**Questionnaire for the Parline Database:**

**Annual activities of parliament in 2020**

## About this questionnaire

At the start of each year, the IPU collects factual data from all parliaments on their annual activities during the previous year(s). This data is published in the [Parline](https://data.ipu.org/) database on national parliaments (<https://data.ipu.org/>).

This questionnaire seeks to collect data for the year 2020, which was marked by the COVID-19 pandemic. Parliaments were affected in various ways, but in the face of numerous logistical challenges, continued to hold sessions physically or virtually (Q12), to adopt laws (Q3), to hold the government to account (Q9) -- even launching parliamentary inquiries related to the Government’s handling of the pandemic (Q10). This questionnaire captures this valuable data through 15 routine questions and 10 questions on ‘Salaries and Allowances’ that track the changes to and evolution of parliamentary mandates, working methods, administration, law-making, oversight and budget.

This and other data in the Parline database underpins analysis that supports [IPU’s Strategic objectives](https://www.ipu.org/our-impact) and monitoring the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. It also enables IPU to tell compelling stories through comparative data visualisations. As the latest year in which data is known for a parliament (i.e. reported) is displayed in Parline, a response to this questionnaire allows parliaments to demonstrate that they continued to function and exercise their constitutional mandate in 2020, despite the challenges created by COVID-19.

We expect that the questionnaire should take around 4 hours to complete, depending on how easily available the information is. Parliaments are kindly requested to complete the questionnaire by **15 March 2021**. The preferred method is to complete the questionnaire [online here](https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/90317738/Annual-Activities-of-parliament-in-2020). Alternatively, parliaments may complete the questionnaire in Word and return it to [parline@ipu.org](mailto:parline@ipu.org).

This questionnaire has been sent to the Parline Correspondent in each parliament, with copy to the parliament’s IPU Group. Parliaments that have not yet designated a Parline Correspondent are requested to do so at the earliest opportunity. More information about Parline Correspondents is available at <https://data.ipu.org/content/parliaments> along with a ‘Checklist’ of what Parline updates should be reported and when.

## Notes

Questions 1-8 & 23-25 are applicable to the entire parliament, whether unicameral or bicameral. For others, space is provided to report data for each chamber of a bicameral parliament.

Please provide data for the calendar year (1 January to 31 December), whenever possible. If it is not possible to provide data for the calendar year, please specify the reference period (for example, 1 April to 31 March) in the Notes field at the end of the questionnaire. Any other supporting information can also be provided in this Notes field. If the supporting information refers to a specific question, please indicate the question number.

## About Parline

[Parline](https://data.ipu.org/) is a unique and free source of comprehensive, accurate and up-to-date reference information on parliaments around the world. IPU depends on parliaments to regularly supply information and updates to ensure shared responsibility for Parline and the integrity of the data it houses. It provides parliaments, academics, students, international organizations, the media and many other database users with a comparative perspective on the composition and working methods of parliaments. Data is frequently used for research, correspondence, and briefing purposes. It is the official source of data for **SDG indicators** **5.5.1** and **16.7.1(a).**

**For more information about Parline, please visit the “**[**About**](https://data.ipu.org/content/about-open-data-platform)**” page or contact Ms. Addie Erwin at** [**parline@ipu.org**](mailto:parline@ipu.org).

## Identification

**Country:**

**Date:**

*Please provide contact details for the person that we can contact for further details for clarifications.*

**Name:**

**Job title:**

**E-mail:**

**Telephone:**

**Are you the** [**Parline Correspondent**](https://data.ipu.org/content/parliaments) **for your parliament/chamber?**

Yes  No

## Questions – for each of the following, in 2020:

1. **Were there any amendments to the Constitution or the electoral law affecting the structure of your parliament?**

Yes  No

*If* ***yes****, please provide details (e.g. structural changes, name change for chamber, date change(s) took place etc.)*

1. **Were there any amendments to the Constitution or the electoral law affecting the statutory number of members in your parliament?**

Yes  No

*If* ***yes****, please provide details (e.g. previous number of members, new number of members, date change(s) took place etc.)*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. **How many laws were adopted by Parliament?** |  |
| 1. **How many times did the Head of State decline to give assent to legislation passed by Parliament?**   *If the Head of State cannot decline to give assent to legislation, please check this box and move on to the next question.* |  |
| 1. **How many times did the Executive use a procedure to introduce emergency legislation into Parliament?**   *If there is no procedure for introducing emergency legislation, please check this box and move on to the next question.* |  |
| 1. **What was the State budget?**   *Reference date: 31 December of that year*  *Please indicate the currency.* | **Currency:** |

1. **What was Parliament's budget?**

*Please provide an overall figure for the Parliament.*

*For bicameral parliaments: where applicable, please also provide the budget for the lower and upper chambers.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Parliament | Lower chamber | Upper chamber |
|  |  |  |

1. **How many staff were employed by parliament?**

*Please provide the number of full time equivalent (FTE) Secretariat staff.  
Please provide an overall figure for the Parliament.*

*For bicameral parliaments: where applicable, please also provide the number of staff employed by the lower and upper chambers*

*Reference date: 31 December of that year*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Parliament | Lower chamber | Upper chamber |
|  |  |  |

1. **How many written questions were submitted to and answered by the Executive?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber | Upper chamber |
| Submitted |  |  |
| Answered |  |  |

1. **How many parliamentary inquiries[[1]](#footnote-1) were carried out?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber | Upper chamber |
|  |  |

1. **On what date did the Executive submit the draft budget to Parliament, and on what date did Parliament adopt the budget?**

*Please use the date format DD/MM/YYYY.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber | Upper chamber |
| Submitted |  |  |
| Adopted |  |  |

1. **How many days did parliament meet in plenary[[2]](#footnote-2)?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber | Upper chamber |
|  |  |

1. **How many parliamentary groups were there?**

*Reference date: 31 December of that year*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber | Upper chamber |
|  |  |

**Parliamentary Salaries & Allowances**

1. **What was the basic annual salary of parliamentarians?**

*Please provide the gross basic annual salary (before tax), not including allowances.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber | Upper chamber |
|  |  |

1. **Have parliamentary salaries or allowances been reduced since 2020 as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

Yes  No

***Information on allowances was last updated in 2012. Please review the data for your parliament in*** [***Parline***](https://data.ipu.org/) ***under the ‘Parliamentary Mandate’ section and provide updated information via questions 16-25.***

1. **Please indicate the total basic allowance(s) provided to parliamentarians:**

“*Basic allowances” are automatically paid to all parliamentarians. They are received in advance as a lump sum at a flat rate. They are not intended to be reimbursed for any expenses. They vary across parliaments, and are sometimes called “representation allowance”, “supplemental allowance”, “end-of-year allowance”, etc. and can cover official expenses, for example, travel, mail, staff, office supplies etc.*

*If allowances vary across members, please provide an average per member, not including ‘attendance allowances’ (see next question).*

*Select “not applicable” if allowances do not apply.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber | Upper chamber |
| ***Basic allowances*** | Total:  Currency:  Not applicable | Total:  Currency:  Not applicable |
| *Please provide the names of these basic allowances* |  |  |

1. **If there is an ‘Attendance Allowance’, what is the amount and periodicity?**

*Select “not applicable” if an attendance allowance does not apply.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber | Upper chamber |
| ***Attendance allowance*** | Total:  Not applicable  **Paid Per:**  Day  Month  Year  Session  Other (please specify): | Total:  Not applicable  **Paid Per:**  Day  Month  Year  Session  Other (please specify): |

**18. Are salaries and allowances subject to income tax (or equivalent)?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber | Upper chamber |
| ***Salaries*** | Yes  No | Yes  No |
| ***Allowances*** | Yes  No  Not applicable | Yes  No  Not applicable |

**19. Can MPs have other remunerated employment outside of parliament?**

Yes  No

**20. If yes, are MPs required to declare income from other employment to parliament?**

Yes  No  Not applicable

**21. Does the parliament provide the following to parliamentarians?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber | Upper chamber |
| ***Personal staff to work directly for the parliamentarian[[3]](#footnote-3)*** | Yes  No | Yes  No |
| ***Office at parliament*** | Yes  No | Yes  No |
| ***Constituency office[[4]](#footnote-4)*** | Yes  No | Yes  No |
| ***Housing*** | Yes  No | Yes  No |
| ***Other cash or in-kind allowances for constituency work (e.g. travel, overnight stay, etc.)*** | Yes  No | Yes  No |
| *If yes, please provide a list of the other allowances provided for constituency work* |  |  |

**22. Are additional salaries and allowances provided for leadership positions?**

*If yes, please specify the amount.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Unicameral parliament or Lower chamber | Upper chamber |
| ***Speaker*** | Yes  No  Amount: | Yes  No  Amount: |
| ***Committee Chair*** | Yes  No  Amount: | Yes  No  Amount: |
| Please specify if any other leadership positions receive different salaries or allowances and the amounts (e.g. Deputy-Speaker, Heads of parliamentary groups etc.) |  |  |

**23. Does parliament determine the amount of salaries and allowances?**

1. **Salary**  Yes  No

***If yes****, which body (or bodies) in parliament determine the amount and* ***if no,*** *which institution determines the amount?*

1. **Allowances**  Yes  No

***If yes****, which body (or bodies) in parliament determine the amount and* ***if no,*** *which institution determines the amount?*

**24. Is the parliamentary salary determined in reference to another salary scale?**

Yes  No

***If yes, which one(s)?***

Civil service salary scale

Ministerial salary

Minimum wage

Other (please specify):

**25. Does the parliamentary website include details of the following?**

1. **Salary:**  Yes  No
2. **Allowance available to members:**  Yes  No
3. **Amount of allowances received by each member:**  Yes  No

***If yes,*** *please provide relevant links:*

**Notes**

*Please provide any supporting information that is relevant to the answers provided.*

*Where appropriate, please specify the number of the question to which the note applies.*

1. The aims and objectives of parliamentary inquiries cover a large spectrum: from a general examination of an issue of public interest to an investigative inquiry into a specific topic, the results of which may have penal implications. See page 39 of IPU (2007) “Tools for Parliamentary Oversight” which further describes parliamentary inquiries, <http://archive.ipu.org/PDF/publications/oversight08-e.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This may include virtual sessions. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Personal staff working directly for a parliamentarian is different from parliamentary staff working for the secretariat of Parliament. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Certain countries provide for an office at constituency if it’s different from a seat of parliament, which is often in the capital. The office at constituency is applicable mainly to the countries using the Plurality/Majority system of elections. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)