



141st IPU Assembly

Belgrade (Serbia)
13-17 October 2019



Preliminary consultation on the 2021 Global Parliamentary Report: *Parliament in a changing world*

Jointly organized by the IPU and the ASGP
Thursday, 17 October (11 a.m.–1 p.m.)
Hall 3/0 (ground floor), Building A, Sava Centre

Background note

About the Global Parliamentary Report

The Global Parliamentary Report (GPR) is a flagship IPU-UNDP publication that contributes to realizing the vision of better parliaments and stronger democracies. The report offers findings and recommendations based on parliamentary experiences and good practice.

The two editions of the Global Parliamentary Report so far have been jointly published by the IPU and UNDP.

The first-ever Global Parliamentary Report, published in 2012, focused on *The changing nature of parliamentary representation*. The Report analyses changes in relations between parliaments and citizens, and suggests improvements to parliamentary strategies for meeting public expectations.

The second Global Parliamentary Report in 2017, entitled *Parliamentary oversight: Parliament's power to hold government to account*, provides a global perspective on how oversight is practised by parliaments. It makes 28 recommendations that amount to a scenario for change in favour of stronger oversight and accountability.

Both reports are grounded in parliamentary experience and draw on data, interviews and good practice examples from more than 150 parliaments and parliamentarians, giving them a unique global perspective and considerable authority.

The target audience of the GPR is first and foremost the parliamentary community. This includes the members and staff of parliaments as well as people and organizations working to enhance the effective functioning of parliaments, such as parliamentary strengthening practitioners, researchers and civil society organizations. The secondary audience is a broader set of policymakers with an interest in parliament and the media. The first two reports have been used by many parliaments to build capacity and improve performance.

2021 Global Parliamentary Report

Depending on the theme to be selected, the third GPR aims to provide:

- In-depth research and analysis on the current state of affairs in the specified area, setting out the main challenges and opinions.
- Data and good practice examples obtained through contributions from parliaments and the parliamentary community.
- Findings based on broad parliamentary experience, combined with authors' expert knowledge.
- Recommendations on how to overcome the challenges identified and ideas about actions parliament might undertake to strengthen its performance in a given area.



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Proposals for the theme of the 2021 Report

In order to choose the theme of the next Global Parliamentary Report that is most topical and relevant for parliaments, an extensive consultation process took place between July and September 2019. This process included an online consultation which gave parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, academics and the general public the opportunity to contribute, and the IPU is grateful to all those who took part.

As a result of the consultation, and based on internal discussions and consultation with UNDP, the following shortlist of three potential themes for the 2021 Global Parliamentary Report has been drawn up:

- The rise of participatory and direct democracy: Challenges and opportunities for parliaments
- Parliamentary legislative power: Who makes the laws?
- Violence and intimidation against parliamentarians: A threat to democracy

Objectives of the meeting

- Gain better insight into the relevance of the proposed themes for parliaments in different political and regional contexts as a support to informed decision-making.
- Explore ways for developing the GPR that will be widely useful and applicable to parliaments.
- Discuss how to get parliaments and parliamentarians more involved in the research stage of the GPR development process – by responding to the questionnaire and sharing their opinions, case studies and good practices.

Next steps

The process of developing the third GPR consists of several phases:

- Select the theme of the third GPR (2019).
- Prepare the concept of the GPR (2019).
- Research, including preparing the questionnaire and circulating it to parliaments (and other partner organizations), and analysing the contributions received (2020).
- Draft the Report along with recommendations, based on the research conducted (2020–2021).
- Publish the Report (2021).
- Implement the GPR through parliamentary practice and impact monitoring.