



# 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly

Belgrade (Serbia)  
13-17 October 2019



## Preliminary consultation on the 2021 Global Parliamentary Report: *Parliament in a changing world*

*Jointly organized by the IPU and the ASGP  
Thursday, 17 October (11 a.m. – 1 p.m.)  
Hall 3/0 (ground floor), Building A, Sava Centre*

### Concept note

#### What are the most significant and pressing challenges concerning the work and performance of your parliaments in the fast-changing world?

#### How can the IPU help in addressing them?

The meeting is aimed at generating discussion on the theme for the next, third edition of the Global Parliamentary Report. By consulting parliaments, the IPU wants to ensure that the next report will best fit the needs of Member Parliaments. In an interactive exchange of views, parliamentary representatives will consider their priority areas and issues of concern in which they would benefit from the global survey, good practice examples from other parliaments and recommendations for change.

The purpose of the Global Parliamentary Report is to contribute to the realization of the vision of better parliaments and stronger democracies. The report offers findings based on comprehensive research, as well as recommendations that draw from parliamentary experience and good practice, which might stimulate discussion and action in parliaments in the specific area.

#### People's expectations

Today, new information and communication technologies enable citizens to be more informed than ever before. Citizens demand that their voice be heard and respected and they no longer accept their "pre-digital" era role – to be only called on to vote once every four or five years. They do not want to wait for next parliamentary elections to have a chance to say again what they think and need. People now ask for immediate answers and wish to take part in public decision-making.

New technologies and the growing demand for public participation are influencing the way parliaments work. The key parliamentary functions – law-making, oversight and representation – are undergoing transformations in legislators' efforts to be more effective and better meet the needs of citizens.

In a variety of areas, parliaments are challenged to find appropriate responses and regain public trust. The majority of people around the world have little faith that their government is formed "by the people" and works "for the people": 51 per cent feel like they have no voice in politics, and 58 per cent feel like their governments are not acting in their interest.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: "Democracy Perception Index 2018" conducted by Dalia Research in collaboration with the Alliance of Democracies and Rasmussen Global. The research, conducted from 6 to 18 June 2018, covered 125,000 respondents from 50 countries.

Trust-worthy parliament is expected to adopt laws for the well-being of people and to enable them to participate, to oversee the implementation of those laws, to control government policies, work and spending, to have a strong role in reaching SDGs, to be accountable, transparent, representative, inclusive, responsive, innovative...

The IPU helps parliaments to build their institutional capacity and strengthen their key functions through setting standards for democratic parliaments and providing technical support. Global Parliamentary Reports on the most relevant topics are among the means in providing such support to parliaments.

### About the Global Parliamentary Report

The Global Parliamentary Report (GPR) is a flagship IPU-UNDP publication that contributes to realizing the vision of better parliaments and stronger democracies. The report offers findings and recommendations based on parliamentary experiences and good practice. More than 150 parliaments have contributed to the report to date, giving it a unique global perspective and considerable authority.

The target audience of the GPR is first and foremost the parliamentary community. This includes the members and staff of parliaments as well as people and organizations working to enhance the effective functioning of parliaments, such as parliamentary strengthening practitioners, researchers and civil society organizations. The secondary audiences are the broader set of policy-makers with an interest in parliament and the media.

The themes of the report are chosen through consultative processes that take into account the priorities of parliaments and other stakeholders. The first edition, published in 2012, focused on "[The changing nature of parliamentary representation](#)". The second edition in 2017, entitled "[Parliamentary oversight: Parliament's power to hold government to account](#)", shone the spotlight on another of parliament's critical functions. This inclusive approach has been very valuable for the quality of the report.

An online consultation is underway to identify a shortlist of preferred themes for the third edition of the report. The consultation is open to all interested parties, with a particular focus on members and staff of parliaments. Participants are invited to express their preferences on a longlist of seven potential themes for the third edition via an [online form](#) by 20 September 2019.

At the joint IPU-ASGP session on 17 October, participants will debate the merits of the three short-listed themes emerging from the online consultation.

Depending on the theme to be selected, the third GPR aims at providing:

- In-depth research and analysis on the current state in the specified area, with main challenges and opinions.
- Data and good practice examples obtained through contributions from parliaments and the parliamentary community.
- Findings based on broad parliamentary experience, combined with authors' expert knowledge.
- Recommendations on how to overcome identified challenges and ideas about actions parliament might undertake to strengthen its performance in a given area.

Following the selection of the theme for the third GPR, extensive research will follow during 2020. The third GPR is planned to be published in 2021, in cooperation with the UNDP, as it was the case with the previous two editions.

For any questions, please contact: [standards@ipu.org](mailto:standards@ipu.org).