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- (a) **MEETING THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**
IPU Progress report
(2000-2010)

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The MDGs: where parliaments stand

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight global time-bound targets for reducing all manifestations of extreme poverty, including income poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter and exclusion, by 2015, while promoting gender equality, basic education and environmental sustainability.

The purpose of the MDGs is twofold: to help focus and strengthen development efforts by all development partners, and to provide a mechanism for measuring performance. As one member of parliament put it in a recent interview, "the MDGs provide a complete picture of development priorities and are easy to measure".¹

The development road map that the MDGs provide is of concern chiefly to governments and their international partners, but it is also relevant to the work of parliaments. Indeed, parliaments have a crucial role to play in fulfilling the MDGs. As the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon noted in an address to the 122nd IPU Assembly (Bangkok, April 2010), "Parliaments provide the enabling national legislative framework for achieving the MDGs and are at the forefront of fighting for improved livelihoods and access to basic services."

The oversight, legislative and budgetary functions that are the exclusive preserve of parliament find a strong and clear application here. Parliaments must hold governments to account for their MDG commitments by monitoring what the executive does, or fails to do, ensuring that adequate funding is mobilized, and listening to citizens to make sure that their concerns are fairly reflected in government policies.

Indeed, as the elected representatives of the people, parliamentarians provide a link between the electorate and the government. They are a conduit for new ideas and approaches learned through direct contact with constituents. In their oversight and legislative capacity, parliamentarians can help amend or introduce legislation that may also produce change in both policy and in the general political culture. In short, parliamentarians have a special responsibility to be attuned to new initiatives such as the MDGs and to develop a transformational process in its own right.

The recent economic crisis is viewed in some quarters as an obstacle to the commitment of donor countries to the MDGs and to development in general. Yet, as another member of parliament put it, "the MDGs, without resources, carry the risk of being only a talk show". Mobilizing resources for development is therefore as critical to the MDGs as is ownership of the development process by governments, parliaments and the people at large.

This report details what the IPU has done in the past ten years to help propel the MDGs forward, mobilize political support, make the case for more and better development financing, and generally encourage action on the ground. It reviews the IPU's relevant policy statements and highlights its operational work in this domain. It also addresses the important question of how parliaments are organizing their work in support of the MDGs, on the basis of the preliminary findings of an extensive study of seven parliaments.

The picture that emerges from this review is one of accomplishment both in terms of political resolve and of work done. Drawing from this picture, the report provides further recommendations and guidelines to help enhance the IPU's impact in the remaining five years before the deadline of 2015.

¹ The members of parliament quoted in this report were interviewed at the 122nd IPU Assembly (Bangkok, April 2010) as part of the survey discussed on page 8.

Respectable progress and remaining challenges – Africa and the MDGs

The MDGs provide a yardstick with which to measure global progress towards the ultimate goals of sustainable development and poverty reduction. The question, however, is whether the targets set by the MDGs are feasible for all countries, given that not all nations started the process on an equal footing. At the start of the new millennium, when the MDGs were adopted, several parts of the world were emerging from a process of democratic transition and coping with the related challenges of economic and legal reform. The 2000 Millennium Declaration found that the number of newly democratic countries in Africa had grown fivefold since 1990 and that these new democracies would need support and assistance for reform.² In addition, Africa entered the new millennium with the highest poverty and child mortality rates and the lowest school enrolment figures in the world.³

Various reports on progress in Africa have indicated that most countries in the region will not meet the MDGs, without recognizing that for a continent facing such extensive challenges, Africa has indeed made significant strides. For example:

- primary school enrolment is currently at least 90 per cent;
- deaths from measles fell from over 750,000 in 2000 to less than 250,000 in 2006;
- the number of AIDS deaths fell from 2.2 million in 2005 to 2.0 million in 2007;
- malaria prevention is expanding – in 16 out of 20 countries the use of insecticide-treated mosquito nets has tripled since 2000;
- approximately 1.6 billion people have gained access to safe drinking water since 1990.⁴

At the country level:

- Malawi's voucher programme for fertilizers and seeds led to a doubling of agricultural productivity during the 2006/2007 growing season;
- Kenya's near tenfold increase in the number of young children sleeping under insecticide-treated mosquito nets resulted in 44 per cent fewer deaths than among children not protected by nets, prompting the World Health Organization (WHO) to issue guidelines for the mass distribution of free insecticide-treated bed nets;
- Ghana is successfully implementing a national school feeding programme using locally produced foods that is reaching about one million children;
- Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya and many other countries have abolished fees for primary schools, resulting in dramatic increases in enrolment rates to, for instance, about 85 per cent in Tanzania, and the same countries are currently improving their teacher training and classroom capacity;
- in 2006 Zambia cancelled fees for basic rural health services and Burundi introduced free medical care for mothers and children with a view to encouraging recourse to preventative medicine;
- with support from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, WHO, UNICEF and the Centers for Disease Control, African countries such as Niger, Togo and Zambia have successfully launched national campaigns for measles vaccination and the distribution of long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets;
- in Niger, hundreds of thousands of people in rural communities have greatly improved their livelihoods and reduced their vulnerability to drought through large-scale reforestation spurred by reforms that include transferring ownership of trees from the State to the community;
- Senegal is on track to achieving the water and sanitation MDGs through a national investment programme financed with donor support.⁵

² <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/a56326.pdf>

³ Mutasa (2008).

⁴ Madhomu (2010).

⁵ http://www.millenniumvillages.org/mdgs/mdg_2.htm#3.

As these success stories show, positive gains are being made in Africa, albeit at a slower pace than in developing countries as a whole. As one author points out, it is a real tragedy that respectable progress is reported as a failure by international organizations and external observers just because the region's performance does not match a set of global benchmarks that are mostly expressed in relative terms, and the continuous cry that the world will miss the 2015 targets as a result of Africa's poor performance is unwarranted.⁶ While the focus on Africa as a priority is justified, the accompanying negative attitude towards the region is not.

Parliaments are essential partners in the development process. It is their responsibility as oversight bodies to hold governments to account for their development commitments both nationally and internationally. It is the role of parliaments to ensure that commitments such as the MDGs are reflected in national plans and policies, including, of course, the national budget.

This is easier said than done, however, because parliaments around the world, especially in developing countries, continue to face two major constraints: first, they tend to lack sufficient voice and authority in development debates spearheaded by the executive; second, they have limited resources and capabilities to exercise their role to oversee government action.

Policy guidance for parliaments on political commitments

The MDGs were embedded in the 2000 United Nations Millennium Declaration, a forward-looking, sweeping set of commitments by the world's leaders to work on all the major challenges of our time, from peace and security to development, democracy and human rights. The Declaration acknowledged that the United Nations and its member States cannot act alone and need the support and cooperation of others, including, of course, parliaments. To that effect, the Heads of State resolved, *inter alia*, "to strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the IPU, in various fields, including peace and security, economic and social development, international law, human rights and democracy and gender issues".

To help deliver on this commitment, the IPU has worked to bring the MDGs to the attention of parliaments in order to garner political will and generate a common understanding of key development issues in the parliamentary community around the world. As evidence by the annexed compilation of IPU resolutions over the past decade, parliamentarians have expressed strong support for the MDGs across the board, recognizing their interconnectedness, as well as for the work of the United Nations as the leading international body for development.

The resolutions provide guidance to the IPU's Member Parliaments on the main policy measures that need to be adopted in both developed and developing countries in order to achieve all eight MDGs. They emphasize partnership for development (MDG 8), which recognizes that developing countries cannot move forward without the support of developed countries. But the resolutions also contain a clear message to developing countries that they can do better against poverty, environmental degradation, disease, illiteracy and a host of other problems by fully utilizing their own resources (human, natural and capital) and by reforming their own institutional processes.

⁶ Vandemoortele (2009).

Another important underlying theme is that of human rights. The sense conveyed by the resolutions as a whole is that people have a right to health care, education, a clean environment, and all those other things that are commonly encompassed by the term "development". It is the responsibility of governments to help fulfil these rights, and parliaments must hold governments accountable when they fail to do so.

A third recurring theme is that of *pro-poor* economic growth as the engine of development. This is defined as growth that is derived from labour-intensive sectors and whose benefits are fairly distributed to the people. Job creation is the first marker of pro-poor growth. In most developing countries, the achievement of MDG1 (poverty and hunger) will require more targeted policies to improve agricultural productivity and rural development. The IPU's resolutions contain many prescriptions on how this is to be done, through both domestic policies and international efforts in the areas of trade (greater market access, elimination of unfair subsidies, etc.) and foreign aid (allocating more aid to agriculture).

Of everything the IPU has said in the past ten years, the 2006 resolution on the role of parliaments in overseeing the achievement of the MDGs is an overarching statement. It calls for parliamentary oversight of government action and for more direct involvement of parliaments in the preparation and implementation of development strategies, including through reports to monitor progress in the achievement of the MDGs and other development goals. Parliamentary involvement in development plans, commonly driven by the executive with donor support, is crucial to national ownership. In this resolution as in many others, parliaments reiterate the importance of good governance as an underlying condition of development and call for more capacity building and resources to strengthen their role. They underscore the need to eliminate corruption and consider debt cancellations, and emphasize the importance of legal instruments to prevent over-indebtedness. They also call for cancelled debt repayments to be earmarked for MDG-related investments.

Most IPU resolutions include references to women's rights and gender equality (MDG 3). They propose measures to ensure that women are included as both recipients of and actors in development efforts. They also call for pro-active action to help women gain equal representation in parliament and in decision-making in general, for women fully to enjoy their right to hold or inherit property and to be paid the same as men (for equal work), and for girls to have the same access to education as boys. Another recommendation that is common to many resolutions concerns gender budgeting, a best practice that has proven most effective in mainstreaming gender issues throughout the entire spectrum of development policy, but that has yet to be fully scaled up. One factor that has helped mainstream gender at the IPU is that the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and its Coordinating Committee convene regularly during Assemblies and have the option to provide input while resolutions are still on the drawing board.

Another overarching concern that emerges clearly from a number of resolutions has to do with the broader question of environmental sustainability (MDG 7), beginning of course with the urgent issue of climate change, reductions in CO₂ emissions, and the preservation of biodiversity and forests. Among the various policy recommendations proposed, IPU Member Parliaments have supported innovative solutions such as "green budgets" to ensure that the environment is duly factored into all government expenditures and revenues. The call for radical reform of current production and consumption patterns is a common denominator of these resolutions. It suggests that improving efficiencies is not enough to achieve environmental sustainability: it is also important to consume less (in developed countries) and to make things better, i.e., with fewer inputs from and less impact on the environment.

Parliamentarians are particularly concerned with official development assistance (ODA), debt relief and trade reforms as means of creating resources for development (MDG 8). This is reflected in several resolutions. The 2008 resolution on parliamentary oversight of foreign aid is a milestone that provides important guidance to parliaments on what they can do to improve the effectiveness of aid while stressing that aid commitments should be scaled up. It provides important insight into the interlinkages between aid and development policy, showing how a better aid architecture can also help improve the way development policies are formulated and implemented.

Finally, another frequent theme of the IPU's deliberations is HIV/AIDS (MDG 6). The debates reveal the devastating impact that the pandemic has had on the development prospects of many countries, let alone the human toll it has exacted around the world. A strong commitment to the goal of universal action for prevention, treatment and care comes across in at least two major resolutions. With new infections still outpacing the availability of affordable and accessible treatment, prevention must continue to be a priority of parliamentary action in this domain.

Recommendations for the next five years: escalating, refocusing and tracking our policy guidance

- The political commitments and policy statements of the past ten years provide a solid foundation for parliamentary action. In the remaining five years, the focus should narrow on a few specific and critical policy areas within each of the eight MDGs. The IPU should consult with the United Nations and with its Member Parliaments to identify *priority issues* to be discussed over the next five years in a consistent and coherent manner. Having provided strong guidance on the main issues, to the extent possible the next generation of MDG-related resolutions should dwell more on the *how-to* of the issues, i.e., the concrete ways to carry forward the most important policy recommendations.
- Although the IPU's resolutions cover much ground, they also show some obvious gaps. They have tended to avoid contentious issues and settle instead on more mainstream matters. Parliaments must deal more forcefully and clearly with those questions that the international community is unable to address for political reasons. One example is the question of whether there should be a tax on international financial flows (especially those of a speculative nature), and at what rate, to provide more funds for development. Another example is the legal empowerment of the poor, an issue on which the IPU has yet to express a strong position. There should also be a clearer statement dealing comprehensively with MDG 5 (maternal mortality), which is the least advanced of the MDGs.
- The next five years should also be more focused on tracking parliamentary action to follow up the IPU's many commitments. The IPU needs to find an appropriate mechanism for parliaments to report back and share *model legislation* and *institutional best practices* with others to help further implement the MDGs and other development commitments. An example of best practices to be tracked and studied has to do with the involvement of parliaments in preparing and monitoring key reports, such as national reports on the MDGs, sustainable development strategies, or the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) that governments are supposed to initiate with the support of their development partners.

How parliamentarians perceive the MDGs

At the 122nd IPU Assembly (Bangkok, April 2010), twenty parliamentarians were asked how they perceived the MDGs. The interviews were based on a random sample stratified by gender and party affiliation.

When asked, "Do you think that the constitution of a global framework of development goals such as the MDGs will help advance global development", 95 per cent of the parliamentarians replied in the affirmative. These positive responses came with various caveats, however. One was in no doubt that the MDGs worked as a driving force, but said that lack of results on the ground was undermining the motivation of parliamentarians to remain engaged. Another found that parliamentarians from the developed countries were less aware of and enthusiastic about the MDGs, and suggested that this did not bode well for the development partnership. As he put it: "The eight MDGs are a good thing. The problem is that rich countries are not on the same page as poor countries. Northern MPs are not sufficiently informed about the MDGs."

Another parliamentarian was concerned that the MDGs were adding an additional layer of bureaucracy to the work of parliaments and that tailoring such global commitments to national contexts was not an easy task. In fact, to the question, "Do you think that [the MDGs] are being successfully translated into national targets in your country", 25 per cent of the respondents stated that it had been difficult to set and achieve national goals. The parliamentarians also expressed concern that in many cases the MDGs are still seen as an executive or civil society issue, with national reports on MDGs not being tabled for discussion in parliament.

On the positive side, the members of parliaments interviewed suggested several steps that the IPU and parliaments could take to facilitate parliament's contribution to the attainment of the MDGs. These included: enhancing parliamentary awareness of the MDGs; helping build the capacities of members of parliament to evaluate government policies and programmes related to the MDGs; supporting the submission of annual national MDG reports to parliaments; creating a parliamentary structure to oversee the MDGs; and promoting the exchange of best practices to implement the MDGs.

Almost all of the parliamentarians interviewed also suggested that the IPU should consider pursuing the following possibilities: create a working group on the MDGs, provide parliaments with more regular information on the MDGs, and organize discussion forums (including regionally) around the MDGs. They also suggested that parliaments should be asked to present yearly MDG reports at formal IPU meetings as a way of helping to evaluate the extent of parliamentary involvement in the MDGs and of providing an overall progress assessment from the parliamentary community.

Parliamentary mechanisms for work on the MDGs

At the moment, parliaments have no single model on which to base the institutional approach to the MDGs. Some parliaments have integrated the MDGs into their normal work on development, with portfolio committees evaluating national plans and budgets from the perspective of the MDGs. Others are creating MDG-specific parliamentary structures, such as a (formal) dedicated committee or an (informal) caucus. Which institutional model a parliament will choose usually depends on the level of resources available, on the surrounding political culture, and on the political system in place.

To help evaluate the effectiveness of these different approaches, the IPU and the United Nations Millennium Campaign are undertaking a study of parliaments in seven countries (4 in Africa, 2 in Asia, and one in Europe). The study, to be released at the United Nations MDG summit in September 2010, will be used to help provide guidance to parliaments on how they can better integrate the MDGs into their work.

The initial findings from four of the seven countries to be studied have brought to light a variety of experiences that can already be used to draw some preliminary conclusions. Nigeria's lower house, for instance, has created a committee on the MDGs that has been consistently innovative in enhancing the role of parliament in the promotion and oversight of MDG-related work. The Nigerian Government had established a special MDG fund in the amount of \$1 billion annually (the fund was the result of a debt relief swap), and parliament therefore had a strong incentive to establish a committee devoted exclusively to the MDGs. In 2007, this committee helped expose the fact that millions of dollars were not being properly invested because of unnecessary red tape and other government bottlenecks. The committee has prompted the government to show a stronger commitment to the MDGs. To date the government of at least one state – Lagos - has been sanctioned by the committee for the absence of visible MDG projects on the ground.

Two of the countries studied (Mozambique and South Africa) suffer from a recurrent positive feature in multiparty parliaments in African countries: high turnover among parliamentarians. In both parliaments turnover is more than 60 per cent, which means that the operational reorganization of the house demands some time. It also means that the parliamentary training and awareness campaigns on the MDGs undertaken during the previous legislature will need to start from scratch. However, new parliamentarians also bring with them new ideas and strengths. In the case of Mozambique, for example, recent parliamentary elections led to a new committee leadership that has clearly signalled a shift towards greater concern for the MDGs.

A trend common to all four parliaments already reviewed is that involvement in the MDGs needs to be pro-actively demanded by parliament. Where this has been achieved, the executive branch is now cooperating in order to enable parliamentary oversight of the MDGs. In other countries, governments are still showing scepticism or simple indifference with regard to the role of parliament. The lesson learned is that if parliaments want to have a say in the MDGs, it is up to them to make themselves heard. Once this has happened, a win-win situation may develop, as in the case of Nigeria, in which the government begins to see the importance of engaging parliament to make sure that the right policies are enacted and that they are on track. A parliament wishing to play such an active role does not necessarily have to adopt the model of a particular country.

Moreover, it is crucial to start with members of parliament who are aware of and committed to enhancing parliament's role in support of the MDGs.

Other preliminary findings from the case studies suggest that active parliamentary participation in monitoring the attainment of the MDGs also depends on the existence of a more consolidated reporting mechanism, geared towards formal political accountability and containing more detailed information than is available in the reports currently presented to parliaments. This poses challenges to the legislature and to the government. Parliaments will need to enhance their policy analysis capacity and their knowledge of the MDGs. Governments, for their part, have to refine their reporting and monitoring systems to provide timely, sufficient and accurate information on the MDGs.

The IPU's MDG-related activities

Since 2000 the IPU has undertaken hundreds of activities relating to the MDGs (see Annex 2), some as the sole organizer, many others in partnership with parliaments or with international agencies. Activities include the publication of handbooks and guidance notes, the organization of seminars and surveys, and a long list of meetings designed to help clarify issues and build political momentum. In the absence of a proper development "programme", these activities started out small, focussing on a limited set of issues, then slowly expanded in scope to begin to form a comprehensive plan. Of late, the focus has shifted from workshops, seminars and other meetings to a greater variety of tools, including some that rely on the Internet and other technologies.

Much of the IPU's operational work is concentrated in the area of gender equality (MDG3), with a particular focus on the promotion of woman in politics. The IPU considers gender equality in politics an important precondition to improving women's conditions in all domains (economic and social). Gender is a cross-cutting issue that affects all of the MDGs, from the eradication of poverty to environmental sustainability. IPU activities to support women in politics and to mainstream gender issues throughout the development process include: the development and maintenance of an online database of women in politics to provide a comparative and historical perspective; the development (in a joint partnership with UNDP and others) of the International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics (iKNOW Politics), an online forum to promote exchanges of information and experiences in support of women's participation in politics; and the production of innovative publications such as the Global Map of Women in Politics. A critical area here is gender budgeting, a subject on which the IPU has issued several reports and conducted workshops around the world.

The Second Countdown to 2015 Conference on Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival (MDGs 4-5) was held in conjunction with the 118th IPU Assembly (Cape Town, April 2008). The aim was to enhance parliamentary efforts to promote maternal, newborn and child health in 68 priority countries where 97 per cent of all maternal and child deaths in the world occur, and the emphasis was on the importance of developing or strengthening health policies and systems, and of ensuring a continuum of care to reduce maternal and child mortality. The IPU's efforts, made in cooperation with Countdown to 2015 partners (UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), WHO and others), aim to ensure that parliaments are sensitized to these issues, which are among the least advanced of the MDGs, and take the necessary action. Parliaments are encouraged to allocate sufficient funds to maternal and child survival programmes, and to monitor their implementation.

When it comes to HIV/AIDS (MDG 6), the IPU has set up an Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS to provide policy guidance to parliaments, share best practices, help design projects and carry out concrete activities such as field missions. The Advisory Group is composed of members of parliament from all regions who have experience in working on HIV/AIDS issues. The IPU's activities have been based on the comprehensive reference book for parliamentarians it produced in cooperation with UNAIDS and UNDP in 2008.

While the IPU's activities cover all the MDGs, although to varying degrees, a special emphasis has been placed on the partnership for development (MDG 8), in particular the component that has to do with ODA. ODA, debt relief and trade are key sources of development financing that can benefit all developing countries, especially the least developed ones. Improving aid effectiveness in particular emerges from IPU's activities and related resolutions as the linchpin of development policy, and parliaments have a special role to play in that connection.

Pursuant to its 2008 resolution on parliamentary oversight of State policies on foreign aid, the IPU has conducted expert studies of the parliaments of Zambia, Tanzania, Cambodia and Viet Nam. The studies assess the level of parliamentary involvement and oversight in development plans and budgets, and make practical recommendations as to how parliaments can be given a prominent role in aid architecture in line with the precepts of the 2005 Paris Declaration and its successor Accra Agenda for Action. Specific recommendations call for capacity-building programmes to enhance parliamentarians' research and analytical skills.

Also in furtherance of the aid effectiveness agenda, in 2009 the IPU entered into a partnership with the UNDP-led Capacity Development for Development Effectiveness Facility (CDDE), which operates in the Asia-Pacific region. As a result of this partnership, a joint Guidance Note on Parliaments and Development Effectiveness was produced as an online resource available on a specialized web portal (aideffectiveness.org). Taken together, these initiatives are the first signs of a strong IPU presence in this arena.

As regards the least developed countries (LDC) specifically, the IPU has worked to help promote the landmark Brussels Programme of Action (BPOA) in partnership with the United Nations High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. To this end, it has begun to set up a system of focal points in the parliaments concerned and has produced a guidance note on how parliaments may appropriately engage in the BPOA review process at the country level with a view to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2011.

The IPU has also been very active with respect to trade (MDG 8), creating a long-term consultative process to help mobilize parliamentary support for ongoing trade negotiations under the Doha Round. The process, known as the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organization (WTO), also seeks to enhance the WTO's transparency and accountability.

The way forward – our commitment

"It always seems impossible until it's done."

Nelson Mandela

Parliaments have a clear role to play in the global drive to achieve the MDGs. The IPU will do all it can to support parliaments in this endeavour. The present review has shown that while much has already been accomplished, more remains to be done. In 2010, the IPU embraced the global call to reassess work done with regard to the MDGs and undertook a comprehensive self-critical exercise to understand how parliaments were working on the MDGs. It visited parliaments with different approaches to the MDGs and different development levels, and studied the involvement of parliaments in development aid, with a particular focus on health aid. It enquired of parliamentarians themselves how they saw the MDGs, and how parliaments and the IPU can play a more effective role in achieving them. The IPU now has an important store of knowledge on the expectations and needs of parliaments as concerns the MDGs. With this up-to-date knowledge, the IPU is fully committed and well equipped to do its part in global efforts to fulfil the MDGs. The IPU Secretariat and political leadership are fully committed to doing more and better in this regard. Specifically, the IPU pledges:

- To promote awareness among parliaments and parliamentarians of the important role that they need to play in respect of the MDG agenda;

- To continue to ensure that the parliamentary perspective is heard in international forums on the MDGs and that the information those forums produce also reaches national parliaments;
- To insist that the MDGs are not an agenda from the South but a global agenda, that parliaments from the North and the South share the same interest in making sure that budgets are respected and that policies for development have political commitment and are efficiently conducted;
- To promote cooperation among parliaments on the MDGs for the exchange of information, experience and good practice;
- To consolidate and reinforce its own MDG-related activities;
- To maintain and strengthen its cooperation and partnerships with the United Nations and other development agencies with regard to achieving the MDGs;
- To advocate the tabling of national reports on the MDGs before parliament;
- To advocate the discussion of poverty reduction strategies within parliaments;
- To include development issues in IPU training tools aimed at increasing parliamentary capacities;
- To continue lending an attentive ear when parliaments voice their MDG-related needs, concerns, suggestions and perceptions.

Parliaments have a role to play in fostering awareness and guaranteeing efficient oversight of government programmes, furthering the adoption of the right policies and budgets and promoting legislative reform for the implementation of the MDGs. Ensuring public participation and exercising and displaying political will are key to achieving the MDGs.

The way forward is through cooperation on a journey that needs to be undertaken with determination by governments, the international community, and certainly parliaments and the IPU. It is up to us all to pave the way.

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IPU MDG-related resolutions (Annex I)

IPU MDG-related activities (Annex II)

Compilation of IPU resolutions on the MDGs: ten years in perspective (2000-2010)

Year	References	Main Commitments/Statements	Focus on MDG
2000	<p>Financing for development and a new paradigm of economic and social development designed to eradicate poverty</p> <p>– Jakarta (Indonesia)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supports good governance in all its dimensions as key to the success of development efforts • urges that official development assistance be made more effective and that MPs be more closely involved in the implementation of development assistance measures • calls for the commitment of 0.7 per cent of GDP on ODA to be respected, along with the 20/20 Initiative (i.e. 20 per cent of ODA from donors to be used to combat poverty and 20 per cent of public expenditures in recipient countries to be used to provide education, health and housing) • expresses support for a tax on short-term capital flows that could be allocated to a world solidarity fund managed by the United Nations • calls for measures to bring more coherence in the distribution of various flows of development financing, such as ODA and private capital flows (FDIs) so as to avoid concentration of the latter in only a few countries • stresses the need to redirect excessive military spending toward more productive investments 	8
2001	<p>Protecting and caring for children, the driving force of future society</p> <p>– Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expresses support for the goals of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and affirms the rights of children to development, protection and education • recommends that basic education be made compulsory and free in all countries, with educational materials free of charges, and with access granted to all children regardless of gender • urges policy measures to support effective, equitable and sustainable primary care for children as well as water and sanitation services that provide healthy lifestyles • emphasizes the importance of preventing HIV infection in children and of providing care to those already infected 	2, 4
2001	<p>Urgent action to combat HIV/AIDS and other pandemics which seriously endanger public health, and economic, social and political development and even threaten the survival of many nations</p> <p>– Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • urges the pharmaceutical industry to reduce the prices of medicines, especially in the developing countries, to waive exclusive rights on production and marketing of drugs under a re-negotiated TRIPS Agreement, and to help finance measures to combat AIDS, including research for a vaccine • invites more research of diseases that are more prevalent in developing countries, including HIV/AIDS and their related infections • calls for effective national and international AIDS policies and programmes appropriately tailored to various sub-groups to be set up and implemented – such programmes focusing particularly on public information and education to support prevention measures (condoms) and abolish discrimination against affected people • reminds African countries of the commitment to spend at least 15 per cent of national budget on health and education (OAU Abuja Summit of 2001) • stresses that human rights deserve precedence over trade rights and must inform the application of WTO TRIPS Agreements • calls for greater attention to be given to HIV prevention, particularly of mother-to-child transmission 	4, 6, 8

2001	<p>Education and culture as essential factors in promoting the participation of men and women in political life and as prerequisites for the development of peoples</p> <p>– Havana (Cuba)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • asserts that education is a prerequisite to sustainable development and poverty eradication, and that education for women and girls is a top priority within education policy • asks that girls be given equal access to schooling on a par with boys, with the goal of achieving gender equality in education (both primary and secondary) by 2015 • recommends that schooling for girls be made compulsory and of the same duration as for boys, and that primary education should be subsidized for all and with supplies and materials available free of charge • stresses the need to increase budgetary allocations for education in developing countries, including through international assistance 	2, 3
2002	<p>Ten years after Rio: global degradation of the environment and parliamentary support for the Kyoto Protocol</p> <p>– Marrakesh (Maroc)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • welcomes the inclusion of environmental sustainability as one of the MDGs, recognizing that poverty and the environment are intimately inter-connected • reiterates the importance of national strategies for sustainable development as per UN commitments (Rio+5 Special Session of the GA) • considers that production and consumption patterns are well beyond the earth's carrying capacities (water, land, forests, fish stocks), and that a de-linking of growth from environmental degradation is required to ensure environmental sustainability • endorses the UNFCCC's objective to achieve the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere to prevent irreversible climate change • calls for the implementation of the precautionary principle and the polluter-pays principle through environmental legislation • calls for improved ecosystem management and governance of forests and water resources 	7
2002	<p>The role of parliaments in developing public policy in an era of globalisation, multilateral institutions and international trade agreements</p> <p>– Marrakesh (Maroc)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • calls for close parliamentary scrutiny of decisions taken by the WTO, World Bank and IMF, and in making these institutions more democratic, transparent and equitable • invites parliamentarians to participate actively in international trade negotiations including follow up at the national level • urges the creation of a more democratic, fair, transparent, equitable and non-discriminatory multilateral trade regime • calls for debt cancellations for the heavily indebted countries and for substantial debt reductions for the poorest countries 	1, 8
2004	<p>The role of parliaments in preserving biodiversity</p> <p>– Geneva (Switzerland)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • calls for the universal ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol, and endorses the WSSD target of reducing biodiversity loss by 2010 • recommends stronger public policy focus to change unsustainable consumption and production patterns and tackle population growth as the underlying causes of biodiversity loss • calls for national trade policies that are compatible with the objective of sustainable development as set out in environmental protection agreements • calls for the social and economic value of goods and services provided by biodiversity to be accounted for in public policy, planning, finance and management • calls for national progress reports toward the 2010 target for the reduction of biodiversity loss, and for greater international environmental governance • urges countries to cooperate with each other on the management of shared natural resources, including through comprehensive environmental impact assessments of proposed projects, and to work together for the preservation of marine life outside national jurisdiction • recommends the establishment of specialized parliamentary committees on environmental affairs with a mandate for conservation and sustainable use of resources 	7

2004	<p>Beijing + 10: An evaluation from a parliamentary perspective</p> <p>– Geneva (Switzerland)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • upholds the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as the main legal framework to advance gender equality, and calls for its universal ratification • upholds the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for their guidance to governments and parliaments to advance gender equality and women empowerment • affirms the key role of parliaments in facilitating women's entry in politics and elected office, with a minimum objective of 30% women MPs as reiterated in the Beijing Declaration but with an ultimate target of 50% as stated in the Outcome Document of the GA Special Session (Beijing+5) of 2000 • recommends that parliaments take pro-active action to support women's access to political office, including through more pro-active enlisting by political parties, electoral quota laws, more training and information for women candidates, and reforms of parliamentary rules to allow for gender-sensitive codes of conducts, more family friendly working hours and the like • requests regular tracking of progress made in advancing women's presence in government and in mainstreaming gender issues throughout the policy process at the national level • recommends that women's particular needs be taken into consideration in the formulation of poverty reduction strategies, and urges the adoption of gender budgeting to effectively mainstream women issues at the policy level • reaffirms the importance of economic rights to support the empowerment of women, including property rights, inheritance rights, the right to equal pay for equal work, as key to poverty eradication • urges action to ensure equal access of women and girls to education and training 	1, 2, 3
2004	<p>Working towards an equitable environment for international commerce: the issues of trade in agricultural products and the access to basic medicines</p> <p>–Mexico City (Mexico)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reaffirms the importance of trade to development and of the multilateral trade regime under the WTO • calls on parliaments to be better informed of trade negotiations and to be more closely involved in the activities of the WTO • asserts the right of developing countries to take a gradual approach to market opening in agriculture in the light of concerns with food security and sustainable agricultural production • recommends that trade negotiations in agriculture take into account the multidimensional role of agriculture as well as other concerns such as food safety, land preservation, rural employment, and the preservation of local ways of life • calls on developed countries to eliminate export subsidies in agriculture (particularly in agricultural products like cotton that compete with those of the Least Developed Countries) and to eliminate non-tariff barriers imposed on imports from developing countries • calls for national legislation to allow for compulsory licensing for the export of patented medicines for life-threatening disease to developing countries that have no capacities to produce such drugs on their own • urges that anti-retroviral drugs and drugs to prevent mother-to-child transmission for HIV be made available at no cost to patients who can't afford them (rather than focusing only on bringing drug prices down) • encourages closer monitoring of the pharmaceutical industry 	6, 8
2004	<p>The contribution of new information and communication technologies to good governance, the improvement of parliamentary democracy and the management of globalisation</p> <p>– Geneva (Switzerland)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourages the setting up of national strategies on education, including basic and digital literacy, for the implementation of the information society • urges policies and investments to facilitate internet hook-ups, including by breaking private monopolies of service providers and by promoting cheaper solutions • calls on the international community for stronger measures to close the digital divide, and for national legislation to provide an environment conducive to the dissemination, development and secure use of ICTs • recommends support for free community access to ICTs, and for international organizations and NGOs (from both South and North) to promote knowledge sharing and the establishment of ICTs networks 	8

2005	<p>Migration and development</p> <p>– Geneva (Switzerland)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • urges stronger efforts to achieve the MDGs, thus helping eliminate the underlying cause of most migration (i.e. poverty and its attendant issues) • recognizes the importance of migrants' remittances as a key flow of development financing, and encourages policies to further facilitate the transfer of such remittances • encourages remedial approaches to the problem of brain drain, particularly as it impacts health and education indicators in developing (sending) countries, including financial compensation in to countries suffering from brain drain • calls for further opening of labor markets to migrant workers in line with other forms of liberalization (capital mobility, trade) in the current regime of globalization • upholds the human rights of migrants, and the need to address issues of exploitation and abuse of migrant workers • recognizes the health-related risks of migration, such as HIV/AIDS and other infections diseases, and the need for migrants to have adequate access to health services 	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8
2005	<p>The role of parliaments in establishing innovative international financing and trading mechanisms to address the problem of debt and achieve the Millennium Development Goals</p> <p>– Manila (Philippines)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • endorses the developmental purpose of the Doha Round of trade negotiations • asks that parliamentary delegations join government representatives in WTO ministerial meeting, and that governments keep parliaments fully informed of the state of trade negotiations • invites further proposal for innovative financing mechanisms to complement ODA and other development flows • recommends mechanisms for alleviation of the debt burden for middle income countries that would not otherwise qualify for the heavily indebted poor countries initiative (HIPC) • calls for the establishment of national development strategies centred around the MDGs, and for annual reports to parliament for debate • asks donor countries in particular to draw up reports on the implementation of MDG8 with both qualitative and quantitative evaluation of actions taken 	8
2005	<p>The role of parliaments in advocating and enforcing observance of human rights in the strategies for the prevention, management and treatment of the HIV/AIDS pandemic</p> <p>– Manila (Philippines)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • endorses the 2001 Declaration of Commitments on HIV/AIDS • recognizes that human rights protections are an integral part of HIV/AIDS policy to strengthen prevention, treatment and care of affected individuals, and calls in particular on the elimination of all forms of discrimination (gender, age, sexual orientation, social or legal status) in prevention, treatment and care • supports strong prevention measures, including through access to condoms, clean needles for drug users, and prevention information, to help stem the number of new infections • calls for antiretroviral drugs and other medicines and treatments to be made affordable to the poor and vulnerable, and especially women and children (emphasis also on pre-natal transmission), and for the full use of TRIPS flexibilities and other WTO rules that allow for the commercialization of generics and other affordable drugs in developing countries • urges the development of coordinated, participatory and transparent national policies and programmes, supplemented by national reports to track progress on HIV/AIDS (either stand alone reports or as part of MDG reports) • urges free access to HIV testing for all, • supports the allocation of more resources to strengthen health systems, including for HIV/AIDS prevention and care, as well as increasing donors' contributions to the Global Fund • urges the creation of specialized parliamentary committees or other structures to focus on HIV/AIDS 	4, 5, 6

2006	<p>The role of parliaments in overseeing the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with regard to the problem of debt and the eradication of poverty and corruption</p> <p>– Geneva (Switzerland)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • endorses the Millennium Declaration of 2000 and the World Summit Outcome of 2005, and pledges parliamentary support for all MDGs • calls for regular national reports to monitor progress on the MDGs to be submitted to parliaments, as well as for development strategies and budgets to be directly targeted at the MDGs • encourages parliaments to be involved in the formulation of poverty reduction strategy papers • calls for debt cancellations for highly indebted countries, for legal instruments to prevent over indebtedness, for more realistic debt sustainability criteria (not strictly tied to macro-economic ratios), and for cancelled debt repayments to be earmarked for MDG-related investments • stresses the importance of good governance as key to development and calls for measures to eliminate corruption (code of conducts for parliamentarians, the establishment of specialized corruption committees, the enactment of freedom of information legislation, and more transparent public procurement) • recommends more harmonization of aid among donors, and for better alignment of aid with national strategies (as per Paris Declaration) • reiterates the importance of gender equality as a determinant of development, and for pro-active policies to support women equality, including through gender budgeting and quotas to provide more access to government posts, parliaments, and the civil service 	All with focus on 1, 3, 8
2006	<p>The role of parliaments in environmental management and in combating global degradation of the environment</p> <p>– Geneva (Switzerland)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • calls for national environmental strategies, including for biodiversity, to promote sustainability, - with such strategies stating clear targets and timelines • calls for policies to support sustainable production and consumption patterns (ten-year framework), including green taxes and other approaches to avoid the externalization of environmental costs throughout the economy • encourages the development of green budgets (i.e., national budgets that take into account from the start the environmental cost of state policies and budgetary allocations) • calls on private industry to exercise stewardship of the environment by adhering to the principle of corporate social responsibility • stresses the importance of green technology transfers to enable developing countries to address their environmental issues and contribute to curbing climate change • further endorses the Kyoto Protocol and calls on parliaments to support policies required to limit rising global temperature to 2 degrees Celsius (over pre-industrial levels) • reiterates the importance of education and public awareness campaigns for the environment 	7
2006	<p>The need for urgent food relief in order to combat drought-induced famine and poverty in Africa, for the world's most industrialized nations to speed up aid to the continent and for particular efforts to be made to reach desperate and poor populations</p> <p>– Nairobi (Kenya)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reiterates the importance of national sustainable development strategies as a tool to tackle all the MDGs in a comprehensive and integrated manner • calls for the elimination of all agricultural export subsidies in developed countries, as well as of other trade-distorting domestic support to agriculture, to further open markets to imports from developing countries • calls for the equal participation of women in economic and political life, including through the right to own and inherit property, and land in particular • asks for scaling up the share of aid and other innovative financing mechanisms to support agriculture in developing countries • calls for further debt cancellations for African countries affected by drought-induced famine upholds the right to food as a human right 	1, 3, 7, 8

2007	<p>Job creation and employment security in the era of globalization</p> <p>- Nusa Dua (Indonesia)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • affirms the centrality of the decent work agenda in economic and social policy against poverty and for economic growth • calls for legal protections, such as freedom of association and bargaining rights, to be extended to all workers, including migrant workers, women, and children (unlawful child labor), and for anti-discrimination laws based on sex, disability and other factors • calls for education and vocational training programs to help workers adjust to changing labor market requirements, especially as a consequence of increasing globalization • endorses a tripartite approach (government, unions, and employers) to economic and social policy-making (particularly employment policy) • focuses particularly on the role of women workers, calling for their unpaid labor to be recognized, inheritance and land rights to be granted, as well as maternity leave and child care services provided for by law • warns against the impact job precariousness as an unintended consequence of globalization • calls for more systematic collection and analysis of employment data disaggregated by sex, age and other factors to inform labour market policy • recommends that investments in developing countries be focused on labour-intensive sectors, helping ensure that economic growth will benefit the poor • calls for fairer trade rules to benefit employment growth in developing countries (Doha Round) 	1, 3, 8
2008	<p>Parliamentary oversight of State policies on foreign aid</p> <p>- Cape Town (South Africa)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • affirms the key role of parliaments (legislative, budgetary, and oversight) in promoting all of the MDGs, and in contributing and overseeing national development plans and poverty reduction strategies • recognizes the importance of aid to help developing countries achieve the MDGs • reiterates the key role of parliamentary oversight to ensure aid effectiveness, and calls for more capacity building of parliaments to enable them in this role • affirms the need for more transparent aid - with debt and humanitarian aid not being included in the calculation of official aid, and with all aid being untied • calls for the 0.7 per GDP commitment to be maintained, while also calling for growth policies to support the economy and avoid aid dependence • affirms the key role of good governance as a prerequisite to sound development and aid effectiveness, focusing particularly on anti-corruption measures • affirms the need to mainstream gender into development cooperation to support gender equality and women's empowerment • calls for innovative financing flows to be supported alongside ODA • asks for some aid to be earmarked directly to support MDGs strategies, as well as for direct parliamentary support • endorses the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, and assigns a special role to the new Development Cooperation Forum of ECOSOC as the best framework to strengthen coherence and effectiveness of development cooperation 	8

2009	<p>Climate change, sustainable development models, and renewable energies</p> <p>– Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • calls for a post-Kyoto international regime on climate change to curb CO2 emissions in line with the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change • calls on states to announce and begin to implement voluntary emission cuts while intergovernmental negotiations are taking place • supports drawing up effective national strategies to help expand the share of renewable in the energy mix, and with a focus on more public and private investments and R&D • asks for fossil fuel subsidies to be reconsidered in the light of the need to support renewable energies • provides for measures to increase energy efficiency in transportation, industrial production, and construction • reaffirms the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities in any new global deal for climate change • asks for stronger strategies to combat deforestation and for the promotion of sustainable agricultures (including organic agriculture) to reduce greenhouse emissions • calls for greater protection of marine environment and fisheries, and for efforts to improve access to water (to be declared a human right) • cautions against the use of nuclear energy as an easy way out in reducing emissions (potential hazards; uranium depletion; disposal problem; excessive cost) • cautions against the effects on food production and the environment from the bio fuel production, and supports more R&D for sustainable bio fuels • urges stronger action to stop biodiversity loss, and adherence to the Convention on Biological Diversity • supports measures to raise awareness and knowledge of climate change and environmental issues among citizens, including through education and media campaigns 	7
2009	<p>The role of parliaments in mitigating the social and political impact of the international economic and financial crisis on the most vulnerable sectors of the global community, especially in Africa</p> <p>– Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognizes the risk that the global economic and financial crisis poses to the achievement of the MDGs • warns against undue protectionist measures that may restrict trade and development • calls for special measures to mitigate the social, economic and political effects of the global financial crisis, especially on developing countries, and with special focus on the most vulnerable • reiterates need for donor countries to maintain their debt relief and aid commitments in spite of budgetary constraints due to the crisis 	1, 8
2010	<p>Role of parliament in developing South-South and triangular cooperation with a view to accelerating achievement of the MDGs</p> <p>– Bangkok (Thailand)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognizes South-South and triangular cooperation as an important tool to achieve the MDGs • asks that a share of ODA also go to support South-South and triangular cooperation as more cost efficient and nationally owned, and that official aid commitments be honoured • recommends that southern donors develop “good practices” in line with the Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action • asks for better accounting of South-South ODA flows (as well as North-South flows) • invites more parliamentary oversight in Southern countries of development plans and programmes for MDGs • calls on Southern countries (as for North) to comply with trade commitments to the LDCs (quota free; duty free) • asks Southern countries to provide more aid for trade as part of their cooperation • recommends that South-South cooperation support regional public goods such as water resources, ecological assets and cross-border forests 	1, 7, 8

Compilation of IPU activities on the MDGs: ten years in perspective (2000-2010)

Year	Activity	Comments	Focus on MDG
2000	Publication: Participation of Women in Political Life – Geneva (Switzerland) http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/womenplus5_en.pdf	Wide distribution to IPU Members, to the UN, to participants at IPU Assemblies, etc. The study analyses answers received from parliaments and political parties to the surveys undertaken since October 1998 on follow-up to Beijing. The study was a contribution to the Special Session of the General Assembly.	3
2000	Publication: Politics: Women's Insight – Geneva (Switzerland)	Wide distribution to IPU Members, to participants at IPU Assemblies, etc. The study analyses the political experience of some 200 women from all over the world.	3
2000	Tripartite Consultation on " Democracy Through Partnership Between Men and Women " – New York (United States of America) In partnership with: UNDAW www.ipu.org/splz-e/bjn5.htm	Organized by the IPU in cooperation with the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, on the occasion of the Beijing+5 Special session of the United Nations General Assembly.	3
2000	Publication: Parliament and the Budgetary Process, including from a Gender Perspective – Kenya http://www.ipu.org/pdf/publications/nairobi_en.pdf	This publication reports on a seminar organised by the IPU in cooperation with UNDP that took place in Nairobi, from 22 to 24 May 2000, at the invitation of the Kenyan Parliament. It aimed at improving MPs' and parliamentary staffers' understanding of the three phases of the budgetary process (elaboration, reading in Parliament and oversight) and its gender implications.	
2000-2006	Parliament and the Budgetary Process, including from a Gender Perspective - A total of seven seminars – Francophone and Anglophone Africa, Europe, Arab countries, Latin America, Asia-Pacific, Western Asia In partnership with: UNIFEM www.ipu.org/splz-e/kenya.htm ; www.ipu.org/splz-e/bamako01.htm ; www.ipu.org/splz-e/manila02.htm ; www.ipu.org/splz-e/srilanka03.pdf ; www.ipu.org/splz-e/lebanon.htm ; http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/salvador05.htm		3
2000 2005 2006	Information Kit: Women in Politics: 1945 - 2000 Information Kit: Women in Politics: 1945 - 2005 Information Kit: Women in Politics: 60 Years in Retrospect – Geneva (Switzerland)	Wide distribution to IPU Members, to the UN, to participants at IPU Assemblies, etc. These kits were launched during the yearly session of the CSW and on the occasion of the International Women's Day (8 March). Published on the occasion of the annual sessions of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women which reviewed progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.	3
2000 2005 2008 2010	Map: Women in Politics In partnership with: UNDAW http://www.ipu.org/english/surveys.htm	The map is launched during the yearly session of the CSW and on the occasion of the International Women's Day (8 March). It receives wide media coverage throughout the world. It is widely distributed to IPU Members, to the UN, to participants at IPU Assemblies, etc. The poster is a "snapshot" of the presence of women in the Executive and Legislative branches of Government.	3

2001	<p>National Seminar on "The Process of Engendering a New Constitution for Rwanda"</p> <p>– Kigali (Rwanda)</p> <p>In partnership with: UNDP, with input from UNIFEM and UNECA</p> <p>www.ipu.org/splz-e/kigali01.htm</p>	<p>The seminar was organised in Kigali in June 2001 by the IPU in cooperation with UNDP, with input from UNIFEM and UNECA.</p>	3
2001	<p>Publication: National Seminar on "The Process of Engendering a New Constitution for Rwanda"</p> <p>– Geneva (Switzerland)</p> <p>In partnership with: UNDP, with input from UNIFEM and UNECA</p> <p>www.ipu.org/pdf/publications/kigali_bi.pdf</p>	<p>Publication of the debates of the homonymous seminar. It includes a summary of the proceedings and the guidelines adopted by participants. It also contains inaugural and concluding speeches as well as the presentations by the resource persons.</p>	3
2001	<p>Publication: Parliament and the Budgetary Process, including from a Gender Perspective</p> <p>– Bamako (Mali)</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/pdf/publications/mali01_fr.pdf</p>	<p>This publication reports on a seminar organised by the IPU in cooperation with UNDP, and with the support of the World Bank Institute in Bamako, from 1 to 3 November 2001, at the invitation of the Parliament of Mali.</p>	All
2001	<p>Parliamentary message to the 3rd UN conference on LDCs</p> <p>– Havana (Cuba)</p> <p>In partnership with: UN OHRLLS</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/cnl-e/168-ldc.htm</p>	<p>LDCs -BPOA. The Programme of Action contains 30 international development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.</p>	All
2001	<p>For a free, just and equitable multilateral trading system: providing a parliamentary dimension</p> <p>– Geneva (Switzerland)</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/trade01.htm</p>	<p>With this meeting, IPU aimed to bring together members of parliaments who specialise in international trade issues in their respective parliaments. The Meeting provided them with an opportunity to examine globalisation from a trade perspective and to discuss the legislative and oversight role of parliaments in relation to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the current multilateral trading system and future trade negotiations.</p>	All
2001	<p>Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference</p> <p>– Doha (Qatar)</p> <p>In partnership with: the European Parliament</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/doha.htm</p>		8
2001	<p>High-Level Parliamentary Round Table in the Framework of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries</p> <p>– Brussels (Belgium)</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/cnl-e/168-ldc.htm</p>	<p>Parliamentary message to the third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.</p>	
2002	<p>Parliamentary Forum on the Occasion of the United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development</p> <p>– Mexico City (Mexico)</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/ffd.htm</p>	<p>The United Nations organised the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002. The Inter-Parliamentary Union took a keen interest in this important event and provided support to it by encouraging parliaments to take an active part in its preparation and organising debates on some of the themes relating to the Conference.</p> <p>The one-day Parliamentary Forum took place in Mexico City on 16 March 2002 on the premises of the Mexican Senate and was open to all members of parliament who are travelling to Monterrey to attend the international Conference.</p>	1, 3, 8

2002	<p>World Food Summit: five years later – Rome (Italy) In partnership with: FAO http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/wfs5.htm</p>	<p>The one-day Parliamentary Meeting took place on the premises of the Italian Parliament in Rome on 11 June 2002 and was open to all MPs attending the World Food Summit. Participants were able to exchange views concerning parliamentary strategies for effective follow-up to the Summit decisions, in particular through the adoption of appropriate legislation and the mobilisation of adequate financial resources.</p>	1
2002	<p>Handbook: Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour: A Practical Guide to ILO Convention No. 182 In partnership with: ILO http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/childlabour_en.pdf</p>	<p>This handbook offers an educational approach to this complex subject and to Convention No. 182, the cornerstone of international action to combat the worst forms of child labour. It provides examples of best practices and gives an overview of what parliamentarians can do to help eradicate the various forms of abuse to which child workers are exposed. It also proposes model instruments and reference material as aids designed to facilitate the work of legislators.</p>	4
2002	<p>Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development – Johannesburg (South Africa) In partnership with: South African Parliament http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/jbrg02.htm</p>	<p>The meeting was open to all MPs attending the World Summit as part of their national delegations to the United Nations event, or attending the NGO Forum held on the occasion. The discussions provided an opportunity for parliamentarians to gain an insight into the main issues at stake in the World Summit on Sustainable Development and to bring their influence to bear on the intergovernmental negotiations towards the Programme of Action that the Summit is expected to adopt.</p>	7
Yearly since 2003	<p>Information Seminar: "Implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" – Geneva (Switzerland) http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/cedaw.htm http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/cedaw05.htm http://www.ipu.org/Splz-e/cedaw06.htm http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/cedaw07.htm http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/cedaw08.htm http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/cedaw09.htm</p>	<p>The aim of the seminars was to identify opportunities for strengthening parliament's role both in the reporting process, including preparation and presentation of reports, and in follow-up to the Committee's concluding observations in regard to the reporting State.</p>	3
2003	<p>National Seminar : "Rwandan Women and the Electoral Campaign" – Kigali (Rwanda) In partnership with: UNDP, Transitional National Assembly of Rwanda, Forum of Rwandan Women Publication of the debates of the homonymous seminar: http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/rwanda03_bi.pdf</p>	<p>The Seminar was held on the eve of the launch of both presidential and legislative electoral campaigns, the seminar came at a timely moment in the Rwandan electoral process. It was hugely successful, bringing together a wide range of women leaders with a variety of backgrounds.</p>	3
2003	<p>Handbook: The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol – Geneva (Switzerland) In partnership with: UNDAW www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/cedaw_en.pdf</p>	<p>This handbook, jointly produced with the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, offers a comprehensive and educational presentation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which is the most comprehensive international instrument on women's rights, and its Optional Protocol. The handbook presents the background to and content of the Convention and the Optional Protocol and describes the role of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which secures implementation at the national level. It provides examples of best practices and gives an overview of what parliamentarians can do to ensure effective implementation of the Convention.</p>	3
2003	<p>Report: Parliament and the Budgetary Process, including from a Gender Perspective – Manila (Philippines) In partnership with: Congress of the Republic of the Philippines, UNDP and the World Bank Institute</p>	<p>This report combines the results of the statements given at the Seminar held in Manila on "Parliaments and the budgetary Process, including from a Gender Perspective".</p>	3

2003	<p>Publication: Towards Sustainability: Implementing Agenda 21 – Johannesburg (South Africa) <u>In partnership with:</u> the Parliament of South Africa</p>	<p>This publication reports on the proceedings of the Parliamentary Meeting held on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. It contains highlights of the Meeting and the complete text of the Final Declaration of the Meeting in which participants commit themselves to working through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, for a more sustainable and equitable world, and to bringing a parliamentary dimension to the United Nations, the WTO, the Bretton Woods institutions and all such multilateral organizations engaged in implementing the outcome of the Summit. It also contains the text (or extensive excerpts) of statements made at the Meeting.</p>	7
2003	<p>Parliamentary Conference on the WTO – Geneva (Switzerland) <u>In partnership with:</u> the European Parliament</p>	<p>The Conference was a joint undertaking of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament. It was aimed at strengthening democracy at the international level by bringing a parliamentary dimension to multilateral cooperation on trade issues.</p>	8
2003	<p>Cancún session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO – Cancún (Mexico) <u>In partnership with:</u> The Post-Doha Steering Committee, the European Parliament and the Mexican Parliament</p>	<p>By holding a parliamentary session as a parallel event of the Ministerial Conference in Cancún, the Steering Committee sought to advance the process of the establishment of a parliamentary dimension of the WTO as a mean of enhancing the transparency and democratic accountability of this organization.</p>	8
2004	<p>Report: Parliament and the Budgetary Process, including from a Gender Perspective Regional Seminar (Colombo) http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/colombo_en.pdf</p>	<p>This report compiles the results of and statements delivered at the seminar held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in May 2003 entitled "Parliament and the budgetary process, including from a Gender Perspective".</p>	3
2004	<p>Handbook: Parliament, the Budget and Gender – Geneva (Switzerland) <u>In partnership with:</u> UNDP, UNIFEM, The World Bank Institute http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/budget_en.pdf</p>	<p>This handbook was inspired by a series of regional and national seminars on Parliament and the Budgetary Process, including from a Gender Perspective.</p>	3
Yearly since 2005	<p>Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) – New York (United States of America) http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/csw06.htm http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/csw07.htm http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/csw08.htm http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/csw09.htm http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/csw10.htm</p>		3
2005	<p>African Parliamentary Conference on "Violence against Women, Abandoning Female Genital Mutilation: The Role of Parliaments" – Dakar (Sénégal) <u>In partnership with:</u> APU, UNICEF, Parliament of Senegal http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/dakar05.htm</p>	<p>This conference made it possible for parliamentarians from African countries to exchange views, and helped build a better understanding of the role that parliaments should play in fighting FGMC. Specifically, the conference emphasized the means available to eradicate this practice not only through laws, but also through societal changes and action at the local level.</p>	4, 5
2005	<p>Promoting innovative sources of financing for development: What role for parliaments? – New York (UN Headquarters) <u>In partnership with:</u> United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (Financing for Development Office) http://www.ipu.org/un-e/panel100605.pdf</p>	<p>The panel aimed at providing the United Nations with a first direct impression of the political support that currently exists at the parliamentary level or that may be mobilized in future for innovative sources of development financing. It took place in the wake of a resolution that the IPU adopted at its 112th Assembly in Manila in 2005, which concluded inter alia with an expression of support for "further work on proposals for international financing mechanisms as a creative and at the same time realistic way of providing additional resources for development".</p>	8

2005	<p>Seminar on parliaments, environmental management and sustainable development – Paris (France) In partnership with: United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/unitar05.htm#climat</p>	Global Capacity-Building Initiative for Parliaments on Sustainable Development.	7
2005	<p>Regional seminar for the parliaments of the Arab States: Global capacity-building initiative for parliaments on sustainable development – Beirut (Lebanon) In partnership with: United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) http://www.unohrrls.org/en/orphan/741/</p>		7
2005	<p>Publication: Global Capacity-Building Initiative for Parliaments on Sustainable Development – Paris (France) http://www.ipu.org/pdf/publications/develop_en.pdf http://www.ipu.org/pdf/publications/develop_fr.pdf</p>	On 22 and 23 April 2005 the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) held a Conference at the Luxembourg Palace, seat of the French Senate, on parliamentary capacity-building in the field of sustainable development.	7
2006 2007 2008 2009	<p>First Meeting of Parliamentary Bodies Dealing with Gender Equality: <i>The Role of Parliamentary Committees in Mainstreaming Gender and Promoting the Status of Women</i> – Geneva (Switzerland) http://www.ipu.org/Splz-e/gender06.htm</p> <p>Second meeting of members of parliamentary bodies dealing with gender issues: <i>Women and Work</i> – Geneva (Switzerland) In partnership with: ILO http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/gender07.htm</p> <p>Third meeting of members of parliamentary bodies dealing with gender issues: <i>A Parliamentary Response to Violence against Women</i> – Geneva (Switzerland) http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/gender08.htm</p> <p>Fourth meeting of members of parliamentary bodies dealing with gender issues: <i>Is Parliament Open to Women? An Appraisal</i> – Geneva (Switzerland) http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/gender09.htm</p>	<p>First Meeting: First seminar of parliamentary bodies dealing with gender issues. The seminar discussed ways and means of enhancing the work of their committees in addressing gender issues.</p> <p>Second Meeting: As part of its efforts to strengthen the capacity of parliaments to promote gender equality and respect for women's rights, this second Seminar was also open to parliamentary bodies dealing with labour issues. It brought together members of parliament to discuss ways and means of identifying key priority areas for action and parliamentary initiatives and strategies to achieve equality between men and women on the labour market.</p> <p>Third Meeting: The meeting provided an opportunity for members of parliament to take stock of the situation; examine the costs of VAW, from a human rights perspective but also from a social and economic one; discuss the various types of VAW and debate concrete parliamentary initiatives that can be taken to combat such violence. Specific attention was paid to legislative frameworks and effective enforcement. The conference resulted in the identification of concrete ways in which parliaments can respond effectively to violence against women.</p> <p>Fourth Meeting: The meeting provided a forum for members of parliament to debate and take stock of progress made; identify future priorities for realising the goal of equality in politics; appraise progress made in terms of women's parliamentary participation across the world since Beijing; and take stock of concrete steps and special measures that have been taken to open parliaments up to the participation of women. The role of political parties, the influence of money in politics and the effects of quotas and electoral systems will be considered, together with the ways in which women parliamentarians are changing politics and redefining political priorities to include the concerns and priorities of women.</p>	3

<p>2006</p> <p>First Regional Conference of Women Parliamentarians of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States</p> <p>– Bahrain</p> <p><u>In partnership with:</u> Parliament of Bahrain</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/Splz-e/gulf06.pdf</p> <p>2007</p> <p>Second Regional Conference of Women Parliamentarians of GCC States</p> <p>– United Arab Emirates</p> <p><u>In partnership with:</u> Parliament of the United Arab Emirates</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/abudhabi07.htm</p> <p>2008</p> <p>Third Regional Conference of Women Parliamentarians of GCC States</p> <p>– Oman</p> <p><u>In partnership with:</u> Parliament of Oman</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/gcc08.htm</p> <p>2009</p> <p>Fourth Regional Conference of Women Parliamentarians and Women in Political Decision-Making Positions of the Gulf Cooperation Council States</p> <p><u>In partnership with:</u> Parliament of Bahrain</p> <p>– Bahrain</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/gcc09.htm</p>	<p>First Meeting: The conference provided a forum for women parliamentarians and women in other political decision-making positions of the region to debate questions relating to the development of political and parliamentary working skills, including the examination of other types of practical experiences from the Gulf and other regions.</p> <p>Second Meeting: Participants discussed how to enhance women legislators' input in parliament. Women's political participation, the challenges facing GCC women in decision-making positions and gender mainstreaming in parliament were among the main issues raised by the Conference.</p> <p>Third Meeting: The conference examined how both the media and women's associations can serve as a useful vector of change for women in politics and how women parliamentarians, the media and women's associations can ally for gender equality and women's issues.</p> <p>Fourth Meeting: The purpose of the meeting was to identify ways and means of strengthening the input of both parliament and women MPs in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national strategies and plans of action to promote equality, women's rights and women's empowerment in the region.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>2006</p> <p>Panel: HIV/AIDS and Children</p> <p>– Nairobi (Kenya)</p> <p><u>In partnership with:</u> UNICEF</p>		<p>5, 6</p>
<p>2006</p> <p>Parliamentary caucus on HIV/AIDS held during the UN HLM on HIV/AIDS</p> <p>– New York (United States)</p> <p><u>In partnership with:</u> UNAIDS and UNDP</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/Splz-e/hiv aids06-rpt.pdf</p>	<p>Establishment of the IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS.</p>	<p>6</p>

2006	<p>Regional seminar for the parliaments of the African states Capacity building for parliaments on sustainable development</p> <p>– Yaoundé (Cameroun)</p> <p>In partnership with: United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/yaounde06.pdf</p>		7
2006	<p>Parliamentary panel on governance in the Least Developed Countries</p> <p>LDCs - BPOA</p> <p>– New York (United States)</p> <p>In partnership with: UN OHRLLS</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/Splz-e/LDCs06-rpt.pdf</p>	See main recommendations of report.	All
2007 2008 2009	<p>Parliamentary Meeting on the Occasion of the World Summit on Food Security</p> <p>– Rome (Italy)</p> <p>In partnership with: Italian Parliament</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/food09/summary.pdf</p>	Parliaments addressing agriculture, hunger and food insecurity in times of global crisis Rome.	1, 3, 7
2007 2008 2009	<p>Publication:</p> <p>Report of the First Regional Conference of Women Parliamentarians of GCC States</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/Splz-e/gulf06.pdf</p> <p>Report of the Second Regional Conference of Women Parliamentarians of GCC States</p> <p>In partnership with: Parliament of UAE</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/GCC2_ar.pdf</p> <p>Report of The Third Regional Conference of Women Parliamentarians of GCC States</p> <p>In partnership with: Parliament of Oman</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/GCC2_ar.pdf</p>		3
2007	<p>Publication: The Role of Parliamentary Committees in Mainstreaming Gender and Promoting the Status of Women</p> <p>– Geneva (Switzerland)</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/wmn_seminar06_en.pdf</p>	Publication of the debates of the First Meeting members of parliamentary bodies dealing with gender issues. It contains the experts' contributions, extracts of the debates and the summary and recommendations of the Rapporteur of the seminar.	3

2007	<p>Regional seminar for parliaments of Europe and Central Asia on "Parliament and the budgetary process, including from a gender perspective"</p> <p>– Geneva (Switzerland)</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/budgetgender07.htm</p>	<p>Over the past five years, the Inter-Parliamentary Union has organized regional seminars aimed at improving MPs' and parliamentary staffers' understanding of the three phases of the budgetary process (elaboration, reading in Parliament and oversight) and its gender implications. The proposed regional seminar was the seventh in the series. It brought together members of parliament and parliamentary staff from Europe and Central Asia to debate ways and mechanisms to strengthen their role in the budgetary process, through an exchange of experience. An important amount of time was set aside to debating gender-sensitive national budgets.</p>	3
2007	<p>Equality In Politics: A Survey of Women and Men In Parliaments</p> <p>– Geneva (Switzerland)</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/equality08-e.pdf</p>	<p>The survey included the question: Does your parliament have a specific mechanism to implement, or oversee the implementation, of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)? Overall few parliamentarians said that there was a specific parliamentary mechanism around work on the MDGs.</p>	3
2007	<p>Panel: Violence against children: Making schools safe for children</p> <p>– Nusa Dua (Indonesia)</p> <p>In partnership with: UNICEF</p>		7
2007	<p>Field visit: IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS field visit to Brazil</p> <p>– Brazil</p> <p>In partnership with: Parliament of Brazil, UNAIDS</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/hivaids-br.pdf</p>	<p>Learned about the role of parliament in bringing the cost of ARVs down and achieving universal access to HIV treatment. Affordability of drugs became an important topic for the IPU in its future events.</p>	6
2007	<p>Panel discussion: Enhancing the parliamentary response to the HIV/AIDS crisis</p> <p>– Washington DC (United States of America)</p> <p>In partnership with: UNAIDS, US Congress</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/un aids07/summary.pdf</p>	<p>Increased understanding of Washington DC legislative community of the realities in the field. Increased awareness of the importance of allocations for nutrition in PEPFAR programs. Useful for IPU to stay engaged with US Congress.</p>	6
2007	<p>First Global Parliamentary Meeting on HIV/AIDS</p> <p>– Manila (Philippines)</p> <p>In partnership with: Senate of the Philippines</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/h aids07.htm</p>	<p>World parliaments convened jointly for the first time to discuss their role in the AIDS response. Conclusions provided foundation document for all future Advisory Group activities.</p>	6
2007	<p>Handbook: Taking Action Against HIV and AIDS</p> <p>Jointly produced by: IPU, UNDP and UNAIDS</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/aids07-e.pdf</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/aids07-f.pdf</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/aids07-s.pdf</p>	<p>The Handbook was released in English at the First Global Parliamentary Meeting on HIV/AIDS (Manila, 28-30 November 2007).</p>	6
2007	<p>Regional Capacity Building Seminar for Asian Parliaments on Sustainable Development</p> <p>– Vientiane (Lao PDR)</p> <p>In partnership with: United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/lao07.htm</p>	<p>This seminar was part of the IPU's efforts to strengthen parliamentary capacity in the area of sustainable development. It was intended to help parliaments address the challenges of a rapidly changing global context. It addressed three topics: poverty reduction, energy and biodiversity, which have been identified as priorities in the region. The seminar aimed to contribute to a better understanding among members of parliament and parliamentary staff of the issues involved. Experience sharing will prove useful as these are cross-cutting issues throughout the region. Ultimately, the seminar aimed to help parliaments enhance their environmental and pro-development legislation and policy.</p>	7

2007	<p>First High-level Symposium (HLS) of the 2008 CF Aid effectiveness: aligning aid to national development strategies; enhancing predictability of aid; strengthening absorptive capacities for scaled-up aid at country level – Vienna (Austria) <u>In partnership with:</u> UN-DESA, CSOs, development agencies, donors etc.</p>		8
2007	<p>Meeting of the Advisory Group of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs – New York (UN Headquarters) http://www.ipu.org/un-e/ipu-un-191107.pdf</p>	The purpose of the meeting was to discuss implementation of the decisions of the first session of the Committee on UN Affairs which were endorsed by the IPU Governing Bodies at the 117th Assembly. The Advisory Group also discussed its own programme of work for 2008.	All
2007	<p>Meeting to promote parliamentary input into the implementation of the 2001 Brussels Programme of Action (BPOA) LDC's BPOA – Tanzania <u>In partnership with:</u> UN OHRLLS Parliament of Tanzania</p>		All
2008	<p>Publication: Equality In Politics: A Survey of Women and Men in Parliaments http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/equality08-e.pdf http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/equality08-f.pdf http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/equality08-s.pdf http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/equality08-overview-e.pdf http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/equality08-overview-f.pdf http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/equality08-chart-e.pdf http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/equality08-chart-f.pdf</p>	This publication is the result of survey research conducted by the IPU between 2006 and 2008. It collates insights from both men and women parliamentarians into the factors that shape decision making. It provides concrete examples of how parliamentarians are working to attain gender equality in politics at the national level, and how parliaments can become more gender-sensitized. Survey respondents also identify several structural changes that could help to promote women's access to and full participation in parliament.	3
2008	<p>Publication: Women and Work – Geneva (Switzerland) http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/womenwork_en.pdf</p>	Publication on the debates Second meeting of members of parliamentary bodies dealing with gender issues. It contains the experts' contributions, extracts of the debates and the summary and recommendations of the Rapporteur of the seminar.	3
2008	<p>Regional seminar for Latin American Parliaments on the theme "Women shaping politics: gender, parliamentary representation and legislative agenda" – Montevideo (Uruguay) <u>In partnership with:</u> Parliament of Uruguay, International IDEA, "Parlamenta" - a project of the Bicameral Women's Caucus - and the Political Science Department of the University of the Republic http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/montevideo08.htm</p>	The aim of the Seminar it to promote discussion, exchanges and analysis of experiences, challenges and progress regarding women in parliament, their impact on the political agenda and the promotion of gender-oriented legislation.	3
2008	<p>Panel: Leading the Change for Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival – Cape Town (South Africa) <u>In partnership with:</u> UNICEF</p>		4, 5

2008	<p>How to Put an End to the Practice of Female Genital Mutilation?</p> <p>– Geneva (Switzerland)</p> <p><i>In partnership with:</i> Département des Institutions de l'Etat de Genève, Organization for Migration and the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/fgm08-e.pdf</p>	<p>Meeting held to mark the International Day of Zero Tolerance to FGM (6 February). The three-day event brought together members of parliament to take stock of the situation, discuss the various types of violence against women and debate concrete parliamentary initiatives that can be taken to combat such violence.</p>	4, 5
2008	<p>Meeting: Parliamentarians Take Action for Maternal and Newborn Health</p> <p>– The Hague (The Netherlands)</p> <p><i>In partnership with:</i> WHO, Parliament of the Netherlands</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/hague08.htm</p>	<p>The meeting sought to take stock of the current situation in a select number of developing countries, highlight best practices and evaluate progress made in promoting investments and interventions to reduce maternal mortality and support maternal and newborn health and survival. The Conference provided a forum for members of parliament from developing and developed countries to exchange experiences, map out next steps and strengthen parliamentary cooperation to achieve MDGs 5 and 4 (newborn) by 2015.</p>	4, 5
2008	<p>Parliamentary Briefing on HIV/AIDS</p> <p>– New York (United States)</p> <p><i>In partnership with:</i> UNAIDS, UNDP</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/aids-brief08.htm</p>	<p>Broad presentation of issues from Manila to parliamentarians and UN. Solidified collaborative relationship with UN partners.</p>	6
2008	<p>Parliamentary Briefing at the XVII International AIDS Conference</p> <p>– Mexico City (Mexico)</p> <p><i>In partnership with:</i> Senate of Mexico</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/mexico08.htm</p>	<p>IPU objectives understood by a responsive audience of politicians, convened for the first time at the International AIDS Conference. Strong emphasis on need for greater involvement of politicians in the AIDS response.</p>	6
2008	<p>Parliamentary Hearing at the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus</p> <p>– Doha (Qatar)</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/ffd08.htm</p>	<p>The IPU organized a half-day Parliamentary Hearing on 28 November 2008 to allow members of parliament present in Doha to come together as a group and share their impressions of the proposed Outcome Document. FFD experts and key negotiators of that document were on hand to help shed further light on the various issues.</p>	8
2008	<p>Second HLS of the 2008 DCF</p> <p>– Cairo (Egypt)</p> <p><i>In partnership with:</i> UN-DESA</p>	<p>Aid effectiveness: reforming conditionality; SSC and triangular cooperation (trends); improving aid quality frameworks.</p>	8
2008	<p>Stakeholder Forum of the 2008 DCF</p> <p><i>In partnership with:</i> UN-DESA</p>	<p>Aid effectiveness: reforming conditionality and tied aid; assessing different modalities of aid (budget support vs. project aid etc.).</p>	8
2008	<p>First session of the DCF</p> <p>New York (United States of America)</p> <p><i>In partnership with:</i> UN-DESA</p>	<p>Aid effectiveness: a condensation of the themes dealt with in the preparatory HLS.</p>	8
2008	<p>Stakeholder Forum on "The role of national and local stakeholders in contributing to aid quality and effectiveness"</p> <p>– Rome, FAO Headquarters (Italy)</p> <p><i>In partnership with:</i> United Nations in cooperation with the IPU, CIVICUS, Action Aid, United Cities and Local Governments.</p>	<p>The Forum brought together representatives of parliaments, civil society and local governments to discuss the role of these actors in strengthening aid quality and effectiveness at the country-level.</p>	8

2009	<p>Campaign/Brochure/website : Parliaments Take Action on Violence Against Women. Priority Actions for Parliaments http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/vawb_en.pdf http://www.ipu.org/vaw/</p>	<p>This brochure was designed for the IPU campaign <i>Parliaments Take Action on Violence against Women</i>. It focuses on six priority actions for parliaments identified as the principal elements and strategies likely to effectively contribute to putting an end to violence against women. It includes examples of parliamentary mechanisms and initiatives that have been taken to address this scourge, reflecting the diversity of national situations, experiences and measures which contribute to end violence against women.</p>	3
2009	<p>Regional Seminar for Latin American Parliament: Women shaping politics: gender, parliamentary representation and legislative agenda – Montevideo (Uruguay) In partnership with: International IDEA, "Parla-menta" - a project of the Bicameral Women's Caucus - and the Political Science Department of the University of the Republic</p>	<p>The aim of the Seminar was to promote discussion, exchanges and analysis of experiences, challenges and progress regarding women in parliament, their impact on the political agenda and the promotion of gender-oriented legislation.</p>	3
2009	<p>Meeting: For a Better Promotion of Women's Rights: What Role for Parliaments and Parliamentarians of the West African Subregion – Lomé (Togo) In partnership with: Parliament of Togo http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/lome09.htm</p>	<p>Women and men parliamentarians from Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo came together to debate, share their experience and strategize to identify common solutions and initiatives. The seminar aimed to provide information on the principles of gender equality contained in international and regional women's rights instruments, with a special focus on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The participants reviewed its implementation in the West African francophone subregion, shared their experiences and identified key parliamentary actions for its implementation in their countries.</p>	3
2009	<p>Panel: Adolescent girls: the girls left behind? Addressing discrimination and promoting their well being – Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) In partnership with: UNICEF</p>		3
2009	<p>Regional Conference: The role of Media and Information Technology in increasing the number and effectiveness of women in Politics. – Amman (Jordan) In partnership with: IDEA, NDI, UNDP and UNIFEM http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/iknow09.htm</p>	<p>iKNOW Politics is the product of a partnership between five organizations. The project seeks to increase the participation and effectiveness of women in political life by providing a web platform to access resources and expertise, stimulate dialogue, create knowledge and share experiences on women's political participation.</p>	3
2009	<p>Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the World Summit on Food Security – Rome (Italy) In partnership with: Italian Parliament http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/food09/summary.pdf</p>	<p>Parliaments addressing agriculture, hunger and food insecurity in times of global crisis.</p>	1, 3, 7
2009	<p>Publication: A Parliamentary Response to Violence against Women – Geneva (Switzerland) http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/vaw_en.pdf</p>	<p>Publication of the debates of the homonymous meeting. It contains the highlights of the experts' presentations, overviews of the debates and the summary and recommendations of the Rapporteur of the Conference.</p>	3
2009	<p>Publication: How to Put an End to the Practice of Female Genital Mutilation? – Geneva (Switzerland) http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/fqm08-e.pdf</p>	<p>Publication of the debates of the meeting held to mark the International Day of Zero Tolerance to FGM (6 February).</p>	4, 5

2009	<p>Meeting: Ensuring Access to Health for All Women and Newborn: The Role of Parliaments</p> <p>– Kampala (Uganda)</p> <p>In partnership with: WHO and the Parliament of Uganda</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/kampala09.htm</p>	<p>The parliamentary conference provided a forum for members of parliament from developing and developed countries to exchange experiences, map out next steps and strengthen parliamentary cooperation to reduce maternal and child mortality.</p> <p>The meeting focused on ways of ensuring that all segments of society, especially the most underprivileged and removed communities, have access to health facilities, one of the basic prerequisites to reducing maternal and newborn mortality. The main objective of the meeting was to agree on commitments for parliamentarians to achieve MDGs 4-newborn (reduce child mortality) and 5 (improve maternal health) by 2015.</p>	4, 5
2009	<p>IPU Regional Training Seminar on HIV/AIDS for the parliaments of SADC and EAC</p> <p>– Cape Town (South Africa)</p> <p>In partnership with: Parliament of South Africa</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/aids-cape09.pdf</p>	<p>Hands-on discussion of TRIPS flexibilities and role of parliament in establishing enabling legislation necessary for the production or importation of cheaper drugs.</p> <p>Concrete follow-up to recommendations agreed in Manila.</p>	6
2009	<p>Field Visit to South Africa by the Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS</p> <p>– Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg (South Africa)</p> <p>In partnership with: Parliament of South Africa, UNAIDS</p>	<p>Learned about the AIDS response in a country with one of the highest prevalence rates in the world.</p> <p>Advisory Group held a hearing in parliament with members of SANAC, performed oversight function for the first time.</p>	6
2009	<p>IPU Regional Seminar on HIV/AIDS for the Asia-Pacific Parliaments</p> <p>– Hanoi (Viet Nam)</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/vietnam09.htm</p>	<p>The participants considered the factors that increase people's vulnerability to the infection and the legal environment that could help the most-at-risk groups.</p> <p>Concrete follow-up to recommendations agreed in Manila.</p>	6
2009	<p>Field Visit to Vietnam by the Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS</p> <p>– Hanoi (Viet Nam)</p> <p>In partnership with: National Assembly of Vietnam, UNAIDS</p>	<p>Learned about challenges associated with reconciliation of different pieces of legislation dealing with HIV.</p> <p>Very useful feedback on harm reduction practices, particularly relating to methadone substitution; visits to harm reduction centers.</p>	6
2009	<p>Guide: Mobilizing Parliamentary Support for the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/LDC09_en.pdf</p> <p>http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/LDC09_fr.pdf</p>	<p>This Guide is part of the joint efforts of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Countries and Small Island Developing States to help parliaments tackle issues of governance and mainstream the objectives of the BPOA into national development strategies.</p>	8
2009	<p>National workshop on BPOA</p> <p>LDCs-BPOA</p> <p>– Cambodia</p> <p>In partnership with: Parliament of Cambodia</p>		All
2009	<p>Entering partnership with new Capacity Development for Development Effectiveness facility (CDDE) in the Asia Pacific region</p> <p>– Manila (Philippines)</p> <p>In partnership with: UNDP, OECD, ADB, World Bank Institute, Japan development agency (consortium forming the CDDE)</p>	Aid effectiveness.	All
2009	<p>Case studies</p> <p>Tanzania and Zambia</p>	The role of parliaments in aid effectiveness and development planning.	8
2009	<p>First HLS of the 2010 DCF</p> <p>– Vienna (Austria)</p> <p>In partnership with: UN-DESA</p>	Aid effectiveness: Mutual accountability of aid and South-South cooperation.	8

2010	Meeting: Combating Violence Against Women: From Legislation To Its Effective Enforcement – Cuenca (Ecuador) <i>In partnership with:</i> Parliament of Ecuador	Part of a series of meetings the Inter-Parliamentary Union will organize throughout its programme on violence against women (VAW), this regional meeting for Latin America aimed to provide parliamentarians and parliamentary staff with an opportunity to exchange of experience between Parliaments confronted with similar situations and challenges. It examined the status of legislation on VAW and discussed mechanisms for its effective enforcement.	3
2010	Publication: Is Parliament Open to Women? An Appraisal – Geneva (Switzerland) http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/wmn09-e.pdf		3
2010	Second HLS of the 2010 DCF – Helsinki (Finland) <i>In partnership with:</i> UN-DESA	Aid effectiveness: aid policy coherence; gender.	8
2010	Guidance Note for MPs – Bangkok (Thailand) <i>In partnership with:</i> UNDP (as leading partner in the Capacity Development for Development Effectiveness facility – CDDE)	Aid effectiveness: all issues encapsulated for MPs in easy to understand format, with references to other resources. This is an online product that is available through a specialized web portal (www.aideffectiveness.org) and will be used by IPU and partner agencies in future capacity building activities.	8
2010	Parliamentary event: Aid effectiveness: “making aid work: what every MP should know” – Bangkok (Thailand) <i>In partnership with:</i> UNDP	Guidance note for MPs; IPU brochure on CDDE.	8
2010	Global survey: Aid effectiveness: mutual accountability of aid – New York (United States of America) <i>In partnership with:</i> UN-DESA; UNDP	The survey was a pilot that collected information, either directly or indirectly, from development partners (mainly governments, donors, parliaments, CSOS mainly) from 70 countries.	8
2010	Case studies: The role of parliaments in aid effectiveness and development planning <i>In partnership with:</i> National parliaments concerned; UNDP	The studies built on the previous studies done in Africa and provided a glimpse into the Asia-Pacific region of how parliaments there are dealing with this issue.	8