



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

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Office of the
Secretary General

To the Presidents of all IPU
Groups

Geneva, 29 October 2015

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

Holding government to account is generally understood to be a core function of parliament. Parliamentary oversight of policy, administration and expenditure in all areas of government activity is a vital contribution to democracy and the functioning of government. Yet there are many challenges that can influence the effectiveness of parliamentary oversight. These include the political and institutional environment, parliament's own capacity for oversight, and the political will of parliamentarians to use the oversight tools at their disposal.

The IPU is investigating the experiences, challenges and good practices of parliaments in oversight and accountability for the second Global Parliamentary Report, to be produced in partnership with UNDP. An intensive information-gathering phase is now underway, involving input from parliamentarians, government, civil society and other stakeholders.

I am very keen for the voice of parliaments to be the central feature of the Report, which is a flagship publication for our organization. For this reason, I invite all parliaments to respond to the *Call for written input*, attached. It is an opportunity to place the focus on the most important issues of oversight and accountability from your parliament's perspective.

This *Call for written input* will be followed shortly by a questionnaire to gather data on parliamentary procedures and activities related to oversight.

I request you kindly to respond to the *Call for written input* by 30 November 2015. More information about the Global Parliamentary Report is online at www.ipu.org/gpr2, and my colleague Andy Richardson (ar@ipu.org) is available to provide any further information that you may require.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Chungong
Secretary General