



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Sixth Expert Roundtable on the Common Principles for Support to Parliaments *From principle to practice: Enhancing parliamentary development through gender equality*

Online, Tuesday, 9 December 2025, 14:00–15:30 CET

[Register here](#)

The [Common Principles for Support to Parliaments](#) are a set of ten fundamental principles that set the tone for parliamentary development. Adopted by IPU Member Parliaments in 2014, they have now been endorsed by over 82% of national parliaments, as well as 32 parliamentary assemblies and partner organizations.

A series of Expert Roundtables serve as opportunities for the parliamentary community to spotlight dimensions of parliamentary support in greater detail and share knowledge and good practices.

In 2025, gender equality is taking centre stage at the IPU. It marks a pivotal year, in which the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the global blueprint for gender equality, is marking its 30th anniversary. In addition to being a key vector for inclusive representation, lawmaking and oversight within parliament, gender equality is also essential in the design and implementation of parliamentary development projects. This imperative is reflected in Common Principle 6: *Parliamentary support addresses the needs and potential of women and men equally in the structure, operation, methods and work of parliament.*



When half the population's perspectives are left out of parliamentary processes, institutions suffer. To address this, in 2012, IPU Member Parliaments unanimously adopted a [Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments](#), a key policy document to support efforts for parliaments to be more gender-sensitive institutions. In 2016, this was complimented with a self-assessment toolkit, [Evaluating the gender sensitivity of parliaments](#). In 2022, Member Parliaments renewed their commitment to accelerate gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments in the [Kigali Declaration](#). In 2025, the IPU launched a new campaign to mobilize parliamentary action on equality, [Achieving gender equality, action by action](#). This campaign includes gender-sensitive parliaments as one of its key areas of focus.

Objectives

The Sixth Expert Roundtable will bring together parliaments and support partners to take stock of the advances and obstacles in promoting gender equality in parliamentary self-development initiatives. It will also showcase innovative tools, products and strategies to better integrate gender equality in the conceptualization, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of actions, both when directly addressing gender equality, as well as in broader projects. The following guiding questions will be examined:

- More than a decade since the adoption of the Common Principles for Support to Parliament, how has Common Principle 6 on integrating gender equality been applied in your Parliament and contributed to better parliamentary development? What are the ongoing roadblocks and what innovative strategies and tools can be effective in overcoming them?

Participants will be invited to take stock of progress in implementing Common Principle 6 and share concrete examples of how this has not only impacted the MPs and staff who make up parliament, but also how the institution functions and what it prioritizes. This can include parliamentary strategic plans, rules, procedures, working methods and working culture. The experiences of parliaments who have undertaken gender-sensitivity assessments will also be showcased.

- To foster a gender-sensitive workplace for MPs and parliamentary staff, what actions have been most effective in bolstering gender equality within the work of parliament, combating violence against women in parliament, and overcoming possible resistance?

Participants will discuss how parliaments and their administrations are advancing on equality and showcase good practices, working methods and innovations that can bolster their advancement in the future. Parliamentary responses to sexism, harassment and violence against women MPs and staff will also be explored.

Participants

Participants will be representatives of parliaments and partner organizations who have responsibility for institutional parliamentary development. Interactive and open dialogue between participants will be encouraged. **Participants are therefore invited to come prepared to engage and share experiences from their respective parliaments or projects.**

Invitation for written inputs

Parliaments and partners may also submit written input highlighting their experiences on the topics under discussion. Written contributions should be sent to postbox@ipu.org by 4 December 2025.

Languages

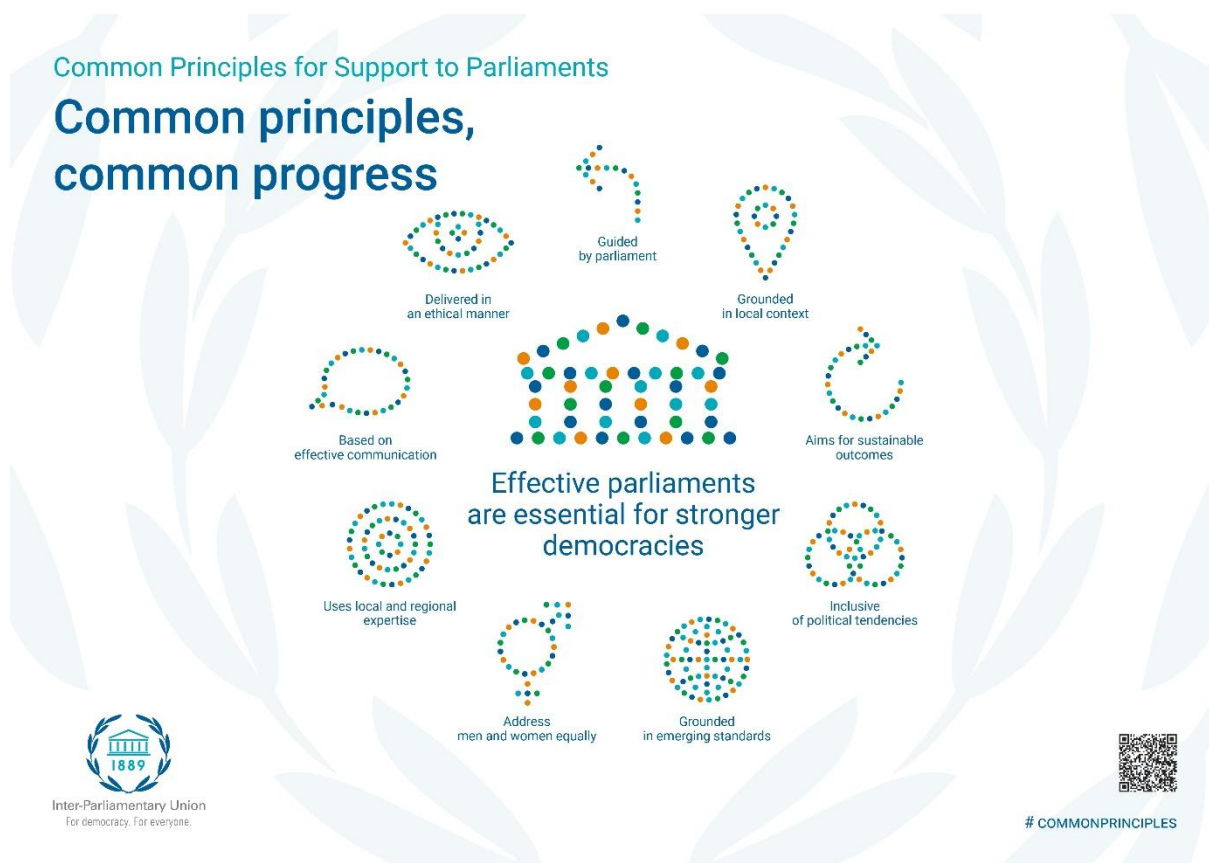
Documents will be provided in English and French. Interpretation will be provided in English, French, Arabic and Spanish.

Registration

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/jz2KdKAoS126lakMdRvrxA>

Additional reading

- [The Common Principles for Support to Parliament](#)
- [Celebrating 10 years of the Common Principles for Support to Parliaments: Why they are important and how they have been used](#)
- [Putting parliamentary self-development into practice: A Guide to the Common Principles for Support to Parliaments](#)



Provisional programme

Tuesday, 9 December 2025	
14:00–14:05	Moderator: Ms. Alyson Kozma, Senior Advisor for Gender, Women, and Democracy, National Democratic Institute (NDI) Welcome and introduction to the Roundtable Opening remarks by Ms. Kareen Jabre, Director, Division of Programmes, IPU
14:05–14:45	More than a decade since the adoption of the Common Principles, how has Common Principle 6 on integrating gender equality been applied in your Parliament and contributed to better parliamentary development? What are the ongoing roadblocks and what innovative strategies and tools can be effective in overcoming them? Participants will be invited to take stock of progress in implementing Common Principle 6 and share concrete examples of how this has not only impacted the MPs and staff who make up parliament, but also how the institution functions and what it prioritizes. This can include parliamentary strategic plans, rules, procedures, working methods and working culture. The experiences of parliaments who have undertaken gender-sensitivity assessments will also be showcased. Presentations followed by exchanges of experiences - Ms. Charlotte Cousins, Senior Researcher (Parliamentary Affairs), Parliament of Ireland - Mr. Gilbert Bosco N'habay, Deputy Clerk, Parliament of Sierra Leone - Mr. Saša Gavrić, Gender Officer, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)
14:45–15:25	To foster a gender-sensitive workplace for MPs and parliamentary staff, what actions have been most effective in bolstering gender equality within the work of parliament, combating violence against women in parliament, and overcoming possible resistance? Participants will discuss how parliaments and their administrations are advancing on equality and showcase good practices, working methods and innovations that can bolster their advancement in the future. Parliamentary responses to sexism, harassment and violence against women MPs and staff will also be explored. Presentations followed by exchanges of experiences - Ms. Annalou Nachura, Deputy Secretary General and Chief Counsel, Legal Affairs Department, Co-Chairperson of the Gender and Development Focal Point System, House of Representatives of the Philippines - Ms. Berenice Paulse, Chairperson, Women and Gender Rights Forum, Parliament of South Africa
15:25–15:30	Concluding remarks