Corruption, including a Political Declaration which recognized the role and responsibility of parliaments in tackling corruption.

Parliamentary meetings held in the context of other major UN processes – such as the Commission on the Status of Women, the Human Rights Council and the annual Conference of States Parties on Climate Change – further enhanced the parliamentary dimension of the work of the UN.

COVID-19 threatened to delay or even reverse progress on the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, highlighting their importance. For the past five years, the IPU has been expanding its support for the Goals through the UN’s main platform for sustainable development, the annual High-level Political Forum (HLPF). To this end, it monitors parliamentary engagement with Voluntary National Reviews and participation in national delegations to the HLPF.

The IPU also organizes a Parliamentary Forum, at which more than 200 parliamentarians discuss the main themes of the HLPF session. In 2021, a UN General Assembly resolution on the HLPF recognized the essential role of parliaments in implementing and reviewing legislation, as well as the adaptation of budgets and accountability.

As the UN celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021, the UN Secretary-General issued Our Common Agenda – his vision for more effective multilateralism, in which he invited reflection on ways to engage parliaments more with the UN and voiced his commitment to explore options for enhanced parliamentary input at the UN.

As the IPU and the UN General Assembly deepened their relationship, Member States strongly endorsed resolutions in 2018 and 2020 on Interaction between the UN, national parliaments and the IPU. The UN General Assembly resolutions established a new International Day of Parliamentarism, celebrated on the foundation date of the IPU, and recognized the IPU’s work on democracy and the rule of law, human rights, gender equality, and youth empowerment. They also recognized that UN country teams need to work more effectively with national parliaments.

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UN Member States sponsored the 2020 UN General Assembly Resolution on Interaction between the UN, national parliaments and the IPU.

Parliamentary Hearing entitled “A World of Blue: Preserving the Oceans, Safeguarding the Planet, Ensuring Human Well-being in the Context of the 2030 Agenda”, held in February 2017 in New York. © UN Photo/Rick Bajornas



IPU President, Duarte Pacheco, addresses the parliamentary hearing in 2022 organized with the President of the General Assembly, Abdulla Shahid. © Joel Sheakoski

## Expanding institutionalized engagement with the UN

With support from the Austrian Parliament, in 2021 we opened a new Office of the Permanent Observer to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna. The enhanced presence in Vienna has strengthened IPU cooperation with the UN, particularly with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime as well as other Vienna-based organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. The new Office is helping the IPU to engage even deeper with multilateralism, particularly on issues of good governance and parliamentary diplomacy.

*“The IPU Standing Committee on UN Affairs provides a unique space for MPs to discuss global issues with top UN officials and ask some tough questions. It empowers MPs to hold governments to account for the commitments they make at the UN”*

**Senator Juan Carlos Romero of Argentina**  
Former President of the Committee

The IPU Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, which meets regularly in the context of IPU Assemblies, continues to give parliamentarians the opportunity to examine UN operations and formulate recommendations for improvement. In the past five years, Committee members have engaged with senior UN officials on migration, trade and development, human rights, environment, access to vaccines, the future of

multilateralism, tax treaties, financing the UN, and more. The discussions have been complemented by field visits to UN operations, which allowed MPs to develop a better understanding of the issues and realities on the ground.

During the pandemic, the IPU initiated a series of virtual briefings on topical issues at the UN, including reform of the UN Security Council, sovereign debt restructuring, support for least developed countries and curbing military budgets. By connecting experts, ambassadors and parliamentarians, the sessions built understanding and enriched discussions at national level.

To encourage engagement between the UN and the IPU, their leaders – including heads of UN agencies, funds and programmes – have met regularly in Geneva, New York and Vienna. Meanwhile, the United Nations General Assembly President continues to include the IPU’s Permanent Observer in his Gender Advisory Board, aiming to increase gender equality at all levels of the UN.

## Supporting parliaments to engage with the WTO

The Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organization (PCWTO), a joint IPU and European Parliament initiative, ensures that parliamentarians stay abreast of WTO negotiations. It allows MPs to exchange their views and experiences in global conversations on the rules-based trading system. In the past five years, PCWTO discussions have focused on

the commodities trade, agriculture, e-commerce, small- and medium-sized enterprises, gender, fishing subsidies, climate change, the pandemic's impact on trade, and more.

Over 600 parliamentarians have attended PCWTO sessions, engaging directly with WTO officials and negotiators. This has enabled them to bring a parliamentary perspective to the WTO and exercise better oversight of its multilateral trade negotiations.

IPU efforts helped ratification of the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which entered into force in 2017. The TFA is already improving trade efficiency worldwide, cutting red tape at borders and increasing transparency. The IPU also nudged parliaments to support negotiations for the WTO's Agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development. In November 2021, eight WTO members announced their decision to join negotiations, which are expected to conclude by the end of 2022.

An important outcome of the PCWTO has also been a greater parliamentary contribution to implementing domestic legislation to comply with WTO agreements, as well as to their countries' regular Trade Policy Reviews.

## Case study

### **Bringing a parliamentary voice to the G20**

Since 2018, the IPU has been supporting G20 parliaments to engage with this influential global body. At meetings in Buenos Aires, Tokyo and Rome, the IPU partnered with the parliaments of the G20 Presidencies in organizing P20 Speakers' Summits to discuss inclusive growth, fair multilateral trading, sustainable peace, democracy, prosperity and well-being. The G20 Speakers, joined by over 150 other officials – parliamentarians, experts, trade ministers and G20 national emissaries (Sherpas) – have also examined the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, migration, decent work, gender and rebuilding trust in democratic institutions. The Joint Declarations issued by the G20 Speakers were shared with their respective Heads of State and Government and with the broader parliamentary community.



# 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, Turkey, 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:

Secretaries General are closely involved in the Centre for Innovation in Parliament. At each Assembly, the ASGP helps to organize meetings of the parliamentary hubs within the Centre, as well as coordination meetings with the Secretaries General of parliaments that are hosting hubs. The ASGP is formally an observer to the Steering Committee that provides strategic advice to the Centre about ways to support innovation in parliament.

Secretaries General also contribute to the enhanced use and application of the Ten Common Principles for Support to Parliaments. Members of the ASGP regularly provide substantial support to many of the parliamentary capacity-building projects carried out by the IPU, and contribute to the IPU's research into policy measures to combat violence against women in parliament.

Secretaries General are active participants in the elaboration of the Global Parliamentary Report. Their discussions about the main challenges facing parliament at the current time has influenced the choice of the themes of the Report (parliamentary oversight in 2017, public engagement in 2022). Secretaries Generals have also mobilized their parliaments to share good practices during the research phase and to give consideration to the Report's recommendations.

# 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. G. Chen** (CHINA)

IPU Vice-President, Asia-Pacific Group

End of mandate: Oct 2022



**Ms. C. Widegren** (SWEDEN)

IPU Vice President, 12+ Group

End of mandate: Oct 2023



**Dr. Ali Rashid Al Nuaimi** (UAE)

IPU Vice-President, Arab Group

End of mandate: Apr 2025



**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. A. Kharchi** (ALGERIA)

Member

End of mandate: Oct 2025



**Mr. J.P. Letelier** (CHILE)

Member

End of mandate: Oct 2023



**Ms. O. Kefalogianni** (GREECE)

Member

End of mandate: Oct 2025



**Mr. R. Rabbani** (PAKISTAN)

Member

End of mandate: Oct 2023



**Mr. M. Grujic** (SERBIA)

Member

End of mandate: Oct 2022



**Mr. J. Echániz** (SPAIN)

Member

End of mandate: Oct 2025



**Ms. P. Krairiksh** (THAILAND)

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

## 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 growing amount of voluntary contributions from governments, development agencies, UN bodies and foundations. Several donors have concluded multi-year funding agreements that were active during 2021. These include the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the European Union, DFATD Canada, Irish Aid, and the parliaments of Angola, China, Micronesia, Qatar, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates, as well as the Arab Parliament. Partnerships with

the UN family, particularly UNDP, WHO, UNOHRLLS, UNODA 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.

# Budgets 2017-2021

## Estimates, by Strategic Objective, by source of funds (CHF)

	2016 Approved budget	2017 Approved budget		
		Regular Budget	Other Sources	All Funds
Revenues				
Assessed contributions	10,016,000	10,227,000		10,227,000
Working Capital Fund	356,100	337,000		337,000
Staff assessment	1,018,500	1,023,000		1,023,000
Interest	110,000	100,000		100,000
Programme support costs	0	312,800	(312,800)	0
Other revenue	16,000	16,000		16,000
Voluntary contributions	4,271,700		4,224,300	4,224,300
Total revenues	15,788,300	12,015,800	3,911,500	15,927,300
EXPENDITURES				
Strategic Objectives				
1. Build strong, democratic parliaments	2,997,700	1,411,100	1,017,600	2,428,700
2. Advance gender equality and respect for women's rights	1,591,300	622,100	933,800	1,555,900
3. Protect and promote human rights	1,454,500	1,032,800	505,600	1,538,400
4. Contribute to peacebuilding, conflict prevention and security	94,000	148,300	354,000	502,300
5. Promote inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation	3,201,400	3,182,000		3,182,000
6. Promote youth empowerment	303,200		329,600	329,600
7. Mobilize parliaments around the global development agenda	1,054,400		1,083,700	1,083,700
8. Bridge the democracy gap in international relations	837,300	893,000		893,000
Subtotal	11,533,800	7,289,300	4,224,300	11,513,600
Enablers				
Effective internal governance and oversight	838,700	854,700		854,700
Visibility, advocacy and communications	967,800	1,086,900		1,086,900
Gender mainstreaming and a rights-based approach	10,000	10,000		10,000
Properly resourced and efficient Secretariat	2,649,400	2,668,900		2,668,900
Subtotal	4,465,900	4,620,500		4,620,500
Other charges	105,000	106,000		106,000
Eliminations	(316,400)		(312,800)	(312,800)
Total expenditures	15,788,300	12,015,800	3,911,500	15,927,300



**Estimates, by Strategic Objective, by source of funds (CHF)**

	2017 Approved budget	2018 Approved budget		
		Regular Budget	Other Sources	All Funds
Revenues				
Assessed contributions	10,227,000	10,467,100		10,467,100
Working Capital Fund	337,000	237,000		237,000
Staff assessment	1,023,000	1,048,500		1,048,500
Interest	100,000	100,000		100,000
Programme support costs	0	296,500	(296,500)	0
Other revenue	16,000	16,000		16,000
Voluntary contributions	4,224,300		4,002,600	4,002,600
Total revenues	15,927,300	12,165,100	3,706,100	15,871,200
EXPENDITURES				
Strategic Objectives				
1. Build strong, democratic parliaments	2,428,700	1,430,600	891,300	2,321,900
2. Advance gender equality and respect for women’s rights	1,555,900	532,200	1,166,800	1,699,000
3. Protect and promote human rights	1,538,400	1,039,000	430,500	1,469,500
4. Contribute to peacebuilding, conflict prevention and security	502,300	151,200	354,000	505,200
5. Promote inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation	3,182,000	3,159,400		3,159,400
6. Promote youth empowerment	329,600	79,700	337,500	417,200
7. Mobilize parliaments around the global development agenda	1,083,700	150,200	822,500	972,700
8. Bridge the democracy gap in international relations	893,000	923,000		923,000
Subtotal	11,513,600	7,465,300	4,002,600	11,467,900
Enablers				
Effective internal governance and oversight	854,700	867,900		867,900
Visibility, advocacy and communications	1,086,900	1,026,200		1,026,200
Gender mainstreaming and a rights-based approach	10,000	10,000		10,000
Properly resourced and efficient Secretariat	2,668,900	2,681,700		2,681,700
Subtotal	4,620,500	4,585,800		4,585,800
Other charges	106,000	114,000		114,000
Eliminations	(312,800)		(296,500)	(296,500)
Total expenditures	15,927,300	12,165,100	3,706,100	15,871,200

**Estimates, by Strategic Objective, by source of funds (CHF)**

	2018 Approved budget	2019 Approved budget		
		Regular Budget	Other Sources	All Funds
Revenues				
Assessed contributions	10,467,100	10,515,200		10,515,200
Working Capital Fund	237,000	422,000		422,000
Staff assessment	1,048,500	1,099,700		1,099,700
Interest	100,000	100,000		100,000
Programme support costs	0	298,700	(298,700)	0
Other revenue	16,000	16,000		16,000
Voluntary contributions	4,002,600		4,034,400	4,034,400
Total revenues	15,871,200	12,451,600	3,735,700	16,187,300
EXPENDITURES				
Strategic Objectives				
1. Build strong, democratic parliaments	2,321,900	1,322,200	824,200	2,146,400
2. Advance gender equality and respect for women's rights	1,699,000	517,900	656,400	1,174,300
3. Protect and promote human rights	1,469,500	1,035,600	508,500	1,544,100
4. Contribute to peacebuilding, conflict prevention and security	505,200	195,500	907,200	1,102,700
5. Promote inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation	3,159,400	3,437,600		3,437,600
6. Promote youth empowerment	417,200	79,600	265,100	344,700
7. Mobilize parliaments around the global development agenda	972,700	151,300	851,400	1,002,700
8. Bridge the democracy gap in international relations	923,000	927,100		927,100
Subtotal	11,467,900	7,666,800	4,012,800	11,679,600
Enablers				
Effective internal governance and oversight	867,900	912,700	21,600	934,300
Visibility, advocacy and communications	1,026,200	1,097,200		1,097,200
Gender mainstreaming and a rights-based approach	10,000	10,000		10,000
Properly resourced and efficient Secretariat	2,681,700	2,658,900		2,658,900
Subtotal	4,585,800	4,677,200	21,600	4,700,400
Other charges	114,000	106,000		106,000
Eliminations	(296,500)		(298,700)	(298,700)
Total expenditures	15,871,200	12,451,600	3,735,700	16,187,300

**Estimates, by Strategic Objective, by source of funds (CHF)**

	2019 Approved budget	2020 Approved budget		
		Regular Budget	Other Sources	All Funds
Revenues				
Assessed contributions	10,515,200	10,959,200		10,959,200
Working Capital Fund (IPSAS)	232,000	230,000		230,000
Working Capital Fund (liquid)	190,000	222,000		222,000
Staff assessment	1,099,700	1,205,800		1,205,800
Interest	100,000	100,000		100,000
Programme support costs	0	375,200	(375,200)	0
Other revenue	16,000	16,000		16,000
Voluntary contributions	4,034,400		5,065,000	5,065,000
Total revenues	16,187,300	13,108,200	4,689,800	17,798,000
EXPENDITURES				
Strategic Objectives				
1. Build strong, democratic parliaments	2,146,400	1,350,100	983,000	2,333,100
2. Advance gender equality and respect for women's rights	1,174,300	516,100	827,900	1,344,000
3. Protect and promote human rights	1,544,100	1,042,600	559,800	1,602,400
4. Contribute to peacebuilding, conflict prevention and security	1,102,700	198,700	1,246,400	1,445,100
5. Promote inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation	3,437,600	3,849,700		3,849,700
6. Promote youth empowerment	344,700	84,500	267,100	351,600
7. Mobilize parliaments around the global development agenda	1,002,700	156,100	1,159,200	1,315,300
8. Bridge the democracy gap in international relations	927,100	955,300		955,300
Subtotal	11,679,600	8,153,100	5,043,400	13,196,500
Enablers				
Effective internal governance and oversight	934,300	1,006,500	21,600	1,028,100
Visibility, advocacy and communications	1,097,200	1,052,000		1,052,000
Gender mainstreaming and a rights-based approach	10,000	10,000		10,000
Properly resourced and efficient Secretariat	2,658,900	2,779,000		2,779,000
Subtotal	4,700,400	4,847,500	21,600	4,869,100
Other charges	106,000	107,600		107,600
Eliminations	(298,700)		(375,200)	(375,200)
Total expenditures	16,187,300	13,108,200	4,689,800	17,798,000



**Estimates, by Strategic Objective, by source of funds (CHF)**

	2020 Approved budget	2021 Approved budget		
		Regular Budget	Other Sources	All Funds
Revenues				
Assessed contributions	10,959,200	10,920,800		10,920,800
Working Capital Fund (IPSAS)	230,000	230,000		230,000
Working Capital Fund (liquid)	222,000	392,000		392,000
Staff assessment	1,205,800	1,085,500		1,085,500
Interest	100,000	100,000		100,000
Programme support costs	0	372,900	(372,900)	0
Other revenue	16,000	16,000		16,000
Voluntary contributions	5,065,000		5,037,200	5,037,200
Total revenues	17,798,000	13,117,200	4,664,300	17,781,500
EXPENDITURES				
Strategic Objectives				
1. Build strong, democratic parliaments	2,333,100	1,419,800	1,148,600	2,568,400
2. Advance gender equality and respect for women's rights	1,344,000	525,500	890,300	1,415,800
3. Protect and promote human rights	1,602,400	1,034,900	566,100	1,601,000
4. Contribute to peacebuilding, conflict prevention and security	1,445,100	199,300	1,030,800	1,230,100
5. Promote inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation	3,849,700	3,733,900		3,733,900
6. Promote youth empowerment	351,600	85,600	387,900	473,500
7. Mobilize parliaments around the global development agenda	1,315,300	194,700	991,900	1,186,600
8. Bridge the democracy gap in international relations	955,300	923,500		923,500
Subtotal	13,196,500	8,117,200	5,015,600	13,132,800
Enablers				
Effective internal governance and oversight	1,028,100	1,030,400	21,600	1,052,000
Visibility, advocacy and communications	1,052,000	1,056,400		1,056,400
Gender mainstreaming and a rights-based approach	10,000	10,000		10,000
Properly resourced and efficient Secretariat	2,779,000	2,795,600		2,795,600
Subtotal	4,869,100	4,892,400	21,600	4,914,000
Other charges	107,600	107,600		107,600
Eliminations	(375,200)		(372,900)	(372,900)
Total expenditures	17,798,000	13,117,200	4,664,300	17,781,500

# 2021 publications

## Issues Briefs

- [Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Africa](#)
- [A Winnable Battle: Parliamentarians and universal health coverage](#)

## Handbook

- [Gender-responsive law-making](#)
- [Handbook for parliamentarians on nutrition and food systems](#)
- [Good practices in nationality laws for the prevention and reduction of statelessness](#) (now available in Arabic, Armenian, Indonesian, Malay, Polish, Russian and Uzbek)
- [A Guide to international refugee protection and building state asylum systems](#) (now available in Uzbek)
- [Handbook on Human Rights](#) (now available in Korean)
- [Handbook on International Humanitarian Law](#) (now available in Chinese and Serbian)

## Toolkits

- [Disaster Risk Reduction to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [Parliaments and the Sustainable Development Goals: A self-assessment toolkit](#) (now available in Albanian)

## Reports

- [13th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament Report](#)
- [Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament \(5WCSP\) Report](#)
- [Youth participation in national parliaments](#)
- [Women in Parliament in 2020](#)
- [World e-Parliament Report 2020](#)
- [Impact Report 2020](#)
- [Green approaches to COVID-19 recovery: Policy note for parliamentarians](#) (now available in Spanish, Hungarian and Russian)

## Reference publications

- [Social Media Guidelines](#)
- [Comparative research paper on parliamentary administration](#) (now available in Spanish)

## Guidelines

- [Guidelines for parliamentarians on budgeting for the SDGs: Making the most of public resources](#)
- [Guidelines for enhancing the engagement and contribution of parliaments to effective development cooperation](#)
- [Guidelines for the elimination of sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament](#) (now available in Turkish, Korean and Arabic)

## Infographics

- [Violations of the human rights of MPs – 2021](#)
- [Youth in Parliament infographic](#)
- [Women in Politics: 2021](#)

# 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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