



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

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

Geneva, 14-18.10.2018

Governing Council  
Item 9

CL/203/9-R.1  
3 September 2018

## Reporting by Members on IPU-related activities

### Annual reporting exercise by Members

### Reporting by IPU Members of action taken to follow up on IPU resolutions, Assemblies and other initiatives

*According to the IPU Statutes, all Members and Associate Members of the IPU are required to send an annual report of action taken to follow up on IPU resolutions and decisions (Article 6). Heads of delegations are also expected to submit a report to their national parliaments after each Statutory Assembly on the work and outcomes of the Assembly (Article 7).*

*In view of the low response rate to this annual reporting exercise (in the range of 30-40 per cent), the Governing Council has decided to pursue a new approach based on a regular, predictable and rotational cycle, whereby a limited number of parliaments from each geopolitical group is designated to report. The selected Members for each annual cycle are determined by rotation in alphabetical order. With the new system, each Member is expected to submit a report every four years, which should allow it sufficient time to prepare its submission and reduce the burden of reporting annually. The Geopolitical Groups and Executive Committee are also invited to monitor the submission of reports and ensure that IPU Members meet their reporting obligations.*

For the first edition of the new modality of the periodic reporting exercise, 46 IPU Members were requested to complete a questionnaire on parliamentary action related to IPU resolutions and other decisions. All IPU Members were also invited to participate on a voluntary basis.

The questionnaire aimed to collect comparative data and concrete examples of parliamentary follow-up in relation to one or several resolutions and decisions adopted by the IPU in recent years. It consisted of a short (two pages), simple and user-friendly survey with multiple choice answers available for most questions and open boxes to include examples.

Of the 46 selected parliaments, the IPU Secretariat received 31 responses, representing a 67 per cent response rate. Although this is an improvement over the previous situation, it still remains below the expected outcome.

The parliaments called to present reports on parliamentary follow-up in relation to IPU resolutions and decisions in 2018 are the following (**highlighted in bold** those that responded):

Unaffiliated  
Azerbaijan

African Group

**Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo**

Arab Group

**Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait**

Asia-Pacific Group

Afghanistan, **Australia**, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, **China**, Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Eurasia Group

**Armenia, Belarus**

Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC)

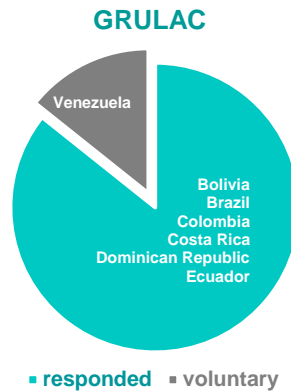
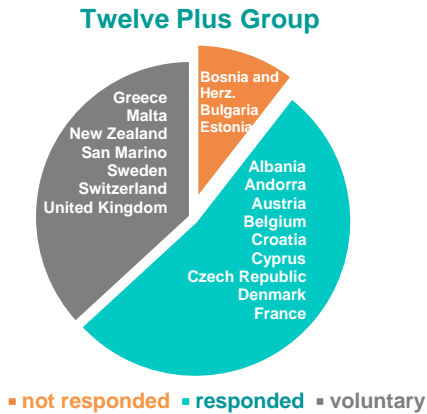
**Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador**

Twelve Plus Group

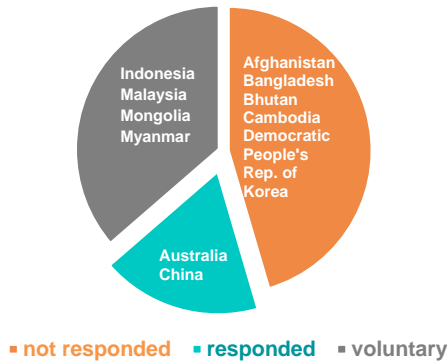
**Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France**

In addition, 15 voluntary responses were received:

- African Group: **Malawi, Zambia.**
- Arab Group: **United Arab Emirates.**
- Asia-Pacific: **Indonesia, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar.**
- GRULAC: **Venezuela.**
- Twelve Plus Group: **Greece, Malta, New Zealand, San Marino, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.**



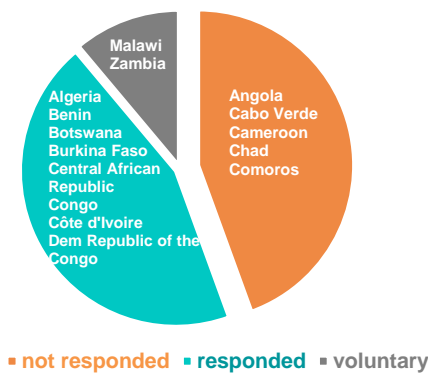
**Asia Pacific Group**



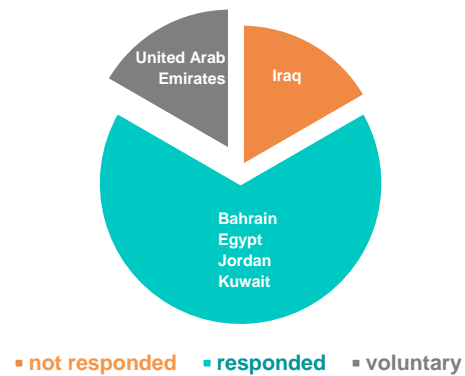
**Eurasia Group**



**African Group**



**Arab Group**



Special thanks are due to **Myanmar**, **New Zealand** and **Greece** for contributing to the reporting exercise on a voluntary basis for the second consecutive time, and to the **Czech Republic** for designating a staff member to elaborate an exhaustive report on action taken by the Parliament in follow-up to IPU resolutions and decisions.

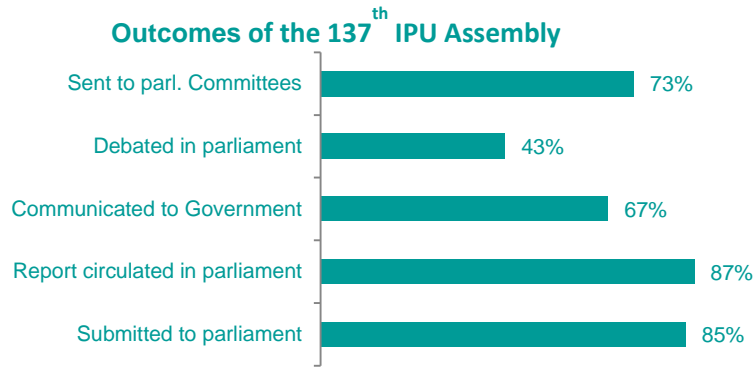
The Presidents and Secretariats of GRULAC, the Eurasia Group, and the Twelve Plus Group actively contributed to the high participation of their respective Members in the reporting exercise.

**Findings of the survey**

The responses received provide significant qualitative and quantitative information on the type of follow-up that IPU Assemblies' resolutions and other IPU decisions and initiatives receive within national parliaments.

As it was the case last year, the responses indicate that, in general, governments and parliaments are informed of the outcomes of IPU meetings through annual or post-Assembly reports.

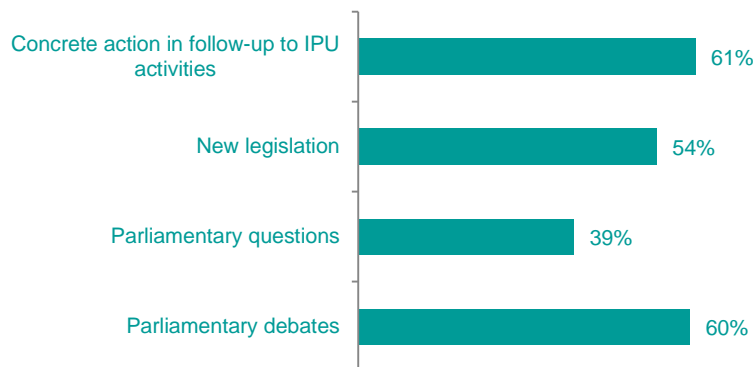
With regard to the outcomes of the 137<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly (St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, October 2017), 85 per cent of the respondents indicated that they submitted the resolutions and other outcomes to parliament; 73 per cent informed the relevant parliamentary committees of the resolutions; 67 per cent communicated them to the government; and 87 per cent submitted a report to parliament on the parliamentary delegation's participation in the St. Petersburg Assembly. However, only 43 per cent of parliaments reported having held debates on the outcomes of the Assembly.



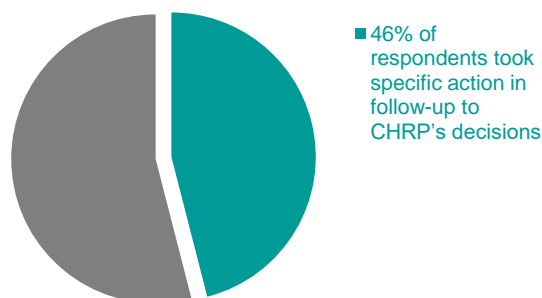
On the question of IPU's influence on the work of parliament, responses show that 60 per cent of the parliaments concerned held at least one debate in the past two years related to their participation in IPU's work, while 39 per cent submitted parliamentary questions as a result of IPU's work. Seventy-eight per cent of parliaments that responded to the survey attended at least one IPU activity (seminar, workshop, hearing, etc.) in addition to the Statutory Assemblies; 61 per cent took specific actions in follow-up to decisions and recommendations resulting from such activities.

The results of the survey also show that IPU resolutions and other decisions have inspired concrete actions in parliaments, including initiatives to create and/or amend legislation. In this regard, more than half of the respondent parliaments (54%) acknowledged that a number of parliamentary decisions were influenced directly or indirectly by IPU's work in the past two years.

### Parliamentary action influenced by the IPU in the past two years



In addition, 46 per cent of the respondent parliaments reported having taken specific action in follow-up to decisions of the IPU's Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (CHRP).

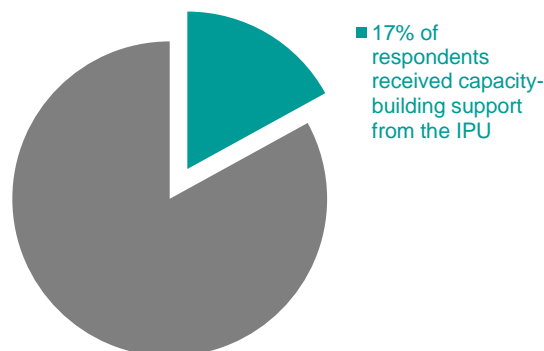


One noteworthy example of parliamentary solidarity relating to the human rights of parliamentarians is that on 4 December 2017, 158 MPs from 23 countries sent an open letter<sup>1</sup> to the Prime Minister of Cambodia calling for Mr. Kem Sokha's release and raising serious concerns about the validity of the charges against him and the likely political motivation of his harassment. The open letter pointed out similar concerns to those raised by the CHRP and the IPU Governing Council on several occasions. Another example is the joint statement issued in September 2017 by members of the parliaments of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden expressing deep concern about the violations of the human rights of detained MPs in Turkey and encouraging the CHRP to continue its efforts to support and defend those MPs.

### Examples of the impact of capacity-building support provided by the IPU in the past two years

Seventeen per cent of the respondent parliaments confirmed that they received capacity-building support from the IPU. Examples of direct outcomes of such support include the following:

- The Parliament of **Benin** reported that a national seminar organized by the IPU in September 2017 contributed to improving the legal drafting skills of MPs and parliamentary staff.
- The National Assembly of **Burkina Faso** reported that events organized by the IPU in Ouagadougou (the regional seminar to mobilize MPs in support of nutrition, June 2017, and the national seminar on the role of the parliament in fighting against sale and trafficking of children, March 2018) sensitized MPs and parliamentary staff on these issues, allowed them to take stock of existing practices and helped them in identifying possible courses of parliamentary action at the national level to combat malnutrition and child trafficking.
- The parliaments of **Egypt** and **Zambia** acknowledged that a number of training programmes for new MPs and parliamentary staff, jointly organized with the IPU in recent years, were particularly useful in familiarizing new MPs with their role, and contributed to enhancing the efficiency of the secretariat of parliament.



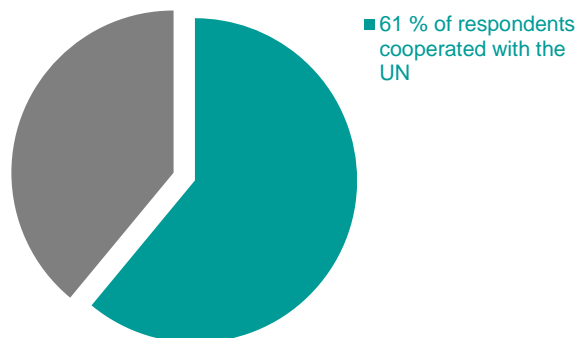
### Examples of parliamentary cooperation with the United Nations (UN) in the past two years

It is to be noted that 61 per cent of the respondents indicated that they cooperated with the UN and carried out a variety of joint activities with the respective United Nations Country Teams (UNCT). Specific examples of such cooperation worth highlighting include the following:

- In May 2018, the **Albanian** Parliament and the UNCT organized a joint activity on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Parliament also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) with the aim of ensuring the advancement of the human rights of children. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) office in Tirana supported the participation of MPs in different activities at international level.

<sup>1</sup> [https://aseanmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/MP-Sign-On-Letter-Kem-Sokha\\_04-Dec-2017.pdf](https://aseanmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/MP-Sign-On-Letter-Kem-Sokha_04-Dec-2017.pdf)

- In December 2017, the National Assembly of the Republic of **Belarus** held open parliamentary hearings on the role of parliament in implementing the SDGs. This event was held within the framework of the UNDP project "Strengthening the Role of the Parliament in the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals".
- In **Benin**, a development plan for Parliament was financed by UNDP. Also, a seminar was organized with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO) to discuss issues related to the national legislation on health. In addition, networks for MPs working on development and nutrition were created with the support of UNDP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), respectively.
- In November and December 2017, the Parliament of **Bolivia** organized, in cooperation with UN Women and UNDP, a number of workshops for MPs on implementing *depatriarchalization* in Bolivian legislation.
- Both Houses of the **Brazilian** Congress hold regular meetings with UN Agencies. A seminar jointly organized with UNDP is planned for November 2018 to present the conclusions and recommendations of the 2017 Global Parliamentary Report.
- Several training sessions and seminars aimed at MPs were organized in **Burkina Faso** in collaboration with UNICEF, FAO and UNDP.
- In **Algeria**, numerous seminars and training sessions were organized with UN Women on gender equality issues. An MoU was signed between the Algerian Parliament and UNDP in the framework of the project entitled: "Support to the effective and sustainable participation of women in elected assemblies".
- The National Assembly of the **Congo**, in cooperation with FAO, organized workshops, seminars and capacity building activities for MPs on food security and created the Parliamentary Alliance on Food and Nutrition Security.
- In **Colombia**, a special room was set aside for breastfeeding within the Congress, with the support of UNICEF. The UNCT has also provided assistance to the Peace Committee of the Senate, including technical assistance for the implementation of the Peace Agreement at the national and local levels.
- The parliaments of **Costa Rica** and **Ecuador** reported that they worked in close cooperation with the UNCT on a large variety of issues, including gender equality, SDGs, human rights, etc. A number of events were regularly organized to inform, sensitize and train MPs.
- In collaboration with UNDP, numerous MPs and parliamentary staff from **New Zealand** visited other parliaments in the region, and vice versa, to foster exchange of experiences and knowledge.
- In **Venezuela**, the National Assembly works closely with the national office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) uniting efforts to improve the situation of Venezuelan refugees.



## Examples of good practices at national level

The respondent parliaments have also provided specific examples of how the IPU has influenced their work at the national level. Examples include:

- **Albania:** Several pieces of legislation were adopted, and other initiatives were implemented, inspired by the IPU's work on gender equality issues. For example, the approval of amendments to the Law on prevention of domestic violence and the adoption of a resolution on preventing violence against women and girls and increasing the efficiency of legal mechanisms for prevention.
- **Belgium:** 18 oral questions and 12 written questions were put to the Government about the situation of the Rohingya by the House of Representatives in the past three years. The House Committee on External Relations also held a debate on this topic in October 2017. In April 2017, the Senate adopted a resolution on strengthening the financial autonomy of women in developing countries, which explicitly refers to the resolution adopted by the IPU on a similar subject at the 136<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Dhaka.
- **Burkina Faso:** Parliament organized two workshops for parliamentarians on public policies and SDGs to inform MPs about challenges and opportunities at parliamentary level to implementing the SDGs. Parliament also contributed to the elaboration of a national logframe to evaluate progress on SDGs implementation.
- **Czech Republic:** Influenced by the IPU's work on gender issues, Parliament adopted a new parental leave policy, created childcare facilities and provided breastfeeding rooms in the premises of Parliament.
- **Ecuador:** The National Assembly created specialized parliamentary groups focused on SDGs implementation. In October 2017, it approved a resolution on implementing the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda at the national level. MPs also participated in the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York, and substantially contributed to the preparation of the national voluntary report to this Forum.
- **Indonesia:** In December 2017, and mindful of the resolution on an emergency item adopted by the IPU at its 137<sup>th</sup> Assembly, the Vice-Speaker for Politics and Security of the House of Representatives visited a refugee camp in Kutupalong, Bangladesh. He also met with the Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh and a State Minister to discuss the humanitarian crisis facing the Rohingya people and try to find sustainable solutions.
- **New Zealand:** In April 2017, Parliament held a debate on the role of parliaments in taking urgent action against climate change. That debate was influenced by the IPU's work on climate change and the recommendations of the *Parliamentary action plan on climate change*.
- **Zambia:** The National Assembly established a domestic process to implement the IPU's resolutions and decisions. This process allows for organizing regular national seminars to sensitize MPs to IPU's work and identify possible courses of action for national follow-up.

The full list of good practices is available in [Annex](#). In addition to the information received via the survey, other examples from different sources (correspondence from Members, reports of IPU activities, public information, etc.) are also included in the table. IPU Members are invited to take stock of these experiences and consider ways of further using IPU resolutions and outcomes as a supporting pillar of their work at the national level.

## Next year's reporting exercise

For the 2019 reporting exercise, the following Members will be asked to submit their national reports:

### **African Group**

Burundi, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho

**Arab Group**

Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman

**Asia-Pacific Group**

Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands

**Eurasia Group**

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan

**Group of Latin America and the Caribbean**

Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras

**Twelve Plus Group**

Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania.



Examples of action taken by Parliaments in the past two years to follow up on IPU's work

Member	IPU Resolution/decision/publication/activity	Follow up by Parliament
Albania	<p><i>Hanoi Declaration - The Sustainable Development Goals: Turning Words into Action.</i> Outcome document of the General Debate (132<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly, Hanoi, Viet Nam, April 2015)</p>	<p>In December 2017, the Albanian Parliament adopted a Resolution on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In January 2018, a working group was established to implement the above-mentioned resolution and a parliamentary work plan was set up.</p>
	<p>IPU's <i>Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments</i> (127<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, Quebec City, Canada, October 2012)</p> <p><i>Evaluating the gender sensitivity of parliaments, a self-assessment toolkit</i>, IPU publication (2016)</p> <p>IPU's work on gender equality issues</p>	<p>Several pieces of legislation were adopted and other initiatives were implemented inspired by the IPU's work on gender equality issues, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amendments to the "Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence"</li> <li>• Adoption of the <i>Resolution for the Prevention of Violence towards Women and Girls and Increase of the Efficiency of Legal Mechanisms for Prevention</i>. Through this resolution the Albanian Parliament expressed its institutional commitment in combatting cases of domestic violence in coordination with local and central governments as well as the judiciary.</li> <li>• Creation of the "Alliance of Women Parliamentarians" in March 2018.</li> </ul>
	Algeria	<p>St. Petersburg Declaration: <i>Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue</i>, Outcome document of the General Debate (137<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, October 2017)</p>
<p><i>Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth</i>, Outcome document of the General Debate (134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, Lusaka, Zambia, March 2016)</p> <p>IPU's work on youth issues</p>		<p>Adoption by Parliament (both Chambers) of the new Constitution establishing the Superior Council of Youth, a consultative body of the Executive branch, which makes recommendations relating to youth issues.</p>

<p><b>Andorra</b></p>	<p>Emergency item: <i>Ending the grave human crisis, persecution and violent attacks on the Rohingya as a threat to international peace and security and ensuring their unconditional and safe return to their homeland in Myanmar.</i> Resolution (137<sup>th</sup> Assembly, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, October 2017)</p>	<p>The President of the National Inter-Parliamentary Group sent a formal letter to the Head of Government inviting him to consider the possibility of granting financial assistance to address the humanitarian crisis affecting the Rohingya people. As a direct result, the Government made a voluntary financial contribution to UNHCR.</p>
	<p>Parliamentary Meetings on the occasion of the United Nations Climate Change Conferences  IPU's work on climate change issues</p>	<p>A Bill to boost energy transition and combat climate change was submitted in 2018. MPs who participated in several parliamentary meetings on the occasion of the United Nations Conferences on Climate Change actively contributed to the improvement of the Bill by presenting amendments that reflect IPU's positions and recommendations.</p>
	<p>IPU Declaration: <i>Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees: The need for evidence-based policy solutions.</i> Outcome document of the General Debate (138<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland, March 2018)</p>	<p>After participating in the 138<sup>th</sup> Assembly, an MP submitted a written question to the Government concerning national actions and protocols for the reception of refugees in Andorra.</p>
<p><b>Angola</b></p>	<p>Outcomes of IPU Assemblies  IPU's work on SDGs</p>	<p>The outcomes of IPU Assemblies are regularly translated into Portuguese, and then circulated to all Angolan MPs.  Depending on the issue, the translated outcomes are also sent to the specialized parliamentary committees for examination and follow-up. The Speaker of Parliament is also sensitized on IPU's work and decisions and, on a case-by-case basis, debates are convened in plenary. This was the case for example of the parliamentary role in implementing the SDGs, which in turn led to the elaboration of a National Parliamentary Plan of Action on the SDGs.</p>
<p><b>Armenia</b></p>	<p>Map of <i>Women in Politics</i>, IPU publication (2017)  IPU's work on gender equality issues</p>	<p>Currently the National Assembly is working on amendments to the Electoral Code aimed at increasing the number of women in Parliament.</p>

<p><b>Australia</b></p>	<p>Emergency item: <i>Ending the grave human crisis, persecution and violent attacks on the Rohingya as a threat to international peace and security and ensuring their unconditional and safe return to their homeland in Myanmar.</i> Resolution (137<sup>th</sup> Assembly, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, October 2017)</p> <p>Map of <i>Women in Politics</i>, IPU publication (2017)</p> <p>IPU's work on gender equality issues</p>	<p>In October 2017, Australian senators asked questions to the Government about its position and action regarding the situation of the Rohingya.</p> <p>These questions are available at: <a href="http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22committees%2Festimate%2F5d7f76de-3c23-4c9a-a0c6-35cc9283a933%2F0002%22">http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22committees%2Festimate%2F5d7f76de-3c23-4c9a-a0c6-35cc9283a933%2F0002%22</a></p> <p>In October 2017, a Member of the House of Representatives introduced a motion asking the House to welcome the announcement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Women's Leadership Initiative, a five-year program to empower women and girls in the Pacific. She used IPU's data to support her proposal. The motion is available at: <a href="http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22chamber%2Fhansardr%2F24110988-407b-4172-97b0-e0ae4a8bf83c%2F0361%22">http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22chamber%2Fhansardr%2F24110988-407b-4172-97b0-e0ae4a8bf83c%2F0361%22</a></p>
<p><b>Austria</b></p>	<p>IPU Governing Council decisions on the human rights of parliamentarians as prepared by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians.</p>	<p>The national delegation always conveys the decisions of the CHRP to the Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee of the National Council for information and follow-up.</p>
<p><b>Bahrain</b></p>	<p>Emergency item: <i>Ending the grave human crisis, persecution and violent attacks on the Rohingya as a threat to international peace and security and ensuring their unconditional and safe return to their homeland in Myanmar.</i> Resolution (137<sup>th</sup> Assembly, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, October 2017)</p>	<p>After the 137<sup>th</sup> Assembly, the National Inter-Parliamentary Group formally transmitted the resolution on the emergency item to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition, the Council of Representatives issued a statement condemning the violence against Muslims in Myanmar and calling upon the international community to urgently take action to put an end to this situation.</p> <p>The Council of Representatives also submitted a proposal urging the Government to coordinate a joint response with other member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in support of the Rohingya.</p>
<p><b>Bangladesh</b></p>	<p><i>Child, early and forced marriage legislation in 37 Asia-Pacific countries</i>, IPU publication (2016)</p> <p>IPU's work on child marriage issues.</p>	<p>In January 2018, a group of Bangladeshi parliamentarians travelled to four districts in the country to raise awareness about problems relating to child marriage.</p>
<p><b>Belarus</b></p>	<p>Outcomes of the 137<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly (St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, October 2017)</p>	<p>Following the 137<sup>th</sup> Assembly, the head of the national delegation formally conveyed its outcomes to the Prime Minister.</p>
<p><b>Belgium</b></p>	<p>Emergency item: <i>Ending the grave human crisis, persecution and violent attacks on the Rohingya as a threat to international peace</i></p>	<p>Eighteen oral questions and 12 written questions were asked about the situation of the Rohingya in the House of Representatives between March 2015 and June 2018. The House Committee on External Relations also held a debate on this topic in October 2017.</p>

<p><i>and security and ensuring their unconditional and safe return to their homeland in Myanmar.</i> Resolution (137<sup>th</sup> Assembly, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, October 2017)</p>	
<p><i>Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy.</i> Resolution (137<sup>th</sup> Assembly, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, October 2017)</p>	<p>An article to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy and on the IPU petition in defence of democracy "<a href="http://www.getengagednow.org">Get Engaged Now</a>" was featured on the homepage of the Senate website from 26 September to 11 October 2017 (<a href="http://www.senat.be/www/?Mlval=/index_senate&amp;MENUID=55000&amp;LANG=fr">http://www.senat.be/www/?Mlval=/index_senate&amp;MENUID=55000&amp;LANG=fr</a>).</p> <p>Information on the Declaration was also included in the exhibition "Super Democracy", which was held in October 2017 in the Senate. A poster with the text of the Declaration was handed out to visitors of the exhibition who were also invited to sign the IPU online petition on the spot (a computer was set up in the plenary hall for that purpose). The exhibition was complemented by five workshops and four lectures in the plenary hall by renowned international speakers on current challenges for democracy.</p>
<p><i>Global Parliamentary Report 2017—Parliamentary oversight: Parliament's power to hold government to account</i>, IPU publication (2017)</p>	<p>The second Global Parliamentary Report on parliamentary oversight was highlighted on the webpage of the Belgian IPU Group for several months.</p>
<p><i>The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective.</i> Resolution (135<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland, October 2016)</p>	<p>After participating in the 135<sup>th</sup> Assembly and taking into account IPU statistics on women in parliament, a Member of the House of Representatives submitted a written question related to the subject of women's participation in politics. The question specifically referred to the resolution's recommendation on the introduction of a deadline for achieving gender parity in the Belgian Parliament.</p>
<p><i>Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the SDGs, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development.</i> Resolution (136<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, Dhaka, Bangladesh, April 2017)</p>	<p>In April 2017 the Senate adopted a resolution on strengthening the financial autonomy of women in developing countries. The resolution explicitly refers (in its preambular paragraph L) to the IPU resolution adopted on a similar subject at the 136<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Dhaka. The Resolution can be consulted at the following link: <a href="http://www.senat.be/www/webdriver?MltabObj=pdf&amp;MlcolObj=pdf&amp;MlnamObj=pdfid&amp;MltypeObj=application/pdf&amp;MlvalObj=100663726">http://www.senat.be/www/webdriver?MltabObj=pdf&amp;MlcolObj=pdf&amp;MlnamObj=pdfid&amp;MltypeObj=application/pdf&amp;MlvalObj=100663726</a>.</p>

	<p>IPU Declaration: <i>Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees: The need for evidence-based policy solutions.</i> Outcome document of the General Debate (138<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland, March 2018)</p>	<p>The Belgian IPU delegation closely followed the negotiations on the UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. It met with the Belgian negotiator (Special Envoy on Migration and Asylum) on four occasions to discuss the process, to follow the successive drafts and provide parliamentary input.</p>
<b>Botswana</b>	<p>Outcomes of the 137<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly (St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, October 2017)</p>	<p>The national delegation's report on its participation in the 137<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, which included the Assembly outcomes, was discussed and adopted by the National Assembly in July 2018.</p> <p>The Assembly outcomes were also sent to relevant Ministries for information and implementation.</p>
<b>Brazil</b>	<p>Outcomes of the 136<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly (Dhaka ,Bangladesh, April 2017)</p>	<p>After returning from the 136<sup>th</sup> Assembly, the Head of the National Delegation met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs to present the delegation's report and the Assembly outcomes.</p>
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	<p><i>Hanoi Declaration - The Sustainable Development Goals: Turning Words into Action</i> Outcome document of the General Debate (132<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly, Hanoi, Viet Nam, April 2015)</p> <p><i>Parliaments and the Sustainable Development Goals: A self-assessment toolkit</i>, IPU publication (2016)</p>	<p>Parliament organized two workshops for parliamentarians on public policies and SDGs to inform MPs about challenges and opportunities at parliamentary level to implement the SDGs.</p> <p>Parliament contributed to the elaboration of a national logframe to evaluate progress on SDGs' implementation.</p>
<b>Central African Republic</b>	<p>IPU's work on human rights issues</p>	<p>In March 2017 the National Assembly approved the creation of the National Commission on Human Rights.</p>
	<p>IPU's work on gender equality issues</p>	<p>In November 2016 the National Assembly adopted a law on gender parity.</p>
<b>Chile</b>	<p>IPU Governing Council decisions on the human rights of parliamentarians as prepared by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians.</p> <p>IPU public statements on the situation in Venezuela</p>	<p>In March 2018, the Chamber of Deputies of Chile approved a resolution in solidarity with the National Assembly of Venezuela, which was sent to the CHRP and to a large number of parliaments and organizations in the region.</p> <p>The Resolution is available at: <a href="https://www.camara.cl/pdf.aspx?prmID=4959&amp;prmTipo=PACUERDO">https://www.camara.cl/pdf.aspx?prmID=4959&amp;prmTipo=PACUERDO</a></p>

<b>Colombia</b>	IPU's <i>Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments</i> (127 <sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, Quebec City, Canada, October 2012)	A special room for breastfeeding was created in Congress.
<b>Costa Rica</b>	<i>Hanoi Declaration - The Sustainable Development Goals: Turning Words into Action</i> Outcome document of the General Debate (132 <sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly, Hanoi, Viet Nam, April 2015)	In April 2016, Parliament organized a Forum on SDGs to identify challenges and opportunities at national level. During the event, the Speaker of Parliament publicly acknowledged that Parliament was working on implementing IPU recommendations related to the realization of the SDGs.
	<i>Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth</i> Outcome document of the General Debate (134th IPU Assembly, Lusaka, Zambia, March 2016) IPU's work on youth issues	Parliament, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, organized a series of activities to promote youth engagement and participation in politics. More than 100 young students from areas of social vulnerability benefited from the exercise and exchanged views and experiences with senior politicians, MPs and local leaders. These activities took place in the context of the celebrations of the International Day of Democracy (IDD) in 2017.
	Outcomes of IPU Assemblies	IPU resolutions and decisions are systematically conveyed to relevant parliamentary committees and ministries.
<b>Cote d'Ivoire</b>	Outcomes of IPU Assemblies	A debate in plenary is held every October to discuss the outcomes of the past two IPU Assemblies.
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Outcomes of IPU Assemblies	After each Assembly, IPU resolutions and decisions are conveyed to the concerned committees. IPU resolutions are debated in the committees and taken into account during their legislative work.  Reports are circulated in Parliament after each IPU activity in which Parliament had participated, including seminars, workshops, hearings, conferences, etc. in addition to the Statutory Assemblies.
	<i>IPU Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments</i> (127 <sup>th</sup> Assembly, Quebec City, 2012) <i>Evaluating the gender sensitivity of parliaments, a self-assessment toolkit</i> , IPU publication (2016)	Influenced by IPU's work of the on gender issues, Parliament adopted a new parental leave policy, created childcare facilities and breastfeeding rooms in the parliament's premises.
	Emergency item: <i>The war and the severe humanitarian situation in Syria, particularly in Aleppo</i> . Resolution (135 <sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland, October 2016)	Parliament established the Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group with Syria, creating a platform for parliamentary dialogue and facilitating the coordination of the humanitarian response.

	<p><i>Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth</i> Outcome document of the General Debate (134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, Lusaka, Zambia, March 2016) IPU's work on youth issues</p>	<p>After participating in the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians, young MPs became more active in different areas particularly related to youth as education, social services, sport, family-friendly procedures and working methods of parliament. Young MPs supported the creation of youth caucuses, which serve as reference points for young people to connect with the parliament and the government. In Addition, young MPs have been promoting different legislative actions to support youth entrepreneurship.</p>
<b>Denmark</b>	<p>IPU Governing Council decisions on the human rights of parliamentarians as prepared by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians.  IPU public statements on the situation in Turkey</p>	<p>After the adoption of the CHRP decisions relating to Turkish MPs, the Danish Parliament sent official parliamentary delegations to observe the trials of the concerned MPs in Ankara.  In November 2016, Parliament adopted a resolution condemning the detention of MPs from the HDP Party in Turkey, calling for their release and urging the Danish Government to take action in this regard, both bilaterally and in international fora.</p>
<b>Ecuador</b>	<p><i>Hanoi Declaration - The Sustainable Development Goals: Turning Words into Action</i> Outcome document of the General Debate (132<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly, Hanoi, Viet Nam, April 2015)</p>	<p>The National Assembly created specialized parliamentary groups focused on SDGs implementation. In October 2017, it approved a resolution on implementing the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda at national level.  The National Assembly also participated in the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York and substantially contributed to the preparation of the national voluntary report to this Forum.</p>
	<p>IPU Governing Council decisions on the human rights of parliamentarians as prepared by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians.</p>	<p>To better respond to the CHRP concerns regarding the cases of Ecuador, the National Assembly contracted the services of a legal advisor to follow up on the decisions of the Committee and help finding satisfactory solutions to the Ecuadorian cases.</p>
<b>Egypt</b>	<p><i>Ensuring lasting protection against destruction and deterioration for the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of humanity.</i> Resolution (134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, Lusaka, Zambia, March 2016)</p>	<p>The law on the protection of antiquities was amended in line with the recommendations made by the IPU resolution on the matter.  The UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage was ratified by Parliament.</p>
	<p><i>The imperative for fairer, smarter and more humane migration</i> Outcome document of the General Debate (133<sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland, October 2015)</p>	<p>Parliament adopted a law on combating illegal migration and trafficking of refugees in an effort to contribute to fairer, smarter and more humane migration.</p>
	<p><i>Achieving gender equality, ending violence against women</i> Outcome document of the General Debate (131<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland, October 2014)</p>	<p>A Bill was introduced on the protection of women against violence.</p>



<b>France</b>	Emergency item: <i>Ending the grave human crisis, persecution and violent attacks on the Rohingya as a threat to international peace and security and ensuring their unconditional and safe return to their homeland in Myanmar.</i> Resolution (137 <sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, October 2017)	The head of the national delegation regularly informs the relevant parliamentary commissions of the debates held in the IPU Assemblies and conveys the respective decisions for information and follow-up. For example, after the debate on the emergency item on the situation of the Rohingya, the International Affairs Committee was informed of the resolution adopted by the IPU. As a result, the Committee decided to conduct an urgent mission to Myanmar, which took place in December 2017.
	Parliamentary diplomacy	The national delegation takes advantage of the platform provided by the IPU Assemblies to enhance friendship and diplomatic relations with other parliaments.
	IPU Governing Council decisions on the human rights of parliamentarians as prepared by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians.	The head of the delegation informs relevant parliamentary friendship groups about the human rights decisions adopted by the Governing Council relating to the parliaments they work with.
	Parliamentary Meetings on the occasion of UN events	After each event, the participating MPs meet with the national Permanent Representative to the United Nations to bring a parliamentary perspective into the country's positions regarding major topics on the international agenda.
<b>Indonesia</b>	Emergency item: <i>Ending the grave human crisis, persecution and violent attacks on the Rohingya as a threat to international peace and security and ensuring their unconditional and safe return to their homeland in Myanmar.</i> Resolution (137 <sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, October 2017)	In December 2017, the Vice-Speaker for Politics and Security of the House of Representatives visited the Rohingya refugee camp in Kutupalong, Bangladesh, and met with the Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh and a State Minister to discuss the humanitarian crisis of the Rohingya people. The Chairperson of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation of the Indonesian House of Representatives had a courtesy call to the Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia, H.E. Mr. Jusuf Kalla to discuss the national position regarding the situation of the Rohingya.
	<i>Parliaments and the Sustainable Development Goals: A self-assessment toolkit</i> , IPU publication (2016)	The House established a Working Group on SDGs to conduct a self-assessment exercise.
<b>Italy</b>	IPU Governing Council decisions on the human rights of parliamentarians as prepared by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians.  IPU public statements on the situation in Cambodia	In December 2017, in line with the IPU's position, the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Italy adopted a resolution condemning the detention of Mr. Kem Sokha and the dissolution of the country's main opposition party, the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP).  The resolution can be consulted at: <a href="http://globalcommitteefortheruleoflaw.org/gcrl/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Ris.-Locatelli-Comm.-Esteri-12-12-17.pdf">http://globalcommitteefortheruleoflaw.org/gcrl/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Ris.-Locatelli-Comm.-Esteri-12-12-17.pdf</a>



<p><b>Kuwait</b></p>	<p><i>Young Parliamentarians as drivers of inclusion</i> Outcome document of the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians (Ottawa, Canada, November 2017)  IPU's work on youth issues</p>	<p>After participating in the IPU Assemblies and meetings of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians, Kuwaiti delegates became active promoters of youth participation.</p> <p>After his participation in the Fourth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, a young MP (who is also a member of the Board of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians) actively advocated for concrete economic reforms in favour of young entrepreneurs in Kuwait. He formally asked the Government to financially support young entrepreneurs.</p>
<p><b>Mali</b></p>	<p><i>Parliaments and the Sustainable Development Goals: A self-assessment toolkit</i>, IPU publication (2016)</p>	<p>The Malian National Assembly carried out a self-assessment exercise on SDGs in January 2018. Participants included members of the Committee on SDGs of the National Assembly, the presidents and rapporteurs of parliamentary commissions and groups, women and young MPs, parliamentary staff, and representatives of the government and civil society.</p>
<p><b>New Zealand</b></p>	<p><i>Hanoi Declaration - The Sustainable Development Goals: Turning Words into Action.</i> Outcome document of the General Debate (132<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly, Hanoi, Viet Nam, April 2015)  <i>Parliamentary action plan on climate change</i>, IPU publication (2016)</p>	<p>In April 2017, a parliamentary debate was held in the House on the role of parliaments in taking urgent action against climate change.</p>
	<p>Outcomes of IPU Assemblies</p>	<p>Parliament generally posts updates and outcomes of the IPU Assemblies on its Facebook and Twitter accounts.</p>
	<p><i>Sexism, harassment and violence against women parliamentarians</i>, IPU publication (2016)</p>	<p>In July 2018, the New Zealand Group of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians conducted a survey inspired by the IPU's survey on sexism, harassment and violence against women parliamentarians.</p>
<p><b>Nigeria</b></p>	<p>Regional Conference of Young Parliamentarians of Africa (Abuja, Nigeria, September 2017)  IPU's work on youth issues  <i>Not Too Young To Run</i> campaign</p>	<p>A group of young parliamentarians from Nigeria travelled to Ghana on 27 November 2017 to help their counterparts set up a forum of young MPs. This sharing of best practices followed on from the IPU Regional Conference of Young Parliamentarians of Africa, which took place in September 2017 in Abuja. The conference inspired young MPs from Ghana to set up their own forum and they called upon their Nigerian peers for support.</p> <p>In May 2018, the Nigerian President signed into law the <i>Not Too Young to Run</i> Bills that reduce the age when young people can run for elected office. The sponsor of one of the bills was a young MP who is a former member of the IPU's Forum of Young Parliamentarians. The IPU was one of the original organizations that supported the global <a href="#">Not Too Young To Run</a> campaign that began in Nigeria in 2016.</p>

<p><b>Philippines</b></p>	<p>Emergency item: <i>Ending the grave human crisis, persecution and violent attacks on the Rohingya as a threat to international peace and security and ensuring their unconditional and safe return to their homeland in Myanmar.</i> Resolution (137<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, October 2017)</p>	<p>In December 2017, an opposition Senator urged the Senate leadership to support the IPU resolution regarding serious concerns over the humanitarian crisis affecting the Rohingya in Myanmar.</p> <p>Her statement is available at: <a href="http://www.senate.gov.ph/press_release/2017/1218_delima2.asp">http://www.senate.gov.ph/press_release/2017/1218_delima2.asp</a>.</p>
<p><b>Romania</b></p>	<p>IPU's <i>Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments</i> (127<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, Quebec City, Canada, 2012)</p> <p><i>Evaluating the gender sensitivity of parliaments, a self-assessment toolkit</i>, IPU publication (2016)</p>	<p>A multi-sectorial Working Group on gender equality was created within the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies bringing together MPs, government officials, local authorities and the civil society. The Working Group took stock of the main issues and established courses for future action in terms of legislative reform and monitoring of national implementation. As a result, in February 2018 the Romanian Government approved a draft Bill to amend and strengthen Law 217/2003 on preventing and combating domestic violence, which introduces new measures for the immediate protection of victims and the removal of aggressors (from the household). The Romanian Government also approved the recognition of the profession of "expert and technician in gender equality".</p>
<p><b>Russian Federation</b></p>	<p>IPU's work on human rights issues</p>	<p>In March 2018, the Council of the Federation held a special parliamentary hearing as part of the national process of preparing the report of the Russian Federation on the implementation of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations. In April 2018, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Council of the Federation met with members of the delegation that was intended to represent the country at the national review during the third cycle of the UPR.</p>
<p><b>San Marino</b></p>	<p>IPU Declaration: <i>Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees: The need for evidence-based policy solutions</i> Outcome document of the General Debate (138<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland, March 2018)</p> <p>Emergency item: <i>The war and the severe humanitarian situation in Syria, particularly in Aleppo</i> Resolution (135<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, Geneva, Switzerland, October 2016)</p>	<p>A debate on the rights of migrants and the role of parliaments and MPs in protecting them was held in Parliament.</p> <p>The resolution was presented in plenary and a debate took place in support of the civilian population in Syria.</p>

<b>Sweden</b>	Outcomes of IPU Assemblies	The Department of International Relations compiles a report of all activities of the Swedish national delegation every year, which also includes the outcomes of the IPU Assemblies. This report is submitted through the Committee on Foreign Affairs to the plenary for deliberation. It is a standard procedure to convey the outcomes of IPU Assemblies to relevant Committees and Ministries.
<b>Switzerland</b>	Outcomes of IPU Assemblies	The 2018 annual report on activities of the Swiss delegation was sent to the Foreign Policy Committee and presented before it by the Head of the delegation. The report was also brought to the attention of and adopted by the two Chambers in June 2018.
<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	Emergency item: <i>Ending the grave human crisis, persecution and violent attacks on the Rohingya as a threat to international peace and security and ensuring their unconditional and safe return to their homeland in Myanmar.</i> Resolution (137 <sup>th</sup> Assembly, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, October 2017)	A parliamentary debate was held on the resolution item. Parliament reiterated its continuous support for humanitarian causes around the world and especially in the case of the Rohingya.
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<i>Parliamentary hearing at United Nations Headquarters: A World of Blue: Preserving the oceans, safeguarding the planet, ensuring human well-being in the context of the 2030 Agenda.</i> IPU event (New York, United States, February 2017)	Upon their return to the country, the two MPs who participated in the 2017 parliamentary hearing in New York organized a national campaign on SDG 14 and raised a number of questions with the relevant Ministers. They also promoted a debate in Parliament on the need of protecting the oceans.
	IPU's <i>Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments</i> (127 <sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, Quebec City, Canada, 2012) <i>Evaluating the gender sensitivity of parliaments, a self-assessment toolkit</i> , IPU publication (2016)	Both Houses of Parliament are undertaking a gender-sensitive audit under the guidance of IPU processes.
	IPU Governing Council decisions on the human rights of parliamentarians as prepared by the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians.	In June 2018, Parliament hosted Mr. Anwar Ibrahim to celebrate his full pardon and recognized the IPU's efforts through its CHRP.

<b>Uzbekistan</b>	IPU publications	Several IPU publications (including the <i>Human Rights: Handbook for Parliamentarians</i> publications on child protection, <i>Parliaments and the Sustainable Development Goals – A self-assessment toolkit</i> , etc.) had been translated and used by Parliament in its daily work.
	IPU's work on human rights issues	Parliament developed a mechanism for parliamentary control of implementation of international human rights commitments and UN recommendations, including the results of the UPR. Parliamentary hearings are also held to discuss the different national reports to be submitted to the UN Human Rights bodies.
<b>Zambia</b>	Outcomes of IPU Assemblies and IPU's work in general.	The National Assembly established a domestic process to implement IPU resolutions and decisions. With the technical support of the IPU, regular national seminars take place to sensitize MPs to the work of the IPU and identify possible courses of action for follow-up at national level. During the June-July 2018 sitting, the following three seminars were organized: (1) <i>The role of MPs as political leaders in the ruling party and the role of the opposition: Putting aside political affiliations in enhancing national development</i> ; (2) <i>Reviewing successes and challenges in the implementation of resolutions concerning early child marriages and sexual and reproductive health</i> ; and (3) <i>Designing and creating structures to accelerate and ensure sufficient funding for implementation of SDGs</i> .