



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# 139<sup>th</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 14-18.10.2018

## Workshop:

### *How good is parliament at holding government to account? How well am I performing my oversight role?*

Thursday, 18 October (11 a.m. – 1 p.m.)  
Salle Geneve, CCV Annexe building CICG  
Jointly organized by the IPU and the ASGP

#### Concept note

The focus of the workshop will be on how to be more effective, as parliaments and as individual parliamentarians, in holding government to account. What actions might parliaments undertake to improve parliamentary oversight and its impact on citizens? How can individual MPs use oversight to make a difference? How can self-assessment of parliamentary oversight capacity and performance help in identifying those opportunities and reaching these goals?

The second Global Parliamentary Report (GPR), entitled *Parliamentary oversight: Parliament's power to hold government to account*, was launched during the 137<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in October 2017. This flagship publication provides a global perspective on how oversight is practiced by parliaments and makes 28 recommendations, notably for parliaments and parliamentarians, which amount to a scenario for change in favour of stronger oversight and accountability.

In order to help parliaments to address challenges in oversight, the IPU is preparing a self-assessment toolkit, which draws directly from the GPR recommendations. The toolkit will provide a method for parliaments and parliamentarians to assess their overall capacity for effective oversight and to formulate priorities for reform and development.

During the workshop, in an open and interactive discussion, parliamentarians and secretaries general will exchange views and share experiences on the challenges of improving oversight. Participants will exchange good practice on holding government to account and being effective parliamentarians.

During the final part of the workshop, participants will have an opportunity to provide their opinions, comments and suggestions on a selection of questions in the self-assessment toolkit. The feedback and suggestions from members of parliaments and secretaries general would bring an added value to this toolkit in the IPU's efforts to make it as useful and beneficial to parliaments as possible.

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This workshop is the continuation of previous debates on two joint IPU/ASGP events organized during the process of developing the Global Parliamentary Report in October 2016, entitled "How parliaments change: Developing recommendations for strengthening parliamentary oversight", and in October 2015 "Powerful parliaments: Building capacity for effective parliamentary oversight." The Second Global Parliamentary Report, entitled *Parliamentary oversight: Parliament's power to hold government to account*, published and launched during the 137<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in October 2017, and the draft self-assessment toolkit, which follows the GPR recommendations, are aimed to assist parliaments and their members to critically examine their performance and powers against the people's expectations in holding government to account.

The 2017 Global Parliamentary Report is available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Serbian at [www.ipu.org/oversight](http://www.ipu.org/oversight).

#IPU139