



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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Governing Council
Item 10

131st IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 12 - 16.10.2014

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Reports on recent IPU specialized meetings

(g) Review of the draft Common Principles for Parliamentary Development (Manila, 28-29 August 2014)

In October 2013, representatives from national parliaments and organizations that work with parliaments agreed on the need for a set of guidelines on support for parliaments and asked the IPU to lead efforts to draw up a set of Common Principles to that effect.¹

In June 2014, the draft Common Principles were shared for consultation and feedback with national parliaments, the Association of Secretaries General of Parliament (ASGP) and other relevant organizations. The meeting in Manila, co-organized with the Congress of the Philippines, saw the culmination of this consultation process. A summary report of the meeting is provided below.

Overview

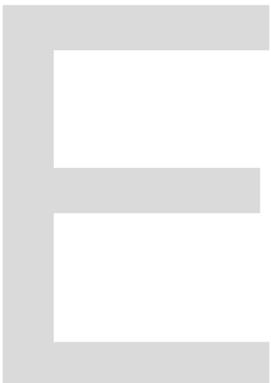
The participants focused on the draft Common Principles and sought to gather the input and experiences of national parliaments in the Asia region and organizations that provide support to parliaments. They also examined best practices in cooperation and coordination in the field of parliamentary support, and possible implementation mechanisms for the Common Principles. They expressed broad support for the document and were keen to share helpful examples and explore practical measures to promote the substantive and sustainable use of the Common Principles.

Key outcomes/conclusion

Feedback regarding the **content** of the draft Common Principles focused on the following key points:

- Revision of the title to Common Principles for Parliamentary Support, to make it clear that the document is about the support that parliaments receive from external partners;
- The need for strong political backing for partnerships with external organizations that support the development of parliaments;
- The need for a strategic approach involving all key stakeholders in the development planning process, in order to ensure sustainability;

¹ A drafting group, comprising the European Parliament, the French National Assembly, UNDP, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the IPU, was set to work on this task.



- Explicit mention of the parliamentary secretariat as a beneficiary of parliamentary assistance;
- Use of case examples and good practices to illustrate the substance and implementation of the Common Principles;
- Recognition of the need for better communication and coordination among stakeholders; and
- Formulation of the Common Principles in clearer and more concise language.

Feedback as to how to **implement** the Common Principles focused on:

- Beneficiary parliaments retaining ownership of the parliamentary development process; and
- Ensuring effective communication of the nature and content of the Common Principles to all partners involved in providing support for parliamentary development.

The IPU Secretariat undertook to incorporate the feedback from participants into the Common Principles, with the aim of bringing the revised draft before the IPU's governing bodies for adoption during the 131st Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, on 12 to 16 October 2014.

Once the Common Principles had been adopted, the IPU would invite national parliaments, development practitioners, donors and other organizations involved in parliamentary support to endorse them. A ceremony to launch and endorse the Common Principles would take place during the 132nd IPU Assembly in Viet Nam in late March 2015.