

UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE



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QUESTIONNAIRE ON HOW PARLIAMENTS ORGANIZE THEIR WORK VIS-À-VIS THE UNITED NATIONS

This survey aims to help IPU understand how parliaments organize their work vis-à-vis the United Nations. The data compiled through this questionnaire will be analyzed in a report to the IPU Governing Council. It will inform IPU's efforts to strengthen links between parliaments and the United Nations.

Unless otherwise indicated, the United Nations for the purpose of this survey is taken to mean not just the United Nations, the UN General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies, but also all United Nations departments, programs, specialized agencies and international organizations that are part of the United Nations System.

Please complete one questionnaire for each Chamber of Parliament. Please select all applicable responses to the questions, and provide further information where necessary. Questionnaires can be completed in electronic format or hard copy.

The questionnaire can be downloaded from the IPU web site at: <http://www.ipu.org/un-e/un-hearings.htm>. Please complete the questionnaire in electronic format and return it to IPU by e-mail at the following address: postbox@mail.ipu.org.

If you are unable to complete this in electronic format, kindly complete it in hard copy, and fax, post or scan and e-mail your response to IPU:

Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Please return the completed questionnaire as soon as possible and no later than 31 January 2009.

Country:

Name of Chamber:

Questionnaire completed by:

Date:

Section A

This section seeks to determine the manner in which your parliament relates to the United Nations and its General Assembly

1. Where in parliament are overall questions addressed relating to the work and functioning of the United Nations and your country's relationship to the United Nations

Check all that apply

- Plenary
 Committee on Foreign Affairs or similar Committee
 Special Committee or similar body dedicated to United Nations
 Another Committee - Please provide the full name of this Committee:

2. Does your parliament discuss instructions given to your country's representation at the United Nations in relation to your country's position on the main or most important items placed on the agenda of the UN General Assembly?

Always Frequently Sometimes Occasionally Never

3. If your parliament does not always discuss these instructions, please clarify when discussion takes place

Check all that apply

- On an ad hoc basis, depending on the issue(s) involved
 At the request of a parliamentary committee
 At the request of the government
 On the initiative of individual members of parliament
 Other process, please describe:

4. Do these instructions need to be formally approved by your parliament?

Always Frequently Sometimes Occasionally Never

5. Please provide any further information about your parliament's role in giving instructions to your country's representative at the United Nations.

6. Are members of parliament included in your country's delegation to the General Assembly?
 Always Frequently Sometimes Occasionally Never
7. In parliaments where members are included in the delegation
- a. How many members are normally included?
- b. During which period do they stay?
Check all that apply
- During the full autumn session?
 Only during the opening ceremony?
 During the high level segment of the general debate?
 During debate in one of the Committees and, if so, which one?
- c. How long do they stay?
- d. How are they chosen?
- e. What mandate do they have?
- f. To whom do they report on their mission?
8. Is detailed information on the financial contribution of your country to the UN [e.g. UN general budget, peacekeeping and others], its agencies and programmes, provided to your parliament by the executive?
 Yes No
9. Is this information included in national budget documents submitted to your parliament by the executive?
 Yes No
10. Please provide any further information about parliament's role in overseeing and approving your country's financial contribution to the UN.

Section B

This section seeks to address the manner in which your parliament interacts with special meetings and major negotiating processes at the United Nations that lead to new conventions and international agreements, e.g. on climate change

11. Please describe briefly how your parliament keeps itself informed of the work carried out at the United Nations
12. Are members of parliament included in your country's national delegations to special meetings of the United Nations e.g. special meetings of the General Assembly or major international conferences like the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development?
 Always Frequently Sometimes Occasionally Never
13. Does your parliament organize debates and hearings to prepare for and follow up on the outcome of such meetings?
 Always Frequently Sometimes Occasionally Never
14. Does your parliament monitor major international negotiating processes taking place at the United Nations?
 Always Frequently Sometimes Occasionally Never
15. Does parliament hear and provide any instructions or mandates to the Minister who takes part in such negotiations?
 Always Frequently Sometimes Occasionally Never
16. Do the Ministers report to parliament (plenary, committees or other parliamentary bodies) on the outcome of these negotiations?
 Always Frequently Sometimes Occasionally Never

17. Do the international agreements that emerge from these negotiations require ratification by parliament?

- Yes No

If yes, please describe the ratification process in your parliament:

18. By becoming party to seven major international conventions, the State is obliged to submit period reports on implementation of these conventions to an international monitoring committee which examines the report, holds a hearing with a delegation from the country concerned and makes recommendations for improved implementation. Are these reports submitted to your parliament?

- Yes No

19. Does the parliament organize debates and hearings on these reports?

- Yes No

20. Is your parliament represented on the delegation attending the meeting of the international monitoring committee when it discusses your country's national report?

- Yes No

21. Are the recommendations submitted to your government by the international monitoring mechanism also discussed and followed up in parliament?

- Yes No

22. Is there any committee / parliamentary body responsible for monitoring the implementation of international commitments?

- Yes No

23. Please provide any further information about parliament's role in preparing or following-up on your country's reports to international monitoring committees.

Section C

This section seeks to determine the manner in which your parliament interacts with the United Nations offices in your country

24. How often does your parliament interact with the UN office in your country?

- On an ad-hoc basis
- Only on special occasions (UN Day, Launch of Human Development Report, etc.)
- Regular program of work, please describe:

25. With which local UN offices does your parliament have the most frequent interaction?

Check all that apply

- UNDP
- UNICEF
- Other - Please specify:
- United Nations Information Centre (UNIC)
- World Bank

26. Do local UN offices organize seminars and other activities in parliament?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide examples:

If no, please make suggestions:

27. Does your parliament currently receive any type of technical assistance from a local UN office?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please specify:

Check all that apply

- Training of MPs on specific topics or procedures
- Training of parliamentary staff
- Improving facilities (e.g. buildings, information technologies)
- Other forms of assistance, please describe:

If no, please specify what kind of assistance you would consider to be most useful:

Section D

This section seeks to elicit suggestions for how the IPU can promote a stronger interaction between your parliament and the United Nations

28. What are the main challenges your parliament faces in organizing its work vis-à-vis the United Nations?
29. Are there any activities the IPU could carry out in order to assist your parliament in working more closely with the United Nations?
30. Are there any good practices about how your parliament organizes its work vis-à-vis the United Nations that you would like to share?
31. What type of activities organized by IPU at the United Nations is your parliament most interested in attending?
Check all that apply
- Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the UN in New York
 - Specialized parliamentary meetings on the occasion of regular UN sessions in New York (e.g. Commission on the Status of Women), Geneva (e.g. Council on Human Rights), or Vienna (Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice) to mention a few examples.
If possible, please specify which sessions:
 - Briefing sessions for parliamentary delegations traveling to the United Nations in New York, Geneva, Vienna and elsewhere
 - Other, please describe:

32. Do you have any suggestions for future IPU initiatives vis-à-vis the United Nations?



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will be analyzed in a report to the IPU Governing Council.*