



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Impact Report 2025



The IPU

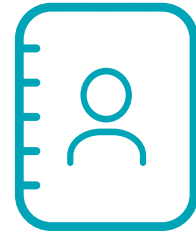
The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is the global organization of national parliaments. It was founded in 1889 as the first political multilateral organization in the world, encouraging cooperation and dialogue between all nations.

Today, the IPU comprises 183 national Member Parliaments and 15 regional parliamentary bodies. It promotes peace, democracy and sustainable development. It helps parliaments become stronger, younger, greener, more gender-balanced and more innovative. It also defends the human rights of parliamentarians through a dedicated committee made up of members of parliament from around the world.

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2025 IN FIGURES



41,000
contacts

in the IPU's database
(an increase of 26%
compared with 2024)



183
Member Parliaments
and **15** Associate
Members



159
national parliaments
have endorsed the IPU's
Common Principles for Support
to Parliaments



1,027
human rights
cases examined
by the IPU (an increase of
7% compared with 2024)



29,530
mentions

of the IPU in print media
(an increase of 8% compared with 2024)

822,000
backlinks

(third-party links back to the IPU website)



Average proportion
of women MPs at
IPU Assemblies

37.2%

(compared with 36.1% in 2024)



Average proportion
of young MPs at IPU Assemblies
(under 40 years old)

14.1%

The Forum of Young Parliamentarians
advocates a target of 15%



The IPU organized

80 events including

2 Assemblies + **40** national capacity-building activities

Foreword



Martin Chungong addresses the 150th IPU Assembly. © IPU

2025: Advancing global dialogue and gender equality

In 2025, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) made significant strides with its 2022–2026 Strategy through a renewed focus of its original mission to bring parliamentarians together to advance peace, democracy and development.

With two new Member Parliaments joining in 2025 – Belize and Brunei Darussalam, the last remaining Asian parliament to become a Member – the IPU now has 183 Member Parliaments and is closer than ever to uniting all 44,000 parliamentarians around the globe.

And we were pleased to see that IPU Member Parliaments in countries in transition – notably Chad, Gabon and Niger – took steps to return to constitutional order with support from the IPU and the global parliamentary community.

Gender equality takes centre stage

Thirty years ago, the world committed to the Beijing Declaration, a landmark blueprint for gender equality. Yet, as we marked its anniversary in 2025, the IPU's latest *Women in parliament* report revealed a sobering truth: while women's representation in parliaments has risen from 11% in 1995 to just over 27% in 2025, progress has recently stalled.

The slowest growth in nearly a decade is a wake-up call. We cannot afford complacency. The IPU responded with action. We celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, honouring 40 trailblazing women MPs who have reshaped politics and strengthened the IPU. And we launched *Achieving gender equality, action by action*, a global campaign to mobilize parliaments worldwide to accelerate progress in achieving gender equality in politics and society.

A new regional study on violence against women parliamentarians in the Asia-Pacific region revealed a disturbing increase in online abuse: 60% of respondents reported hate speech, disinformation, or personal data being revealed – known as doxing. Such attacks are not only personal – they undermine democracy itself.

At the 15th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament in July 2025, organized in cooperation with the Swiss Parliament, the IPU reaffirmed its dedication to fostering women's political leadership and building gender-sensitive institutions.

Parliamentary cooperation: From Paris to Tashkent

The first IPU Conference took place in Paris, France in 1889, bringing together representatives of nine parliaments to talk peace. In 2025, we celebrated our 150th Assembly in Tashkent, the first ever to be held in Central Asia. More than a milestone, it was a reaffirmation of our founding mission. Hundreds of parliamentarians from around the world came together to address the theme of parliamentary action for social development and justice.

As global conflicts deepen, the IPU stepped up its role as a forum for parliamentarians from warring nations via peace-building mechanisms like its Committee on Middle East Questions and its Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine. Notably, the Speakers of Parliament of Armenia and Azerbaijan met for the third time under the IPU flag, holding honest and constructive discussions.

With conflict comes humanitarian crises, which is why the 151st IPU Assembly in Geneva focused on parliamentary support for humanitarian action – in the birthplace of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the international framework that stipulates protection for people during armed conflict.

Parliamentary leadership: Charting the course for the next five years

Also in Geneva, the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament took place at the Palais des Nations in July 2025, in close cooperation with the United Nations. This meeting brings together parliamentary leaders from around the world to set the tone and chart the course for parliamentary action every five years – from climate resilience to upholding democracy – and reinforce the essential role parliaments play in realizing the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Consolidating peaceful coexistence through interfaith dialogue

Amid rising global tensions and the weaponization of religion, Rome became a hub for parliamentary diplomacy and interfaith conversation in June 2025, hosting the Second Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue.

Organized by the IPU and the Italian Parliament, this event gathered lawmakers, religious figures, UN representatives, civil society and experts from nearly 100 countries, echoing the call of the Vatican Jubilee to be “pilgrims of hope” amid a polarized world.

Participants were received at the Vatican by the newly elected Pope Leo XIV, who urged parliamentarians to serve the common good by defending the vulnerable, reducing economic imbalances, promoting human rights, and encouraging the ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI).

Harnessing AI for good

With technology rapidly transforming societies, the IPU continued to develop tools for parliaments, including the *Maturity Framework for AI in Parliaments*, which offers structured guidance drawn from the latest research and good practices from parliaments around the world.

The IPU also began tracking how parliaments are engaging with AI, through its *Parliamentary actions on AI policy*, featuring more than 63 country entries on how AI is being used in legislative reviews, reports, resolutions, inquiries, working groups and policy discussions.

Defending parliamentarians’ human rights

Data released by the IPU in December 2025 showed that over 1,000 MPs faced human rights violations worldwide that year, with all regions of the world impacted and women lawmakers disproportionately affected.

Through its Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, the IPU investigated these cases and advocated for those affected.

This work will be amplified in 2026 as the IPU celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Committee with a major campaign to promote human rights.

I am honoured to sign off on my last Impact Report as I leave the IPU in June 2026 after 12 years as its Secretary General. I am heartened to see in this Report the demonstration of the strength of the Organization’s relevance as a space for parliamentary diplomacy and development in support of its vibrant and growing membership.



Martin Chungong
Secretary General

PART 1

Strategic Objective 1: Building effective and empowered parliaments

Effective parliaments are essential for democracy. 2025 was a record year for complaints concerning human rights violations against parliamentarians, but despite this alarming trend, the IPU achieved some notable successes, including engagement that led to the release of former Iraqi MP Ahmed Jamil Salman Al-Alwani. The IPU also played a significant role in strengthening transitional parliaments in West and Central Africa to support their countries' return towards constitutional order.

Defending the rights of parliamentarians in trouble

The IPU continues to be a beacon of hope for thousands of parliamentarians facing daily threats, harassment and human rights violations. In 2025, the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (CHRP) successfully closed dozens of cases in countries including Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Malaysia, Thailand and Zimbabwe.

In Iraq, former MP Ahmed Jamil Salman Al-Alwani was released after more than 10 years in detention, following sustained IPU engagement and diplomatic efforts to prevent his execution. **See Part 2 – Policy Goal 3** for the full story.

2025 was, unfortunately, also a record year for alleged human rights violations against members of parliament. The CHRP reviewed an unprecedented 1,027 cases from 58 countries, the vast majority of which (83%) concerned opposition MPs, underlining persistent patterns of political retaliation, selective prosecution and intimidation of dissenting voices. Women parliamentarians were increasingly targeted – reported cases rose from six-fold from 37 in 2015 to 226 in 2025. The data points to a global environment in which outspoken critics of government face heightened risks.

Throughout the year, the CHRP continued to monitor high-profile cases involving detained MPs in countries such as Bangladesh, Eritrea, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Tunisia and Türkiye. The IPU renewed its long-standing calls for the release of Marwan Barghouti, a former Palestinian MP detained in Israel for 23 years. It also appealed for international solidarity in support of former Bangladeshi MPs facing allegedly politically motivated charges, including former IPU President Saber Chowdhury.

IPU pressure helps secure release of Ousmane Sonko of Senegal

At the 150th IPU Assembly in April, the Senegal delegation read a letter from Mr. Ousmane Sonko, Prime Minister of Senegal.

As a former opposition figure, Mr. Sonko had been arrested in 2021 and subject to multiple criminal proceedings in 2023.

A complaint was brought before the CHRP, which maintained pressure on the Senegalese parliamentary authorities, insisting on respect for due process and visiting him in detention.

Mr. Sonko was finally released in March 2024 and was later appointed Prime Minister of Senegal.



Mr. Ousmane Sonko, Prime Minister of Senegal.
© Abdel Majid Bziouat/AFP

"It is with deep emotion and profound gratitude that I am taking the floor today to thank you from the bottom of my heart in my personal capacity and on behalf of my family, my lawyers and my colleagues and all those who believe in justice. I would like to warmly thank the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians for its constant engagement in monitoring my case. In the most difficult of moments when faced with the court case, I received support and that shows that parliamentary solidarity goes beyond borders and political context. You fought for the respect for my rights in a very constant way."

Ousmane Sonko, Prime Minister of Senegal



Capacity building and political transition in West and Central Africa

Further positive developments emerged from West and Central Africa, where IPU support was instrumental in the resumption of normalized politics in countries undergoing political transition, notably Niger and Gabon. Following the reinstatement of Niger's rights as a Member Parliament of the IPU, a two-day induction workshop was held for members of the Advisory Council for the Refoundation, focusing on the core functions of a modern parliament. The initiative formed part of Niger's broader effort to rebuild institutions on transparent and accountable foundations.

In Gabon, IPU support contributed to the resumption of a fully functioning National Assembly, suspended after the 2023 coup. The visit by IPU Secretary General Martin Chungong to both Niger and Gabon reinforced cooperation with national authorities, and the IPU's role in supporting institutional normalization in Gabon was formally recognized when National Assembly Speaker Michel Régis Onanga Mamadou Ndiaye decorated the IPU Secretary General with a medal of honour.

The IPU also co-organized a regional conference bringing together parliamentary leaders from West and Central Africa to share experiences of transition. Discussions focused on citizen engagement, trust building and inclusive governance. The meeting concluded with the adoption of the Libreville Declaration, setting out shared commitments to restoring constitutional order, strengthening legislative institutions and upholding human rights and the rule of law.


Violations of the human rights of MPs in 2025

Cases examined by the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

The IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians is the only international complaints mechanism with the specific mandate to defend the human rights of persecuted parliamentarians.

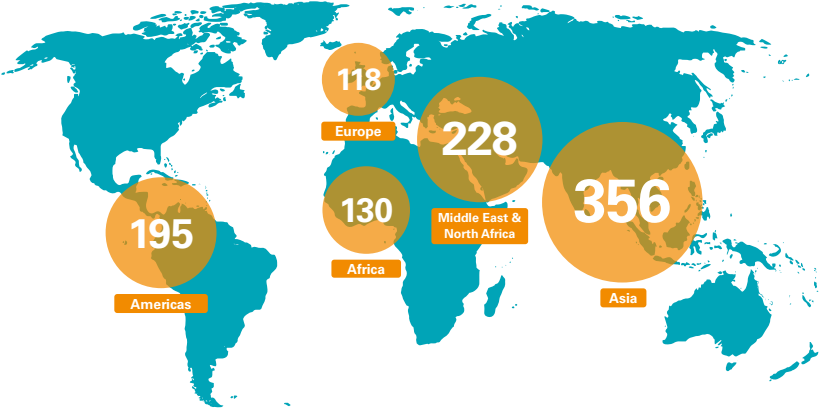
Its work includes mobilizing the international parliamentary community to support threatened MPs, lobbying national authorities, visiting MPs in danger and sending trial observers.

The Committee is made up of 10 parliamentarians, representing the various regions of the world, and elected by their peers for a mandate of five years.


 Inter-Parliamentary Union
 For democracy. For everyone.

Most common violations

- 1 Undue suspension and loss of parliamentary mandate
- 2 Violation of freedom of expression
- 3 Lack of fair trial and other unfair proceedings
- 4 Violation of freedom of assembly and association



1027 MPs in **58** countries

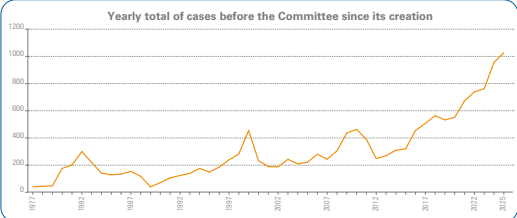
226 ♀ 801 ♂

Opposition 854

Majority 110

Independent/Others 63

Yearly total of cases before the Committee since its creation




If you are or know of an MP in danger, contact us immediately on hrteam@ipu.org

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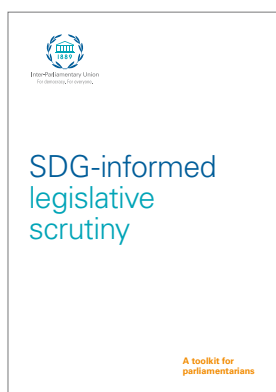
Access interactive data



Tools for strong and effective parliaments

Throughout the year, the IPU continued to publish tools to support parliaments and those who work in them. New publications in 2025 included:

SDG-informed legislative scrutiny, which helps parliaments to translate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into national laws, to hold governments accountable for the implementation of the goals and to align budgets with national sustainable development plans.



“A user-friendly, logically structured toolkit, clear, simple and easy to understand. It covers the main issues related to SDG-informed scrutiny illustrated as far as possible with examples (with others to come). Detailed and step-by-step analysis is making the process clear and feasible. It brings clarity to the way parliaments are engaged in implementing SDG informed scrutiny.”

Lilya Vardanyan, parliamentary staff, Armenia

Welcoming new parliamentarians: Good practices for onboarding and offboarding MPs, which offers practical guidance and good practices to help parliaments effectively welcome and support newly elected members across all stages of induction, from pre-arrival to orientation.

The toolkit is based on a global comparative study conducted between 2023 and 2025, and was developed in close partnership with the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP). Designed for parliamentary leadership and administrations, the toolkit supports stronger onboarding processes and institutional continuity.



Democratic checks, military balances: Parliamentary oversight in an era of rising military expenditure, which provides analytical insights and practical guidance to help parliaments strengthen democratic oversight of defence budgets in a context of record military spending.

The IPU publication warns that unchecked defence spending risks weakening democratic controls, diverting funds from essential public services such as health and education, and allowing executive power to go unchallenged.



More on building effective and empowered parliaments

In 2025, the IPU:

- Organized workshops in Burkina Faso to enhance governance, security and inclusion.
- Supported the transitional parliament in Guinea with capacity building on human rights.
- Helped the National Transitional Council in Chad prepare for a new legislature. **See Part 2 – Policy Goal 2** for the full story.
- Held capacity-building sessions for parliamentarians and staff in Benin, Ghana, Lesotho, Libya, Namibia and Sierra Leone.
- Undertook a global survey on the intimidation of parliamentarians by members of the public, and carried out case studies in Argentina, Benin, Italy, Malaysia and the Netherlands.
- Ran human rights seminars in the Central African Republic, Ghana, Mongolia and Uzbekistan.
- Co-organized (together with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief) a series of webinars on combating religious hatred.
- Supported gender equality in Chad, Mongolia and South Africa.
- Ran online events focused on climate change in Cameroon, Nigeria and Zimbabwe.
- Welcomed seven new endorsements of the IPU Common Principles for Support to Parliaments, which are guidelines designed to support the development of strong and democratic parliaments, rising to 192 in total. As of December 2025, 82% of national parliaments have endorsed the Principles to help support their development.

Strategic Objective 2: Promoting inclusive and representative parliaments

Representation and inclusion are essential for strong, legitimate parliaments. With women and young people under the age of 30 grossly under-represented in parliaments, the IPU works tirelessly to mobilize the global parliamentary community to accelerate progress on both gender equality and youth representation in politics and society.

Achieving gender equality, action by action

2025 was a pivotal year for the IPU's work to advance gender equality. We launched our global campaign *Achieving gender equality, action by action* against a backdrop of stalled representation and emerging threats to women's rights. The campaign – which was timed to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 40th anniversary of the IPU's Forum of Women Parliamentarians – aimed to galvanize the international parliamentary community and underline the urgent need for decisive action.

Drawing on IPU reports showing persistent underrepresentation of women in decision-making – and even backsliding in some regions – the campaign focused on three priorities: parity in parliament and politics; gender-sensitive institutions; and combating gender-based violence and discrimination. As part of the campaign, the IPU launched a new guide outlining [10 actions](#) for parliaments to achieve gender equality, unveiled at the 150th IPU Assembly in Tashkent.

Global gender representation in politics

The IPU's special Beijing Declaration anniversary report looking back at the past 30 years, [Women in parliament: 1995–2025](#), showed that women's parliamentary representation had more than doubled globally since 1995, with quota systems proving particularly effective, although growth had slowed significantly in recent years.

On a more positive note, while in 1995 no parliament had achieved gender parity, in 2025, six parliaments had parity or more women than men in their single or lower chambers (Rwanda, Cuba, Nicaragua, Mexico, Andorra and the United Arab Emirates). And more recently Bolivia joined the group becoming the seventh parliament.

Data from the IPU–UN Women *Women in Politics Map 2025* showed that gender equality in political leadership remained limited. Men continued to outnumber women by more than three to one in executive and legislative roles, with women holding just over a quarter of parliamentary seats, while women's representation in government declined slightly. The data revealed that only 25 countries had a woman head of State and that cabinet-level representation had fallen, with just nine gender-equal cabinets worldwide. Women were also more likely to hold “soft” ministerial portfolios.



Launch of the IPU's gender campaign with Tanzila Narbaeva, Chairperson of the Senate of the Uzbekistan Parliament; Tuliya Ackson, President of the IPU; Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU and Cynthia López Castro, President of the IPU Bureau of Women MPs. © Parliament of Uzbekistan



The IPU's gender campaign has 10 actions parliaments can take to achieve gender equality. © IPU/Lucien Fortunati

Violence, harassment and gender-based barriers

2025 also saw the release of the fourth IPU regional study into sexism, harassment and violence in parliaments. This time Asia-Pacific parliaments were the focus, in a study conducted in partnership with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA). Among the most concerning findings were that:

- 60% of women MPs surveyed had faced online abuse
- 76% of women MPs and 63% of staff surveyed had experienced psychological violence
- 25% of MPs and 36% of staff surveyed had experienced sexual violence

The report found that younger women, minority women and women opposition MPs were disproportionately targeted. Notably, over half the incidents of sexual harassment occurred on parliamentary premises and were primarily perpetrated by male colleagues.

Mexico Conference calls for gender parity

The IPU's [Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians](#), held in March in Mexico City, Mexico, emphasized the urgent need for gender parity in parliaments worldwide.

The Conference, attended by some 380 parliamentarians from 56 countries, as well as representatives from the Government of Mexico, international organizations and civil society, highlighted successful measures and strategies to advance gender parity.

The Conference proposed a comprehensive plan of action, urging parliaments to adopt measures such as gender quotas, equal campaign resources, and zero-tolerance policies on sexism and harassment.



IPU President Tulia Ackson and President of Mexico Claudia Sheinbaum at the Global Conference of Women MPs held in Mexico City. © Parliament of Mexico

"As women parliamentarians and as women participating in public life, I urge you to make this call for equality and parity a general call against classism, racism, sexism, and any form of discrimination. From here, we tell the world that it's time for women; from here, we celebrate this effort to promote equal political participation for women everywhere. We are women building peace, equality and universal fraternity."

Claudia Sheinbaum, President of Mexico, opening the Conference.

Promoting youth-inclusive and representative parliaments

The IPU has long advocated for greater parliamentary representation for young people, without which they can become frustrated and angry. IPU data gathered in 2025 shows that youth representation has stalled, with only 2.8% of the world's parliamentarians aged 30 and under – no change since 2023 – and despite half the global population being under 30. Small wonder that 2025 saw youth-led protests in several countries, some of which – including in Bangladesh and Madagascar – resulted in regime change.

The IPU continued its *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign and held multiple events aimed at empowering and supporting young parliamentarians. By December 2025, more than 2,500 MPs, Speakers of Parliament, Heads of State, and heads of UN agencies and other international organizations had signed up to the campaign, now in its fifth year.

At the IPU's *11th Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians*, held in Lima, Peru, MPs called for urgent action to boost the political representation of young people – particularly of young women, in line with the IPU's priority theme of the year.

The IPU's unique *Forum of Young Parliamentarians*, meeting at both IPU Assemblies of the year, helped provide a youth perspective to the general deliberations.

"The Forum of Young Parliamentarians has made a significant impact on youth political engagement in my country. Following the Forum's establishment, young Zimbabwean MPs began efforts to increase youth representation in Parliament, resulting in a quota system of ten parliamentary seats reserved for young parliamentarians. The measure had a ripple effect, and the current Parliament has 20 MPs under the age of 35."

Maureen Kademaunga, a parliamentarian from Zimbabwe.

2,500

signatories to the IPU's youth campaign



The IPU's 11th Global Conference of Young MPs took place in Lima. © Parliament of Peru

President's activities

- Chaired the annual IPU-UN Women Parliamentary Meeting at the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March, New York, USA.
- Represented the IPU at the European Conference of Presidents of Parliament in March in Strasbourg, France.
- Chaired the Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians in March in Mexico City, Mexico.
- Chaired the Second Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue in June in Rome, Italy.



IPU President Tulia Ackson with other Speakers of Parliament at the European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments held in Strasbourg, France. © Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

More on inclusive and representative parliaments

- Capacity-building support was provided to young MPs in Chad, alongside the national launch of the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign.
- The IPU presented its research and guidance on addressing sexism, harassment and violence against women at a meeting in South Africa in August, co-organized by the country's Women and Gender Rights Forum (WGRF) and Gender Equality Commission.
- The IPU partnered with the EU-funded Women and Youth in Democracy Initiative (WYDE) | Women's Leadership Initiative for a series of debates and side events focusing on young women in politics and intergenerational dialogue for gender equality. These events took place at the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York; the 150th IPU Assembly; the Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Lima; and during the UNGA High-Level Week.
- The IPU continued to promote national-level parliamentary engagement in follow-up to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) country reviews of previous years. This included an in-person workshop in Mongolia. **See Part 2 – Policy Goal 4** for the full story about Mongolia.
- The IPU Gender Partnership Group engaged with countries that have fewer than 10% women MPs, including the parliaments of Algeria, Maldives, Nigeria and The Gambia, to help build political will towards advancing women's participation in those countries.
- The IPU also organized numerous webinars and capacity-building workshops, including in Benin, Gabon, Nigeria, Thailand and Zambia. **See Part 2 – Policy Goal 5** for the full story about Zambia.

Strategic Objective 3:

Supporting resilient and innovative parliaments

Innovation and the capacity to adapt and respond to risks are crucial to the sustainability of parliamentary work. Through the IPU's Centre for Innovation in Parliament (CIP), we promote modern working methods, share best practices and foster evidence-based policy-making. We also support parliaments to become greener and to implement the Paris Agreement on climate change.

How the IPU supports responsible AI

In 2025, the IPU strengthened its work supporting parliaments and MPs as they deal with the range of risks, but also opportunities, posed by artificial intelligence (AI) and other new technologies. Our research, data, policy papers and practical workshops enable parliaments and MPs around the world to grasp the rapid evolution of AI and AI-related legislation. We continuously updated and refined our [Parliamentary actions on AI policy](#) dashboard. By the end of the year, the IPU had tracked parliamentary actions on AI from 63 countries... and counting.

Some 200 parliamentarians, staff and experts gathered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in late November, for a ground-breaking conference on *The Role of Parliament in Shaping the Future of Responsible AI*. Co-organized by the IPU, the Parliament of Malaysia, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the conference addressed deep concerns regarding the unchecked evolution of AI and the lack of safeguards against potential dangers.

MPs from around the world issued a joint declaration warning that, without proper oversight, rapid AI advances could erode trust in elections, displace workers, amplify gender discrimination and accelerate the climate emergency. The declaration called for international cooperation to establish global red lines to prioritize the "common interest of humanity" over that of big tech companies.

To support these goals, the IPU launched the [Maturity Framework for AI in Parliaments](#) tool to complement the [IPU Guidelines for AI in Parliaments](#) published the year before. The framework offers structured guidance to support parliaments as they progress through six levels of AI maturity, from initial (basic awareness and recognition) to leadership (benchmark for other parliaments).

"Parliaments cannot afford to fall behind in the AI era. The future quality of democracy and its institutions are at stake."

Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General.

63

parliaments (and counting) have reported action on AI policy



The Role of Parliament in Shaping the Future of Responsible AI was co-organized by the IPU with the Parliament of Malaysia, CPA and UNDP. © Parliament of Malaysia



An aerial view of a deforested area of the Amazon rainforest in November 2025. © Mauro Pimentel/AFP

Parliaments for the Planet

At the IPU Parliamentary Meeting at COP30 in Belém, Brazil, more than 200 parliamentarians from 40 countries reaffirmed their commitment to addressing the climate emergency. Jointly organized with the Brazilian Parliament, the meeting concluded with an outcome document underscoring the role of legislation in implementing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), ensuring transparency in climate budgets and mobilizing adaptation finance for developing countries. Participants also called for urgent action to protect biodiversity and Indigenous Peoples' rights, given the meeting's proximity to the Amazon.

The meeting also marked the launch of two new IPU initiatives to accelerate climate action: [The Parliamentarians' Global Guide to Climate Change and Climate Solutions](#), developed in partnership with the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory of the University of Arizona, United States, and the University of Exeter, United Kingdom, and [Methane matters](#), outlining parliamentary steps to reduce methane emissions as part of the IPU's umbrella climate campaign [Parliaments for the Planet](#).

Reducing methane was also the focus of workshops at the two IPU Assemblies, engaging over 80 parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from more than 30 countries, including parliamentary leadership, to enable cross-regional dialogue and peer learning. The sessions highlighted the relevance of methane reduction for climate, health and economic priorities and clarified parliamentary entry points through legislative, budgetary and oversight roles.

Against a backdrop of climate disinformation, the IPU also organized a workshop specifically on climate communication and advocacy, engaging over 40 parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from 19 countries. Participants examined common communication challenges, including misinformation, political polarization and declining public trust, and exchanged national experiences on the economic and societal impacts of climate change.

"This event has really inspired me to encourage our Parliament to look more closely at the issue of methane emissions reduction."

Sasmit Patra, a parliamentarian from India.

Among the IPU Member Parliaments taking climate action in 2025

- Bahrain's Council of Representatives became the first legislative body in the region to secure ISO certification for environmental management. The Council installed solar panels, expanded green spaces and introduced sustainable procurement practices.
- Thailand drafted a Climate Change Act in line with the IPU resolution on climate action and access to affordable green energy.
- Viet Nam passed the Law on Science, Technology and Innovation, incorporating IPU principles.
- In Seychelles, parliamentary staff led an initiative to increase the mangrove population near the parliamentary compound and install rainwater harvesting systems.
- The Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania transitioned to an entirely paperless system.

More on resilient and innovative parliaments

- The CIP hubs on parliamentary data science and ICT governance gave technical experts in parliaments around the world a platform to communicate, share notes and discuss approaches.
- An expert meeting of the CIP parliamentary data science hub was held in June. Hosted by the Senate of the Netherlands, it laid the groundwork for the new *Maturity Framework for AI in Parliaments* launched in Kuala Lumpur in November.
- A series of six Transforming Parliaments webinars shared a range of good practices, including AI-powered transcription in Barbados and Fiji; AI use case maps in Austria, Canada and Germany; and strategic AI governance in Brazil, Italy and the United Kingdom.
- Regional CIP hubs in southern Africa and the Pacific facilitated peer-to-peer exchange and learning among parliamentary IT managers in those regions.
- In cooperation with the Parliament of Chile, the IPU organized the Third World Summit of Committees of the Future, which discussed issues related to AI and digital transformation.
- The IPU also supported Ghana in reducing its methane emissions. **See Part 2 – Policy Goal 1** for the full story.



Solar panels on the roof of Bahrain's Council of Representatives. © Parliament of Bahrain

1 Strategic Objective 4:

Catalysing collective parliamentary action

The IPU connects parliaments worldwide, strengthening inter-parliamentary dialogue and amplifying parliamentary voices on the global stage. Each year, it convenes dozens of global and regional meetings, including its biannual Assemblies, bringing together thousands of MPs. The IPU supports parliaments in their work to deliver on their country's international commitments and to be actively engaged in key United Nations, World Trade Organization and G20 processes.

In a year of rising global tensions and regional conflicts, our *raison d'être* – building peace through dialogue – was more important than ever. Our 2025 events, conferences and workshops all had the common objectives of advancing peace, justice and prosperity. They were underpinned by a renewed commitment to greater collaboration and enhanced political will to tackle issues including climate change, armed conflict, economic instability and digital transformation. Our Assemblies, often referred to as “the parliament of parliaments”, were a much-needed opportunity for parliamentarians to engage in parliamentary diplomacy and dialogue as a complement to other international forums at the government level.

“Our mission remains of profound importance, perhaps more so today than ever before. The world needs parliamentary diplomacy.”

IPU President Tulia Ackson

150th IPU Assembly

The IPU's milestone 150th Assembly was hosted by the Parliament of Uzbekistan in April in Tashkent – the first time an IPU Assembly has taken place in Central Asia. Nearly 1,400 delegates from around 130 countries included over 100 Speakers of Parliament, and more than 37% of MPs attending were women, a record since 2022.

The Assembly was a testament to how the IPU has grown since its first meeting in Paris, France in 1889 with a small group of parliamentarians from nine countries, convened by founders William Randal Cremer of Great Britain and Frédéric Passy of France.

As international consensus on politics, the economy, technology and climate becomes increasingly fractured, the main Assembly outcome – the Tashkent Declaration on *Parliamentary action for social development and justice* – was timelier and more relevant than ever. Participants called for a “policy reset” to lift people out of poverty, a democratic economy to benefit the most vulnerable, and stronger institutions to regulate emerging technologies such as AI. Delegates also adopted two key resolutions, on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and on conflict and sustainable development.

120

Speakers of Parliaments
came to Geneva
in July 2025



Some 120 Speakers of Parliament attended the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in Geneva, Switzerland in July 2025. © IPU/Antoine Tardy

151st IPU Assembly

October saw nearly 1,150 delegates gather in Geneva for the 151st IPU Assembly. Women made up almost 37% of the 600 parliamentarians from 132 countries who attended. Against a background of more than 130 global conflicts affecting over 310 million people, the Assembly adopted the Geneva Declaration on *Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis*. Delegates also passed resolutions condemning illegal international adoption, and transnational organized crime, cybercrime and hybrid threats to democracy and human security.



IPU Vice-President Gabriela Morawska-Stanecka chaired the 151st IPU Assembly held in Geneva, Switzerland. © IPU/Antoine Tardy

The 151st Assembly provided space for meetings to discuss the conflicts in Ukraine, the Middle East, and Armenia and Azerbaijan. It was also an opportunity to build on the Secretary General's diplomatic mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda aimed at building trust and transparency to end the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the eastern DRC.



UN Messenger of Peace and actor Michael Douglas was the keynote speaker at the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments. © IPU/Pierre Albouy

World's top parliamentarians meet in Geneva

Speakers of Parliament from some 120 countries gathered in Geneva in July for the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, organized by the IPU and the United Nations.

Established in 2000 by the IPU, the World Conference of Speakers of Parliament brings together the highest level representatives of parliaments and the United Nations every five years. Previous Conferences have played an important role in strengthening the parliamentary dimension of global governance and bridging the democracy gap in international affairs.

Opened by actor and UN Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas, the sixth edition of the Conference reaffirmed the importance of effective multilateralism with a declaration underlining the need for multilateral cooperation, restoring trust in democratic institutions, and addressing the root causes of insecurity.

The Conference was preceded by the 15th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament, convened by the IPU in close cooperation with the Swiss Parliament. The Summit, which focused on the role of women Speakers in leading for inclusive and lasting peace, was an opportunity for the participants from around the world to craft the next chapter for gender equality and women's empowerment and leadership.



In June 2025, Pope Leo XIV granted an audience to participants of the Second Parliamentary Conference in Interfaith Dialogue.
© Servizio Fotografico – Vatican Media

Stepping up engagement with the United Nations

The IPU Member Parliaments' reports filed in 2025 showed greater engagement by parliaments with various UN bodies: engagement with the UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review (UPR) up from 40% to 48%; with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) up from 30% to 45%; and with the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) up from 43% to 58%. 91% of parliaments made a positive contribution to implementing the SDGs in 2025.

Around 300 participants from over 60 countries gathered at UN Headquarters in New York in February for the 2025 Parliamentary Hearing – co-organized by the IPU and the President of the UN General Assembly – to discuss accelerating progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Discussions focused on mobilizing political will, engaging parliaments and addressing challenges including low awareness of the SDGs.

Later in the year, in July, the IPU also brought together MPs at the UN in New York to continue the discussions on SDGs at the High-Level Political Forum. The Forum focused on two SDGs, namely SDG 3 on health and wellbeing for all, and SDG 5 on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

“The Global Parliamentary Dialogue will serve as a bridge connecting parliamentarians with WHO, Member States, youth and civil society... It reflects the growing recognition that global health is not only a technical domain, but profoundly political.”

WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Parliamentarians for health

The IPU inaugurated the Global Parliamentary Dialogue at the World Health Assembly, which is now part of the official programme, demonstrating the growing importance of the parliamentary stakeholder group for the World Health Organization and building on strong relations between the two organizations.

Building bridges between parliamentarians and religious leaders

In June, the IPU organized the Second Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue on *Strengthening trust and embracing hope for our common future*, in Rome, in partnership with the Italian Parliament and with support from Religions for Peace.

The Conference brought together hundreds of MPs, including Speakers, as well as religious leaders, UN officials, civil society representatives and international experts, from close to 100 countries, responding to the motto of the Vatican's Jubilee Year to be “pilgrims of hope” amid a climate of growing conflict, polarization and the weaponization of religion. Newly installed Pope Leo XIV also granted an audience to Conference participants at the Vatican.

The Conference built on the momentum of the inaugural Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue, held in Marrakesh, Morocco, in June 2023.

In Rome, the IPU also released the second part of its *Parliamentary report on religion and belief: Engagement with religion and belief by parliamentarians*, which underscores the vital role of MPs in fostering peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

President's activities

- Chaired the Third Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in February in New York, USA.
- Co-chaired the IPU Parliamentary Hearing at the UN with the President of the General Assembly in February in New York, USA.
- Represented the IPU at the Fourth Parliamentary Summit of the International Crimea Platform in November in Stockholm, Sweden.
- Represented the IPU at the Summit of Speakers of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean in November in Cairo, Egypt.
- Represented the IPU at the Parliamentary Forum during the Second World Summit for Social Development in November in Qatar.



IPU President Tulia Ackson with Mohamed Abou El-Enein, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean. © Parliament of Egypt

More on catalyzing parliamentary action

- The Parliamentary Track of the Internet Governance Forum (June) and parliamentary session at the high-level meeting at the World Summit on the Information Society +20 (July) both focused on countering digital misinformation and strengthening parliaments' role in AI policy and the Global Digital Compact.
- In the framework of the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organization (PCWTO) (a collaboration between the IPU and the European Parliament), the 2025 Parliamentary Session at the WTO Public Forum, *Promoting multilateralism through digital trade: What role for parliaments?* explored how lawmakers can shape digital trade policies to foster inclusive growth and modernize global trade governance.
- IPU Member Parliaments also contributed to the Parliamentary Meeting at the Commission on the Status of Women, which focused on *Parliaments and Beijing +30: Resisting the backlash and shifting paradigms towards gender equality*.
- Meeting in Cape Town under the leadership of the Parliament of South Africa, Speakers of Parliament from across the G20 closed the 11th G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) with a pledge to address the world's overlapping crises and ensure that citizens' voices shape global solutions.
- The IPU's High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism met on the sidelines of the IPU's Assemblies and worked on different approaches and definitions of terrorism.
- The second Science for Peace school, held in Jordan, brought together some 40 participants, including MPs and parliamentary staff from 12 countries, to focus on the ethics of AI.
- The 2025 Interregional Seminar on the Achievement of the SDGs for Parliaments of Developing Countries was jointly hosted by the IPU and the National People's Congress of China in Beijing. The seminar brought together 34 parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from developing countries to strengthen parliamentary engagement on sustainable development.
- The IPU organized and participated in numerous seminars and webinars for parliamentarians on peace and security covering themes such as regulating military AI, the universalization of the Biological Weapons Convention and the promotion of the Arms Trade Treaty. **See Part 2 – Policy Goal 6** for more on the IPU's peace and security work.
- The Parliamentary Forum jointly organized by the Shura Council of the State of Qatar and the IPU during the Second World Summit for Social Development aimed at accelerating action on poverty eradication, the promotion of full employment, decent work and social inclusion.

1 Strategic Objective 5:

Strengthening the IPU's accountability

Transparency and accountability are vital for parliamentary democracies and critical for the IPU to achieve its strategic objectives. The IPU fosters a culture of mutual accountability within Member Parliaments, between Member Parliaments and the IPU, and within the IPU Secretariat. In addition, Member Parliaments are invited to take part in annual surveys on the actions they have taken to implement IPU resolutions and decisions.

Member reporting

38 Member Parliaments were invited to complete the 2025 survey, an annual rotational exercise, with others encouraged to take part on a voluntary basis. 29 of the 38 Member Parliaments (76%) returned complete questionnaires, along with the parliaments of Bahrain and Qatar, which submitted voluntary contributions. Among the main findings of the 2025 survey:

- 81% of respondents had conveyed the outcomes of the two 2024 IPU Assemblies to their national parliaments.
- 45% (the highest in four years) had passed laws, adopted decisions or taken other actions relating to IPU outcomes.
- 45% had held a debate related to parliamentary participation in the work of the IPU.

Highlights reported included the National Assembly of Slovenia, which conveyed the resolutions and declarations from the 148th and 149th IPU Assemblies to the Council of the President of the National Assembly, the Committee on Foreign Policy and the Government; Qatar, where the Shura Council held a debate on the declarations and resolutions adopted at the 148th and 149th IPU Assemblies; and the Senate of Uzbekistan, which adopted a road map identifying areas for alignment between IPU decisions and the country's development agenda.

Parliaments in several countries acted on IPU resolutions by advancing legislation on AI, humanitarian protection and climate action. In December 2024, Switzerland's lower house called for a national strategy on artificial intelligence and autonomous weapons, addressing ethical and governance concerns. Somalia approved an Internally Displaced Persons Bill strengthening non-discrimination provisions and access to social and financial services. Thailand held public hearings on a draft Climate Change Act and created a parliamentary sub-committee to oversee AI governance. Viet Nam passed laws on science, innovation and energy efficiency in 2025, aligning national policy with IPU principles on sustainable development, human rights and responsible technology.



Media at the 151st IPU Assembly in October 2025. © IPU/Pierre Albouy

Member interaction with the UN

In a year of shrinking budgets and increasingly loud questions about the UN's relevance, the involvement and influence of IPU Member Parliaments in UN processes was more important than ever. 2025 reporting data from Member Parliaments showed that 57% of parliaments surveyed had pushed for MPs to be included in national delegations to major UN meetings, and just under half (42%) had held briefings with government officials about UN Security Council reform.

The United Arab Emirates, for example, held consultations on ways in which parliamentary diplomacy could contribute to multilateral efforts and UN Security Council reform; Uruguay advocated for the inclusion of MPs in national delegations to the UN and greater gender equality in international affairs; and a high-level briefing was held in Ukraine resulting in a call for global dialogue on UN Security Council reform.

Member initiatives on climate change

In line with the IPU strategic push on responses to climate change under its umbrella campaign *Parliaments for the Planet*, more than three-quarters (77%) of the 2025 survey respondents reported taking significant steps to reduce emissions and make their parliaments more sustainable. 71% reported taking measures to implement nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement; 61% reported action to shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources; and 58% said they were stepping up efforts to cut methane emissions.

Notable examples of parliaments taking action included Sierra Leone, which created a professional Information and Communications Technology Department to oversee the transition to a paperless system; the European Parliament, which updated its environmental policy and adopted new targets for 2024–2029 to further reduce its ecological footprint; and the Parliament of Turkmenistan, which oversaw a national road map for reducing methane emissions.



61% of parliaments surveyed by the IPU reported action to shift from fossil fuels, including coal, to renewable energy. © Joris Bolomey/AFP

Reforming the IPU

In 2025, the IPU continued its efforts to modernize its Statutes and Rules. In April 2025, the 150th Assembly adopted amendments aimed at mainstreaming a gender perspective throughout all the IPU's work, clarifying the emergency item procedure, encouraging enhanced diversity among delegations to IPU Assemblies, ensuring a youth perspective in IPU resolutions, and harmonizing deadlines for various statutory procedures.

In October 2025, the 151st Assembly approved an amendment to the Statutes to formalize the status of non-voting observer for Member Parliaments no longer functioning on the territory of the country concerned, as well as amendments to the Rules and Practices of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, with a view to formalizing broad geopolitical representation among its membership.

And by the end of 2025, the IPU was able to report full implementation of all the recommendations from the April 2020 Transparency Report, thereby ending the mandate of the IPU Working Group on Transparency, Accountability and Openness. One of the last recommendations to be implemented was the *IPU Policy on whistleblowing and protection against retaliation*, which included setting up an online platform for complaints to be handled.

41,000

contacts registered in
the IPU central
database



Media at the 150th IPU Assembly in April 2025 © Parliament of Uzbekistan

Communications and online engagement

Communications also play a vital role in transparency and accountability. As we entered the penultimate year of the current IPU Communications Strategy, most performance indicators remained positive, despite an ever more complex media landscape. The Strategy seeks to strengthen the IPU as a global hub for, about and between parliaments by sharing trusted information, positive stories and essential updates with 44,000 parliamentarians and other stakeholders worldwide.

Highlights of 2025 included:

- 11% year-on-year growth in traffic on www.ipu.org, with over 540,000 annual visitors.
- Strong growth on the IPU's social media channels, especially Instagram (+16% followers) and LinkedIn (+26% engagement).
- Close to 30,000 articles in the media that mention the IPU (+8%).
- Experimenting with new and increasingly popular forms of content, with 15 episodes now available of the IPU podcast series *IPU on air*.
- The central database of MPs and the parliamentary community now surpasses 40,000, bringing the IPU closer to its objective of being able to target its communications at all 44,000 MPs in the world.



The IPU's social media wall is a popular feature at IPU assemblies. © Parliament of Uzbekistan

More on strengthening the IPU's accountability

- The IPU finalized its draft Sustainability Policy, to be adopted by the IPU governing bodies in 2026. The Policy aims to guide the Organization and its Member Parliaments towards environmentally responsible, inclusive and future-focused operations and parliamentary action on sustainability issues.
- Anti-harassment training was delivered for all participants at the 151st IPU Assembly in October to strengthen implementation of our zero-tolerance policy. We also worked with an expert independent consultant on building secure working environments.
- Eight staff training sessions were held throughout the year covering approaches to social and cultural behavioural change.

PART 2

In focus



POLICY GOAL 1 – CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change costs lives and undermines global development, peace and security. Climate action is the IPU's top policy priority. We support parliaments in reducing their carbon footprints, holding governments to account for their countries' international commitments, and provide parliamentary tools for them to take climate action. We work closely with UN partners to ensure MPs have a strong voice in global climate negotiations.

How the IPU helps Ghana to reduce methane emissions

When the Parliament of Ghana decided to take action to reduce climate-damaging greenhouse gas emissions, the IPU was on hand to offer support, technical expertise and capacity-building. We worked closely with parliamentarians to strengthen their understanding of Ghana's commitments under the 2015 Paris Agreement, and to identify opportunities for parliamentary action – including on methane emissions – that can help support their achievement.

Methane is 80 times more potent than CO₂ and is responsible for around 30% of the global warming we are experiencing today. Because methane is a short-lived pollutant – it only remains in the atmosphere for 12 years instead of centuries like CO₂ – methane reduction is like pulling the “emergency brake” on global warming, offering countries a fast way to slow warming while pursuing longer-term emissions reductions.

At the 151st IPU Assembly in Geneva, the Clerk of the Parliament of Ghana and the IPU Secretary General signed a cooperation framework to strengthen Ghanaian parliamentary capacity to help reduce methane emissions, with philanthropic support from the Global Methane Hub project, a global network of experts and policymakers pushing to mitigate methane emissions.



In October 2025, the IPU signed a cooperation framework to strengthen Ghana's parliamentary capacity to help reduce methane emissions.
© IPU/Pierre Albouy

The Speaker of Parliament, Alban Kingsford Sumana Bagbin, formally launched the partnership in Accra on 31 October to coincide with the first session of the workshop *Enhancing Parliamentary Action on Climate Change: Strengthening the Role of Parliament in Reducing Methane Emissions*. “Intensifying efforts to reduce methane emissions is important,” he told participants. “It is a potent greenhouse gas. Tackling methane emissions therefore offers one of the fastest and most effective pathways to slow the pace of global warming.”

Speaker Bagbin also thanked the IPU for its support and urged the Budget Committee of Parliament to prioritize investment in climate initiatives, particularly those which reduce methane emissions and promote green innovation. “Climate change is not a distant threat, but a global crisis that demands bold legislative leadership,” he said. “By investing in methane reduction and green technologies, Parliament can help shape a sustainable environment for Ghana.”

Until recently, methane had received limited attention in parliamentary discussions. The IPU capacity-building programme is helping bring the issue onto Parliament’s agenda while strengthening members’ understanding of how methane action fits within Ghana’s broader climate commitments, institutions and policy priorities.

After the initial workshop had finished, Parliament drafted a statement on methane, pushing methane onto the political agenda. MPs also met with executive institutions such as the Environmental Protection Agency to discuss current methane plans and the role of effective parliamentary oversight, legislation and budget scrutiny.

As part of the programme, MPs visited a rice-growing area to see the impacts of climate change for themselves. They were also shown practical solutions such as alternate wetting and drying, which can cut methane emissions by up to 70% without reducing yields. MPs also took the opportunity to connect with constituents during the field visit, discussing local concerns and potential solutions.

In the wake of the IPU programme, reducing methane emissions is now part of the Budget Committee’s official work plan for 2026, ensuring sustained parliamentary attention on the issue. The Committee also recently undertook two weeks of oversight visits to mining companies to discuss and raise awareness about the mining industry’s contribution to methane emissions, as well as possible monitoring and mitigation measures.

Cutting methane is the fastest way parliaments can slow global warming this decade

Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

PARLIAMENTS FOR THE PLANET

This IPU project is supported by

Global Methane Hub



A voting booth in Chad © Joris Bolomey/AFP



POLICY GOAL 2 – DEMOCRACY AND STRONG PARLIAMENTS

The IPU promotes principles and values which are universal to democratic parliaments. Parliaments can only be strong when they are effective, accountable, transparent, responsive, inclusive, accessible and representative of all strands of society. As the global organization of parliaments, we encourage Member Parliaments to follow IPU standards and guidelines, which are based on our 137 years of experience. Strong parliaments must drive development to deliver the best lives for the people they represent.

How the IPU helped Chad on the road to democracy

Chad's first elections in more than a decade marked the end of a three-year transitional period and paved the way for a return to parliamentary democracy. It was fitting that the elections came shortly after Haroun Kabadi – former Speaker of Chad's National Assembly, Head of the National Transitional Council and now President of the Senate – won the 2024 IPU Cremer-Passy Prize for MP of the year.

The IPU worked throughout 2025 to support the Parliament of Chad, as well as the transitional parliaments in Burkina Faso, Gabon, Guinea and Niger. Highlights included a high-level conference for transitional parliaments in West and Central Africa. The conference took place in Libreville, Gabon, where parliamentary leaders from Chad, Gabon and Guinea exchanged views and lessons learned on speeding up their transition periods with a view to returning to constitutional order.

Chad's progress was cemented with an agreement signed by the IPU Secretary General and the Speaker of the National Assembly of Chad, Ali Kolotou Tchaimi. Aiming to help modernize and strengthen the country's Parliament, the agreement covers both chambers of Chad's Parliament and followed an IPU workshop on gender equality and youth inclusion for more than 240 Chadian MPs and parliamentary staff earlier in the year.

Chad's continuing evolution as a parliamentary democracy – and the IPU's role in supporting it – is even more important given the current wider instability in Central Africa and the Sahel. Speaking just a month before the 150th IPU Assembly, Speaker Tchaimi warned of "a particularly worrying international context," which he said was "marked by serious threats to peace and security, the dramatic consequences of climate change and the retreat of multilateralism."

In November, the IPU organized a seminar on both Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) self-assessment and human rights, for newly elected members and staff of Chad's Parliament, bringing together around 50 participants from both chambers. It was the first chance that parliamentarians had had to assess progress since the Parliament's first SDG self-assessment, held before the 2021 military coup. Despite the challenges of the previous three years, participants reported good progress, particularly around data collection and parliamentary action. The commitment by Chad's new Parliament to advance the SDGs during a challenging political transition gives a valuable insight into the IPU's work to promote democracy and strengthen parliaments across West and Central Africa.

On the human rights' front, the seminar helped the newly elected parliamentarians to familiarize themselves with the work of the UN Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Participants worked on a plan that would strengthen the contribution of the Chadian Parliament to this mechanism as part of their efforts to promote human rights in the country.



POLICY GOAL 3 – HUMAN RIGHTS

Thousands of parliamentarians worldwide face daily threats, harassment and human rights violations. IPU data confirms the problem is growing – 2025 saw a record number of complaints of alleged human rights violations against MPs submitted to the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (CHRP). The CHRP is uniquely placed to defend the rights of parliamentarians, and its work includes mobilizing the international parliamentary community, lobbying national authorities, visiting MPs in danger and sending trial observers.

The release of Ahmed Al-Alwani: How a long game of quiet diplomacy paid off

More than a decade of quiet persistence, behind-the-scenes diplomacy and public campaigning by the IPU finally paid off in 2025 when former Iraqi MP Ahmed Al-Alwani was acquitted and released after 12 years behind bars on death row.

As an MP, Al-Alwani was supposed to be protected by parliamentary immunity. But he was arrested in December 2013 in Ramadi, Iraq, in a raid in which his brother and seven other people were killed. He was held incommunicado, tortured and sentenced to death by hanging.

The CHRP closely monitored the case from the beginning, repeatedly calling for Al-Alwani's release and seeking opportunities to engage with the Iraqi authorities. The breakthrough came in 2023 when an IPU delegation visited Baghdad, led by then CHRP President Samuel Cogolati from Belgium and former Committee member Mushahid Hussein from Pakistan. The IPU team met with high-level Iraqi leaders, Al-Alwani's family and legal representatives, as well as the MP himself, who was still in prison under sentence of death.

The mission combined dialogue, transparency and trust-building, using diplomatic channels to urge political and religious leaders to prevent Al-Alwani's execution and to seek a satisfactory resolution. Combined with the crucial mediation of tribal leaders and the Iraqi authorities' commitment to resolving the case, the IPU helped overcome longstanding political obstacles and contributed to Al-Alwani's release.

"This outcome is a testament to the power of persistent advocacy, dialogue and international solidarity," said IPU Secretary General Martin Chungong. "I commend the tireless efforts by the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, tribal leaders and the Iraqi authorities in overcoming the obstacles to uphold the rights and dignity of Mr. Al-Alwani."



Former Iraqi MP Ahmed Al-Alwani © Photo courtesy of Mr. Al-Alwani's family

Al-Alwani's family have credited the IPU with persistence, consistent advocacy, monitoring and direct engagement, which encouraged the Iraqi authorities to reach a long-awaited resolution. After his release, Al-Alwani thanked the IPU for its commitment and praised "the sustained efforts by both government institutions and grassroots actors".

Defending human rights is always challenging. Protecting MPs from abuse – and worse – is never easy. But the IPU, encouraged by cases such as that of Ahmed Al-Alwani, will continue to defend the rights of parliamentarians around the world.



POLICY GOAL 4 – GENDER EQUALITY

The IPU encourages parliaments to increase the number of women in parliament, support women already in parliament, and promote gender-sensitivity within parliaments as institutions. Our 2025 campaign *Achieving gender equality, action by action* embodied our commitment to gender justice. In some countries, 2025 saw a slowing or even reversal of women’s parliamentary representation. As long as men continue to outnumber women by more than three to one in executive and legislative roles, the IPU will continue to champion women parliamentarians and advocate for their greater representation.

Gender equality in Mongolia: Spotlight on the State Great Hural!

“Gender equality isn’t just a women’s issue, it requires everyone’s leadership,” said Nomin Chinbat, an MP in Mongolia’s State Great Hural (Parliament). “By working together, we are increasing the number of women in leadership and decision-making roles, building a more balanced and equitable future for all.”

Nomin was just one of the new cohort of MPs elected to Mongolia’s Parliament including a record number of women, who now make up more than a quarter of all legislators. Such progress doesn’t come by accident. The IPU has worked closely with Mongolia since 2022, when a Memorandum of Understanding was signed to support efforts to advance gender equality and human rights in Parliament.

Work progressed quickly. A self-assessment in 2023 was followed by a strategic plan, and in 2025, the IPU organized a workshop for nearly 150 MPs, staff and other national stakeholders. This focused on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and how to implement it. Social media, press and television coverage helped spread the word beyond Parliament. The IPU mission also featured a round-table discussion with UK parliamentarians to mark the International Day of Parliamentarism.

Progress has been impressive. The existing electoral quota was increased to 30%, which, combined with a new system of mandated alternation of men and women candidates, resulted in a quarter of all seats being occupied by women. There were other developments too: greater diversity including younger MPs, three MPs with disabilities, a woman MP from the Kazakh minority and a dedicated children’s room for women MPs with parental responsibilities.

Inspired by the IPU’s *Achieving gender equality, action by action* campaign, several Mongolian women MPs recorded social media videos, which between them have racked up thousands of views. In one of them, MP Munkhtur Narantuya-Nara reflects that many social issues remain unresolved because women are excluded from decision-making. “Because women look at issues in such detail and with such human intuition, they’re able to address even the smallest problems by working together with strength and heart,” said Munkhtur. “Our female members of parliament are taking up, discussing and promoting many often-overlooked social issues to find solutions. Having even more women in decision-making roles, who truly understand the social pulse and the community, will be a powerful force in solving many more of our society’s challenges.”



An IPU workshop on gender equality in the Parliament of Mongolia. © Parliament of Mongolia



MP Imanga Wamunyima, Secretary of the Zambian Youth Caucus. © IPU



POLICY GOAL 5 – YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Healthy democracy depends on active participation by young people, but youth representation in national parliaments has stalled. In 2025, according to the IPU's data, fewer than 3% of the world's parliamentarians were aged 30 or under despite making up around half the global population. The IPU's long-running *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign has been endorsed by MPs from almost 160 countries and over 95 Speakers of Parliament. The IPU was also one of the first international organizations to incentivize more young parliamentarians to attend its meetings.

Zambia says yes to youth in parliament!

In 2025, the National Assembly of Zambia became the latest parliament to implement the IPU's *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign. Work began in 2021 when the Speaker signed up to the campaign, followed by the creation of the Zambia Youth Parliamentary Caucus in 2022 and a national campaign launch in 2024.

Building on this, a new measure of success came in December 2025 when the National Assembly brought in a 5% quota for candidates younger than 35, together with quotas for women and people with disabilities. Although the youth quota is too low to ensure the country will meet the IPU's targets of 15% of MPs being 30 and under and 35% of MPs being 40 and under, the first-past-the-post voting system means women and young people can still be elected outside the quota, making it an important step forward that can grow over time.

One of the driving forces behind the changes was Imanga Wamunyima, Secretary of the Zambian Youth Caucus and an active participant in the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians. Wamunyima played a significant leadership role in the reform process, backed by capacity-building and encouragement from the IPU. "The IPU directly impacted this process through engagement and the establishment of the Youth Parliamentary Caucus," he says. "We championed this advocacy with the support of the IPU. There is no doubt that our engagement in the Forum of Young Parliamentarians has been of considerable help."

The Zambia story matters because it is not just about quotas, it is about the sequence of change that led to them: the Speaker's early commitment, the creation and strengthening of the youth caucus with the IPU's support, and then a caucus leader playing a central role in shaping constitutional reform. Zambia shows how sustained engagement and relationships can translate into concrete outcomes.

The IPU puts forward three compelling arguments for greater youth participation. Firstly, democratic legitimacy: parliamentary representation should be a mirror of society as a whole. Secondly, youth participation leads to better policymaking, especially on issues of immediate importance to youth such as education and employment. And lastly, fostering rejuvenation in parliament: younger MPs bring new ideas, technological fluency, social media engagement and openness to flexible working practices.

Zambia's example is especially important because it comes at a difficult moment globally for youth and women's representation. Progress has stalled since 2023, with only 2.8% of MPs aged 30 and under, the same proportion as in 2023. Even more concerning, the share of women MPs under 30 has fallen, from 1.4% in 2023 to 1.2% in 2025. After years of steady improvement, the IPU figures show stagnation, and in some cases regression. Zambia represents tangible progress. For the IPU, the connection between long-term engagement, capacity-building and real legislative change is a real example of impact.



POLICY GOAL 6 – PEACE AND SECURITY

At a time of escalating global insecurity and record levels of defence spending, parliaments need clear, evidence-based information to ensure that military expenditure is transparent, accountable and aligned with national priorities and democratic values. The IPU supports MPs in fulfilling their commitment to democratic practices, scrutinizing their governments' military spending, and ensuring adherence to the rule of law. We also support parliaments as they navigate and approve ratifications of international treaties, conventions and resolutions designed to support peace and security.

Comoros, Tonga and Mongolia: Three countries trying to make the world safer

The IPU encourages and supports parliaments in their work to approve and implement existing treaties and conventions designed to limit the threat from chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. In 2025, after a high-level seminar organized by the IPU and United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) on the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), Comoros formally presented its instrument of accession. The presentation, which came during the meeting itself, was a welcome example of immediate impact, where technical support and political momentum aligned in real time.

“Comoros is somewhat isolated and exposed – but we also occupy an important geostrategic position,” says Mohamed Ahamada Baco, MP and First Vice-President of the Assembly of the Union of Comoros. “It’s in our interest to think about national security to protect ourselves from all forms of attack. It was important for Comoros to join the BWC to participate in the campaign against the proliferation of biological weapons and the mass destruction or disarmament of these weapons for a more balanced, secure and equitable world.”

Tonga has also been a powerful example of IPU support for MPs pushing their governments to ratify international humanitarian law treaties. After sustained diplomacy by the IPU and national MPs – together with the International Committee of

the Red Cross and the Convention’s Implementation Support Unit, Tonga finally ratified the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), known as the Ottawa Treaty.

“I visited Cambodia and saw first hand the victims who suffer from anti-personnel mines from previous wars,” says Tēvita Fatafehi Puloka, an MP from Tonga who championed the accession process through Parliament. “It really hit me and touched me personally. When I found out that Tonga had not yet acceded to the Ottawa Treaty, I felt it was my obligation to push the Government to sign.”

The IPU has been raising awareness among parliaments and MPs on the universalization of the APMBC since 2021. Tonga’s accession shows that persistence, relationship-building and local leadership pays off. Together with the Marshall Islands, it was the first new accession to the Ottawa Treaty for more than seven years.

The IPU hopes that the Ottawa Treaty will open the door to further engagement and that Tonga may now go on to join other treaties.

Quiet persistence also paid off in 2025, when Mongolia ratified the 2005 Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. The Amendment requires signatories to protect nuclear facilities and material in peaceful domestic use, storage and transport. As a direct result of Mongolia’s participation at an IPU high-level seminar, organized together with the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, the Government of Mongolia ratified the Amendment.

“Global geopolitical tensions are deepening, fuelling conflict and heightening nuclear risks,” said Tsengeg Mijiddorj, Mongolia’s Permanent Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency. “Mongolia attaches a great importance to nuclear security and safety, safeguards and the peaceful application of nuclear science and technology.”

Comoros, Tonga and Mongolia are three very different countries with different parliamentary systems. However, they all share a desire to work with, and be supported by, the IPU in their quest for greater peace and security.



The IPU encourages parliaments to approve ratification of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. © Fariq Faraj Mahmood/Anadolu/AFP



A health clinic in Cameroon. © Kepseu/Xinhua/AFP



POLICY GOAL 7 – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL

Less than five years remain to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), yet millions of people around the world have yet to fully enjoy their rights and to live prosperous lives. The IPU supports parliaments in fulfilling their legislative, oversight and budgetary responsibilities, achieving their objectives under the IPU's Hanoi Declaration and keeping government progress towards the SDGs on track. Through our national, regional and inter-regional events we provide capacity-building and expert insights to help parliamentarians and their staff deal with climate change, gender equality, and health, economic, social and environmental challenges.

Why health taxes could help Cameroon to quit smoking

As health systems around the world struggle and national healthcare budgets are stretched, the IPU works closely with the World Health Organization (WHO) and national parliaments to shift the narrative: health is not a cost, but an investment.

“Health is an investment in people, productivity and long-term prosperity,” IPU Secretary General Martin Chungong told a 2025 workshop on health taxes in Yaoundé, Cameroon. “Tobacco taxes, in particular, offer a unique opportunity to reduce consumption, prevent disease and generate domestic revenue.”

Despite Cameroon's announced ambition in 2023 to achieve universal health coverage, healthcare is a luxury many of its citizens simply cannot afford. The Yaoundé workshop, organized by the IPU with the Network of Parliamentarians for the Fight against Tobacco and Narcotics of the Parliament of Cameroon (OXYGENE Network), advanced national discussions on the use of tobacco taxes to fund universal health coverage. In Cameroon, tax from tobacco sales is less than half the level recommended by WHO.

“If universal health coverage is seen as ensuring that people without exception have full access to quality health services when and where they need them without facing financial hardship, by taxing tobacco, we shall be taking a leap forward in the achievement of better healthcare,” OXYGENE Network President Ngalle Daniel Etongo told the meeting.

In line with SDG 3 – to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages – the IPU has long campaigned to reduce non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by taxing the products that often cause them. Our 2022 report *Saving lives and mobilizing revenue: A parliamentary action guide to health taxes* provides a road map for countries such as Cameroon to generate much-needed additional revenue while reducing consumption of these products.

The one-day workshop, which attracted more than 150 MPs and staff, focused on how to advocate, legislate and oversee tobacco taxes in particular. Around half of the parliamentarians participating had more than a basic knowledge of health taxes, but following the workshop, some 81% said it had helped them to understand better the importance of health taxes. 63% said they now felt “extremely” confident in advocating for health taxes.

The event's outcome declaration and action plan to raise tobacco taxes paved the way for meetings with Government officials, with the Minister of Finance ordering the creation of a special fund for those suffering from NCDs. The Minister also indicated he would look favourably at an increase in tobacco taxes – another example of IPU capacity-building leading to real-time action.

“None of this can be achieved without political will,” noted IPU Secretary General Martin Chungong. “That's why this workshop is so important. We hope it marks the beginning of broader, sustained parliamentary engagement on the issue of tobacco taxation.”

Towards universal membership

Member Parliaments (183)

Afghanistan**, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic*, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo*, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia (The), Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti*, Honduras^{1*}, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar**, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea*, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Associate Members (15)

Andean Parliament***, Arab Parliament, Central American Parliament (PARLACEN), East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), European Parliament, Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO), MERCOSUR Parliament (PARLASUR), Pan-African Parliament, Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Parliament of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC)***, Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF).

¹ * Non-participating Members (all rights suspended)

** Members participating in the work of the IPU in a non-voting observer capacity

*** Non-participating Associate Members (all rights suspended)

Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments

The Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP) brings together Secretaries General and other senior office holders in charge of parliamentary services. It studies the law, procedure, practice and working methods of different parliaments and proposes measures for improvement and for securing cooperation between the services of different parliaments. It is a consultative body of the IPU, and the ASGP President reports annually to the IPU Executive Committee on the ASGP's activities. The ASGP assists the IPU on subjects within the scope of the Association and regularly organizes joint IPU-ASGP sessions at IPU Assemblies. Studies carried out by the IPU relating to parliamentary law and practices are routinely shared with the ASGP and benefit from its input.

In 2025, the IPU and ASGP organized a joint workshop titled "Parliaments in a changing world: Navigating complexity, uncertainty, "and disruption" at the 151st IPU Assembly to discuss new forms of democratic resilience that allow parliaments to uphold their core functions while adapting to rapidly changing circumstances, and continued to collaborate on other research projects. In ASGP meetings, Secretaries General shared their experience on a range of topics on which the IPU is active, including combating gender-based violence in parliament, citizen participation in the work of parliament, and the use of AI in parliaments, among others. These fruitful exchanges are an important means of sharing good practices and informing thinking within the IPU, ASGP and national parliaments.

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How the IPU is funded

The IPU's work to promote peace, democracy and sustainable development is financed primarily by our Member Parliaments and Associate Members. We also receive a regular flow of voluntary contributions from governments, development agencies, UN bodies and foundations. Several donors have concluded multi-year funding agreements that were active during 2025. These include the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the European Union, Irish Aid, International IDEA and the parliaments of China, Micronesia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, as well as

the Arab Parliament, the Julie-Ann Wrigley Foundation/Arizona State University, the Hans Wildorf Foundation, the Global Methane Hub and the King Hamad Global Center for Peaceful Coexistence of Bahrain. Partnerships with the UN family, particularly UNDP, WHO, UN-OHCHR, UNHCR and UN Women, deliver support to a number of activities and country-level programmes. The Republic of Korea continued to offer support in terms of secondment of senior research staff to the IPU. The IPU remains committed to looking for more voluntary funding to help meet its strategic objectives.

IPU publications in 2025

10 Actions

- [10 actions for gender equality](#) (EN | FR | ES | AR)

Infographics

- [Violations of the human rights of MPs in 2025](#) (EN | FR | ES | AR | RU)
- [Youth participation in national parliaments 2025](#) (EN | FR)
- [Women in Politics: 2025](#) (EN | FR | ES | AR)

Issue briefs

- [Methane matters: Three steps for parliamentary action](#) (EN | FR | ES | AR)
- [Democratic checks, military balances: Parliamentary oversight in an era of rising military expenditure](#) (EN | FR)
- [Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in the Asia-Pacific region](#) (EN | FR)

Reports

- [Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament](#) (EN | FR)
- [Parliamentary report on religion and belief: Working towards more peaceful and inclusive societies—Part 2](#) (EN | FR)
- [Impact Report 2024](#) (EN | FR | ES | AR)
- [Women in parliament 1995–2025](#) (EN | FR | ES)

Toolkits

- [Maturity Framework for AI in Parliaments](#) (EN | FR | ES | AR)
- [Welcoming new parliamentarians: Good practices for onboarding and offboarding MPs](#) (EN | FR)
- [SDG-informed legislative scrutiny](#) (EN | FR)

IPU collections

The IPU has seven collections primarily meant for parliamentarians and policymakers. All IPU publications are available [here](#).

10 actions is a series designed to suggest the concrete steps parliaments can take to advance progress in a given theme.

Handbooks are an in-depth look at a theme designed for legislators involved in preparing laws and policies. They contain best practice, examples from other countries, definitions of key concepts, background information and advice for implementation.

Infographics are visual representations of maps, data and information that highlight a particular theme or subject.

Issue briefs are designed to raise awareness on a particular issue. They give an overview of a particular theme with statistics, tables, graphs, facts and figures.

References are designed as guidelines to help support parliamentary development.

Reports generally go into detail on a particular strategic theme to report on progress or setbacks. They contain new data and are published either annually or periodically.

Toolkits allow parliaments to self-evaluate what they have, what's missing and what action they need to take in a particular area.

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