

International Day of Democracy

15 September

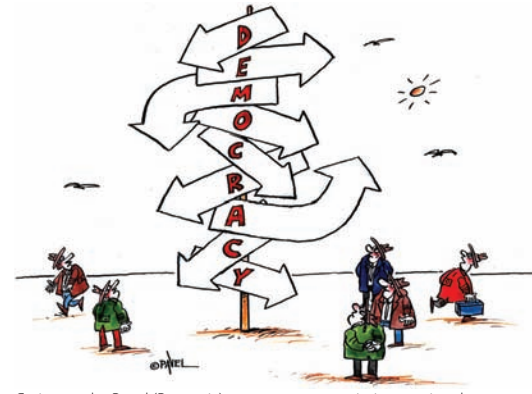
Democracy requires inter alia: strong parliaments ● free and fair elections ● guaranteed human rights ● gender equality and non-discrimination ● active civil society ● effective political parties ● independent media

About the International Day of Democracy

The United Nations General Assembly acknowledged the resilience and universality of the principles of democracy in November 2007 by declaring 15 September the International Day of Democracy.

Around 50 parliaments celebrated the first International Day of Democracy on 15 September 2008, reaffirming parliament as the central institution of democracy.

The IPU requests all parliaments to provide information about the activities they intend to organize to celebrate the second International Day of Democracy in 2009.



Caricature by Pavel (Romania) © cartoons@courrierinternational.com



Namibia

2009 theme: Democracy and political tolerance

The IPU is organizing a series of activities in 2009 on the theme of 'Democracy and political tolerance'. Political tolerance is a central tenet of democracy. It is essential to the functioning of parliaments.

Developing a culture of tolerance is a long-term process. It implies respect for:

- The rules of democracy
- Differences in political opinions
- The rights and duties of the opposition
- The mandate of individual parliamentarians

In July, the IPU will send posters and information kits that develop this theme to parliaments, to support them in the events that they organize for the International Day of Democracy.

More information: www.ipu.org/idd

"The test of courage comes when we are in the minority. The test of tolerance comes when we are in the majority." R.W. Sockman

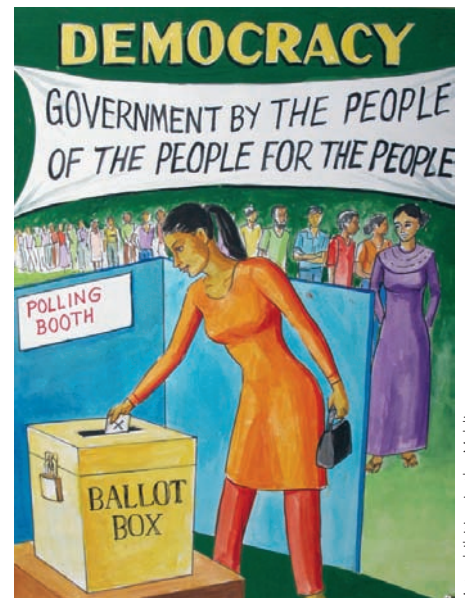


Afghanistan

Possible parliamentary activities

This list is intended to provide ideas for ways to celebrate the International Day of Democracy. It is a non-exhaustive selection of activities that parliaments organized in 2008, many of which focussed on reaching out to children and young people.

- Art exhibition depicting themes and messages on democracy (Maldives)
- Ceremonial session of parliament (Serbia)
- Conference-debate on promoting democracy (Algeria)
- Debate with civil society on challenges to parliament (Togo)
- Essay competition for secondary schools (Uruguay)
- Exhibition on democracy (Austria)
- Meetings with children from 'parliament clubs' (Zambia)
- National television show (Namibia)
- Open Doors days (Mongolia)
- Panel discussion on the Universal Declaration on the Democracy (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
- Press release (Monaco)
- Radio programme (Burkina Faso)
- Resolution in parliament marking the International Day of Democracy (Hungary)
- Simulation of a working session of a parliamentary committee (Indonesia)
- Special school lessons on democracy (Greece)
- Speech by the Speaker of parliament (Afghanistan)



Art exhibition in the Maldives



Belarus

IPU activities

In 2008, the IPU organized a panel discussion on challenges facing democracy, an exhibition of political caricatures and a web site dedicated to the International Day of Democracy (www.ipu.org/idd).

In 2009, the IPU will organize:

- A parliamentary conference on democracy in Africa
- An international survey of public attitudes to democracy
- A study on the imperative mandate and political party control of its members and ultimately of parliament and its proceedings.

Inter-Parliamentary Union

5, chemin du Pommier
Case postale 330
CH-1218 Grand-Saconnex
Geneva,
Switzerland

Telephone: +41 22 919 41 50

Fax: +41 22 919 41 60

E-mail: postbox@mail.ipu.org

Internet: www.ipu.org



IPU poster: International Day of Democracy 2008

A parliament does not guarantee democracy, but there can be no democracy without a parliament.