

THE IPU IN 2011



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The IPU is the world organization of parliaments. It is a global forum for parliamentary dialogue, cooperation and action. It advances democracy and assists parliaments and parliamentarians throughout the world in fulfilling their mandates.

The IPU is an independent, self-governing body funded by parliaments. One hundred and fifty-nine national parliaments are currently members.

The IPU facilitates political parliamentary debate, dialogue and cooperation. It promotes and defends democracy and the rule of law. It develops standards, disseminates information on good practices and helps build parliamentary capacity and efficacy. It defends the human rights of members of parliament and promotes respect for universal values, norms and principles. It works in support of gender equality and the participation of women, minorities and indigenous peoples in political and public life. It assists parliaments in coping with a growing international agenda and in contributing a parliamentary dimension to the work of the United Nations and similar multilateral institutions.

The IPU stands for: *Better parliaments, stronger democracies.*



2011 - DEMOCRACY, DEMOCRACY AND MORE DEMOCRACY

2011 was a year for democracy. It started with popular uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt, soon followed by similar events elsewhere. In the Arab world and beyond, people took to the streets and demanded an end to autocratic rule and the instauration of democracy.

Throughout the year, the IPU provided support. It spoke out in defence of the democratic values that underpin the organization. It assisted the political processes that were taking shape in both Tunisia and Egypt to elect representative institutions and build strong and effective democratic parliaments. It offered guidelines and good practices for democratic parliaments.

IPU Members met in Assemblies to debate fundamental issues relevant to democracy, transparency and accountability, respect for the outcome of free and fair elections, funding of political parties, and of course the popular uprisings themselves. At the same time, the IPU launched another ground-breaking democracy report, this time on gender-sensitive parliaments.

Democracy was also at the heart of the debates that took place throughout the year as Members finalized and adopted a five-year strategy for the IPU. Under the banner of *"Better Parliaments, Stronger Democracies"*, the strategy charts three strategic directions for the IPU to advance democracy at home and abroad.

If 2011 can thus be viewed as a year of hope and aspirations, it was also one of calamities and hardship. Japan was hit by an unprecedented tsunami and a major nuclear accident. Many other countries were affected by both natural and man-made disasters. Throughout the year, the IPU garnered international support for assistance, prevention and disaster-risk management and relief.

What had started as a financial crisis turned into a global economic conundrum of enormous proportions in 2011. Like no other issue, the economic crisis and the broader concern of sustainable development permeated the IPU's work throughout the year. It also demonstrated the danger it poses to democracy itself.

As the year came to a close, there was a change at the helm of the organization as President Theo-Ben Gurirab concluded his three-year mandate. At the last Assembly of the year in Bern, the membership paid tribute to President Gurirab for his leadership and contribution to the development of the IPU. In a perfect illustration of democratic practice, they elected his successor – then Speaker Abdelwahad Radi of Morocco.

The IPU is unique. It is the world's only global parliamentary institution. Its membership comprises most of the world's parliaments. With delegations representing the broad political spectrum in parliament, the IPU offers an unrivalled perspective of global political trends and opinions. Add to that the sterling work it carries out to defend and promote democracy through parliaments and it becomes clear that the IPU possesses unique democratic legitimacy and competencies.

This is the IPU of today.



Anders B. Johansson
Secretary General

IPU ASSEMBLIES AND INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION



IPU Assemblies provide the largest and most comprehensive global platform for parliamentary dialogue and interaction in the world. The Assemblies in Panama City (April) and Bern (October) were no exception. Each brought together over 1,000 delegates from about 130 parliaments.

The debates covered a wide spectrum of issues ranging from the prevention of electoral violence and the promotion of a smooth transition of power, transparency and accountability in the funding of political parties and election campaigns, strengthening democratic reform in emerging democracies including North Africa and the Middle East, sustainable development and the management of demographic change, the redistribution of power and wealth, to maternal and child health.

The resolutions adopted at the IPU Assemblies were brought back to national parliaments for follow-up action. As evidenced by the growing number of responses from Members in 2011, these have been followed up through a variety of parliamentary initiatives and have contributed to legislation and higher levels of implementation of international commitments.

Beyond the confines of the formal meeting rooms, opportunities abound for informal contacts and activities: consultations within geopolitical groups, bilateral meetings, workshops, seminars and various side events. Field visits in both Panama and Switzerland helped to enhance Members' awareness and understanding of issues relating to child protection and the need to promote green economies and sustainable development.

Contacts during the Assemblies, be they formal or informal, have helped to foster dialogue among parliamentarians from countries that do not benefit from strong diplomatic ties, or on issues that are still in the laboratory of formal international consultations. As on other occasions, parliamentary debate and initiatives have led the way to government action on important global issues.

CHAMPIONING DEMOCRACY

Democracy literally means rule by the people. First practised in Greece in the sixth century BC, democracy has evolved as a system of government ever since. The events that swept across the Arab world last year acted as a powerful reminder that people everywhere have a deep-rooted yearning to have a say in the decisions that affect them. "Ash-Shab Yurid isqat an-nisam"¹ resounded in the streets. In other words, people want democracy".

The IPU's democracy-related work is guided by the principles and standards it has developed over the years. They are contained in the Universal Declaration on Democracy, adopted by the IPU in 1997, and the Guide to good practice published by the organization in 2006 under the title "Parliaments and Democracy in the Twenty-First Century". Both documents underscore the centrality of parliament to democracy.

In 2011, the IPU's democracy work focused on the very essence of democracy - the link between people and parliament. The IPU carried out a global survey to determine how parliamentarians view this relationship. More than 600 members of parliament were interviewed and offered valuable insights into a rapidly evolving and demanding relationship.

The survey was part of a larger research project. It aims to assess the state of parliaments worldwide, examining their changing role and the way in which they are responding to the increasingly complex demands of governance, citizens and society. The project, which is carried out in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, will culminate in the publication in 2012 of the first ever Global Parliamentary Report.

The initial findings from the survey were fed into the International Day of Democracy on 15 September. In all, 35 parliaments organized special events to commemorate the Day with debates, workshops, exhibitions and celebrations on the theme of what citizens expect from parliament. The IPU President issued a statement in which he urged parliaments and their members to find new ways of communicating what happens in parliament and to listen to citizens and incorporate their voices into the work of parliament.

In an exercise of practising what it preaches, the IPU launched a social media campaign to promote the International Day of Democracy in 2011. Facebook and Twitter pages were created in order to establish a direct channel of communication with parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and members of the public interested in democracy.

The IPU worked closely with the Centre for ICT in Parliament – a joint United Nations/IPU initiative – and convened the Fourth Parliamentary Forum on Shaping the Information Society in Geneva. The meeting, organized in cooperation with the International Telecommunications Union, centered on the triple challenge of cyber-security: information, citizens and infrastructure.

¹ The people want to bring down the regime.



STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTS

Much of what the IPU does in any given year involves building capacity in parliaments. The annual Assemblies offer a multitude of opportunities for members of parliament to network, exchange experiences and learn from each other. So do the regional, sub-regional and national conferences, seminars and workshops that the IPU organizes on subjects that are high on its agenda.

These activities are complemented by technical assistance projects. Through these projects, the IPU provides advice, guidance and technical support to build parliaments' capacity to hold government to account, strengthen their budget and audit capacity, enhance transparency and combat corruption. It pays particular attention to building parliamentary capacity in the areas of human rights and gender equality.

The IPU places a premium on accompanying parliaments in countries coming out of conflict and/or in transition towards democracy. In both instances, parliament assumes a pivotal role. A parliament that is representative of all sectors in society is well placed to mitigate tensions and to ensure that all voices are heard and reflected in national policies and legislation. Parliaments in countries in transition towards democracy assume responsibility for preparing and implementing a new democratic constitutional framework reflecting the aspirations of the people.

Last year, the IPU implemented technical assistance projects in Afghanistan, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives, Mali, Palestine, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Togo and Tunisia.

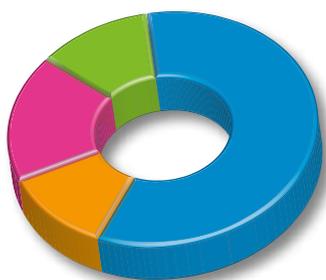
Three areas of IPU support deserve to be highlighted. Many projects focused on assisting parliaments in improving accountability and transparency. Ensuring that citizens are better informed and able to provide input to work in parliament is crucially important.

A majority of the activities were aimed at strengthening the parliamentary administration. The foremost objective is to build institutional capacity in parliaments.

A third area of increased focus has to do with planning future development. Many parliaments these days are developing strategic or corporate plans that set out their vision and identify strategies and plans for their achievement.

In 2011, the IPU also organized regional capacity-building seminars in Colombia for Latin American members of parliament and in Mali for African parliamentarians. The seminars sought to strengthen parliamentary oversight of the armed forces and the wider security sector and offered opportunities for in-depth discussions, exchange of experiences and identification of strategies to tackle problems that were common to the countries in the regions concerned. The seminars were organized in cooperation with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces.

An independent evaluation of IPU technical assistance activities carried out in 2011 found that the Organization makes efficient use of scant resources to deliver an impressive amount of capacity-building support to parliaments. It recommended that the IPU develop a variety of project management tools. An office-wide logical framework matrix was developed at the end of the year and is currently being tested. It is central to the results-based management system that is being put in place at the IPU.



Strengthening the institution of parliaments 2011
17 Activities in support of 10 Parliaments

■ Africa ■ Arab Region ■ Asia ■ Latin America

IN DEFENCE OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Freedom of expression goes to the heart of democracy and is essential to members of parliament; without the ability to express their opinions freely, members of parliament cannot represent the people who have elected them.

The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, founded in 1976, spearheads the IPU's efforts to uphold these fundamental human rights of members of parliament. In 2011, the Committee worked on the individual situations of around 400 sitting or former parliamentarians in 39 countries from all regions of the world.

In June, the Committee undertook a mission to Rwanda to gather first-hand information on the case of Léonard Hitimana, who disappeared in April 2003 while he was a member of the Transitional National Assembly. The Minister of Justice pledged to ensure a thorough investigation into Mr. Hitimana's disappearance.

The Committee took on a needs assessment mission in Colombia in August. The mission addressed recurring concerns about the legal protection of MPs. A pending Bill gives MPs, like ordinary Colombians, the possibility to appeal criminal sentences. The mission illustrates how the Committee's work and IPU's capacity-building assistance to parliaments go hand in hand.

In September, the Committee carried out an on-site mission to Burundi in connection with the assassination of six members of the National Assembly between 1994 and 1999, grenade attempts on the lives of eight members of the previous legislature and concerns about criminal proceedings brought against four members of the previous legislature. The delegation received full cooperation with the authorities and met the former parliamentarians in question.

The IPU observed two important trials in 2011.

The first was a hearing before the Israeli Supreme Court in the case regarding the implementation of the deportation order against three Palestinian MPs. They have since been deported.

The second was the trial of Anwar Ibrahim, an incumbent member of the Parliament of Malaysia. Mr. Ibrahim was charged with sodomy. He was acquitted in January 2012 after a trial that lasted for two years.

Ten years ago, 11 former members of the Eritrean Parliament were arbitrarily arrested and taken into incommunicado detention. The Committee drew attention to their desperate fate through the IPU website and in letters to IPU Member Parliaments.

Among the many cases that the Committee brought to the attention of the IPU Governing Council were those concerning Birgitta Jónsdóttir, an Icelandic MP, whose case highlighted the impact of the use of social networks on the exercise of the parliamentary mandate; and the disbarment of 175 Thai MPs, a case which the Council closed in October because a remedy was no longer possible given that elections had just been held.

For some, there were positive developments. Senator Antonio Trillanes of the Philippines, arrested in July 2003 and charged with an attempted coup d'état, was granted an amnesty; much progress was made in identifying the masterminds of an assassination attempt against Sheikh Hasina, of Bangladesh; and three former MPs of Myanmar were released as part of a wider amnesty.

In Iraq, the Parliament set up a committee to examine the fair trial concerns regarding the proceedings brought against former MP Mohammed Al-Dainy, who had been sentenced to death in 2010. The committee's findings confirmed that the charges laid against Mr. Al-Dainy were false and that the trial proceedings were therefore a travesty of justice. In October, Mr. Al-Dainy's wife testified to the Governing Council about her husband's plight and thanked the IPU for having provided him with international protection.



UPHOLDING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Each new generation offers humanity another chance. If provision is made for the survival and development of children everywhere, for their protection from harm and exploitation and for their participation in decisions directly affecting their lives, then surely the foundation will be laid for the just society that all people want and that children deserve.

The IPU has been promoting child rights for many years. The year 2011 saw a number of events and activities aimed at doing just that.

In Panama last April, together with UNICEF, it held a panel on *Narrowing the Gaps: Achieving the MDGs with Equity for Children*. The panel emphasized parliaments' critical role in ensuring equitable treatment of children and focusing efforts on reaching the most disadvantaged and marginalized by allocating resources for national budgets on an equitable basis, enforcing laws to empower marginalized populations, holding governments and civil society to account, and ensuring that the voices and interests of excluded children and families are heard and adequately represented.

Also in Panama, a group of parliamentarians attending the 124th Assembly visited women and children living in difficult conditions in and around the city. UNICEF plays a big part in organizing such field visits which have become a traditional feature of the first Assembly of the year.

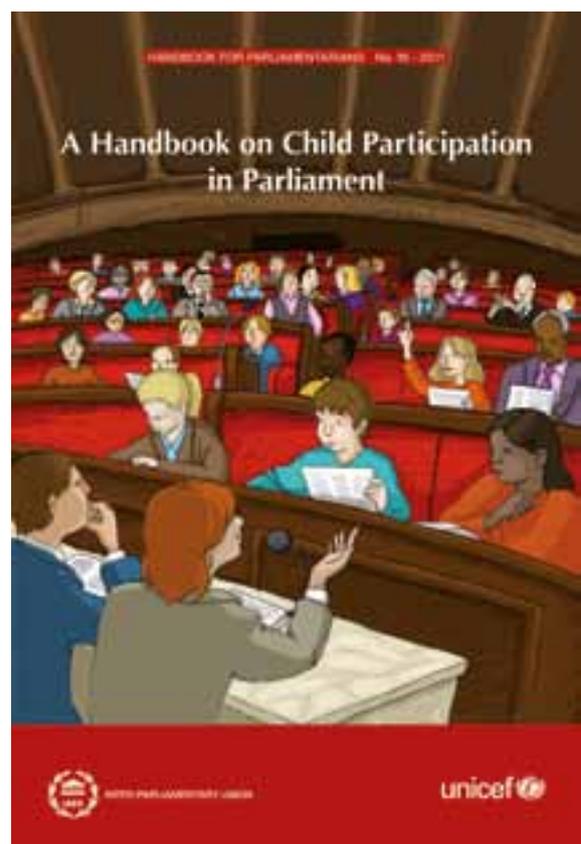
UNICEF also collaborated with the IPU on a Handbook for Parliamentarians on Child Participation. The handbook, launched in October, looks at ways of involving children in parliamentary processes.

In June, the IPU held a regional seminar in Armenia on early childhood development and violence against children. The participants reiterated their commitment to advance the rights of the child, and in particular to make child rights a reality for the most vulnerable. They recommended the following priority actions:

- ✚ Strengthening parliamentary mechanisms to address children's rights;
- ✚ Investing in early childhood development, preventing the institutionalization of children between birth and 3 years and investing in quality alternative care and support;
- ✚ Scaling up action to put an end to violence against and among children;
- ✚ Enhancing parliaments' involvement in implementing international child rights instruments and UN treaty reporting;
- ✚ Championing children's rights through legislative work and building partnerships, including with children, to make child rights a reality for all.

The IPU subsequently held an expert working group, together with the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Violence against Children and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, on legislative frameworks to address violence against children.

Two national events held in 2011, one in Gabon and one in Togo, focused on combating child trafficking and labour. The parliaments of both countries, as well as Benin, have drawn up action plans to fight against this dreadful form of child exploitation.



ASSISTING WOMEN IN POLITICS

Gender equality is a key component of democracy and democratic parliaments. IPU's work focuses on monitoring and providing support for women's participation in politics, building capacity in parliaments and assisting them in their gender-related tasks.

Throughout the year, the IPU produced monthly statistics on the situation of women in parliaments. By the end of 2011, the global average of the proportion of women in national parliaments stood at 19.9 per cent.

After more than four decades of international efforts, progress remains painfully slow. While the number of parliaments that count more than 30 percent women among its members has increased to 27, a higher number still count five per cent or less. That said, a number of countries made important strides forward during 2011. They include Andorra, Nicaragua, Seychelles and Tunisia...



Stepping beyond the collection, analysis and dissemination of information, the IPU lent practical support to women's participation in parliamentary elections, particularly in countries in the Arab region that were undergoing transition towards democracy.

In Tunisia, the IPU fielded a mission of experts who provided advice to the transitional authorities and to Tunisian women on the gender aspects of the law. The mission recommended that the electoral law reaffirm the principle of gender equality, adopt the proportional representation system, and provide for gender parity of candidates on party lists. The Tunisian authorities incorporated the mission's recommendations in the law. The subsequent elections resulted in 27 per cent women in the Constitutional Assembly.

In Egypt, the IPU joined UN Women and several other organizations at a roundtable in Cairo. The event was organized as the Egyptian transitional authorities were preparing the electoral law. Egyptian women and experts discussed experiences undergone by other countries in ensuring women's participation in democratization processes.

The IPU shared information and good practices with several other countries in the region, as well as at international conferences examining gender equality and elections. It also provided support to the International Network of Women in Politics (iKNOW Politics). Since its launch in 2007, the network has contributed significantly to empowering women in politics.

The IPU continued to lend assistance to women parliamentarians in Burundi and Rwanda. In Burundi, the IPU and the Parliament agreed on a program of work in support of the women's caucus. The first training activities focused on women's rights. In Rwanda, the IPU provided support to the Forum of Rwandan Women Parliamentarians as it reached out to constituents to advocate for women's rights and to consult them on how to make laws more gender-sensitive.

In 2011, the IPU continued to raise awareness in parliaments of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). It held a training session for members of parliament in Bern following the IPU Assembly. It also conducted seminars in Jordan and Burkina Faso to discuss with MPs from those countries the recommendations of the CEDAW Committee which monitors implementation of the Convention.

MAKING PARLIAMENTS GENDER SENSITIVE

A gender sensitive parliament is one that responds to the needs and interests of both men and women in its structures, operations, methods and work. It is a parliament that is founded on the principle of gender equality. It is an institution where men and women have an equal right to participate in its work, without discrimination or recrimination. It is also a parliament that promotes gender equality and seeks to achieve it within society at large.

Over two years the IPU gathered primary information on the ways in which parliaments can best become gender sensitive institutions and effectively mainstream gender into their work. It surveyed almost half the world's parliaments, carried out numerous interviews and produced five regional reports. The final global report was launched in 2011.



The report identifies six areas of work to achieve gender sensitive parliaments:

- ↘ Increase the number and presence of women in parliament;
- ↘ Develop an adequate legal framework for gender equality;
- ↘ Develop a gender sensitive policy framework for parliament;
- ↘ Mainstream gender in parliament's work;
- ↘ Improve parliamentary culture and infrastructure; and
- ↘ Improve the gender sensitivity of parliamentary departments.

The report highlights the fact that gender equality is not achieved by the mere presence of women in parliament. It can only be achieved if it is understood as a societal issue for which everyone has a shared responsibility. This means, for example, that men must assume their responsibilities and take an active part in advancing gender equality. Political parties must be reformed and integrate gender sensitive policies in their work.

The report includes examples of good practices from all corners of the globe to assist parliaments in increasing their capacity to respect and promote gender equality.

PUTTING AN END TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Since 2008, the IPU has been implementing a program of work to support parliaments in their efforts to curb violence against women. It involves building an effective legal framework, monitoring its implementation and building public understanding and support for action to address the multidimensional problem.

In 2011, the IPU organized regional seminars in Burkina Faso for African members of parliament and in India for Asian parliamentarians. The seminars offered opportunities for in-depth discussions, exchange of experiences and identification of strategies to tackle problems that were common to the countries in the regions concerned.

These events were complemented by national activities. In Mali, the IPU assisted the parliament in raising awareness within and outside parliament of female genital mutilation (FGM), the most prevalent form of violence against women and girls in that country. The IPU followed up the national event with support for outreach visits by parliamentarians to several constituencies. The visits marked the start of a public awareness campaign and consultation process in preparation for a debate in parliament on an anti-FGM law.

In Togo, the National Assembly and the IPU organized a public consultation on violence against women and girls. The consultation resulted in the identification of the most prevalent forms of violence, their underlying causes and strategies to address them. The IPU provided additional support for a retreat of members of parliaments and experts. The report was used as a basis for drafting a Bill which was tabled in the Parliament by the end of the year.

In Cameroon, the IPU held a seminar to help members of parliament identify priority actions to speed up the pace of legislative reform in favor of women. Particular emphasis was placed on reviewing the Family Code and drafting legislation to eradicate violence against women.

At the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the IPU held a side-event on political violence against women. It also mobilized the global parliamentary community to organize special activities on the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM (6 February) and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November).



THE UNITED NATIONS, PARLIAMENTS AND THE IPU

The IPU's strategy for the coming five years recognizes that greater international involvement of parliaments is necessary to help bridge the democracy deficit in international relations. A more robust parliamentary engagement internationally is desirable to identify possible solutions to major global issues and work towards their implementation.

To this end, the IPU and the United Nations are building a strategic relationship. It is based on the 1996 cooperation agreement between the two institutions which recognizes their complementary roles in world affairs.

For the first time ever, the United Nations Secretary-General addressed an IPU Assembly. In his statement to the 125th Assembly in Bern, Mr. Ban Ki-moon reminded parliamentarians that they represented the voice, hopes and will of the people. UN officials at the highest level are regularly invited to attend IPU Assemblies and other meetings and share their views with parliamentarians.



In return, the IPU and its Member Parliaments are invited to play a greater role vis-à-vis major UN decision-making processes, in areas ranging from peace-building and conflict prevention, development cooperation and climate change, to democracy and human rights. In conformity with the latest General Assembly resolution on cooperation between the two institutions, the United Nations sought to engage more closely with the IPU by integrating a parliamentary component to the main UN debates and negotiations.

The IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs provided a unique forum where legislators could exchange views with senior UN officials, debate and draft parliamentary input to major UN processes, and review parliamentary action towards the implementation of international commitments. The Committee's Advisory Group carried out a field mission to Ghana and Sierra Leone as part of its efforts to examine the impact of UN reform and system-wide coherence at the national level, and to encourage greater parliamentary involvement therein.

The IPU also contributed to the work of the new UN bodies, in particular the Human Rights Council, the Development Cooperation Forum, the Peacebuilding Commission and, more recently, UN Women. In Burundi, Sierra Leone and the Central African Republic, three of the countries currently on the agenda of the UN Peacebuilding Commission, the IPU provided technical assistance and mobilized additional international support for the parliaments. Ms. Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women, travelled to the IPU Assembly in Panama City early in her mandate and set forth her vision of a partnership with the IPU in the pursuit of gender equality and the political empowerment of women.

The annual joint IPU-UN Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations was held on 28-29 November and focused on the issue of political accountability for a more peaceful and prosperous world. As underscored by the IPU Vice-President in his opening remarks, "*whether it's in Tahrir Square and the broader Arab region, or just a few blocks away on Wall Street, people around the world are telling us, loud and clear, that they are not satisfied. People want governments and institutions that are transparent and accountable for their decisions.*" Together with UN officials, diplomats and experts, the parliamentarians debated how to achieve more effective youth and civil society participation, budget transparency, and the role of the UN General Assembly in strengthening global political accountability.

For more information on cooperation with the United Nations, see: <http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/un.htm>

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

"Climate change continues to present a potentially irreversible threat to humanity and the planet and requires an urgent, collective and coordinated global response. We call on parliaments to continue to do all they can to ensure adoption and implementation of climate change policies and legislation". These words are taken from the Outcome Document adopted by the close to 300 delegates who attended the Parliamentary Meeting held by the IPU and the South African Parliament in Durban during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP17/CMP7).

The Meeting called on COP17/CMP7 to agree an equitable, comprehensive and legally binding outcome establishing a fair and effective international framework with the participation of all major economies. It also reaffirmed the commitment of parliamentarians to join others in seeking long-term sustainable solutions to global threats to the environment. In the words of the Honorary IPU President, Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, "lawmakers cannot afford to sit idly by and wait for government negotiators to reach binding global agreements".

Earlier in the year, the IPU joined the Australian Parliament in hosting a meeting for Pacific Island parliaments. The meeting brought together nine parliaments from the Pacific region for discussions with representatives from South Africa and South-East Asian parliaments on climate change. Here again, the meeting demonstrated that the time has long since past when parliaments can wait for global agreements. Measures must be taken now to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and to adapt to the realities of climate change.

The IPU's efforts to mobilize its Members to take urgent climate-related action were complemented by its contribution to other major UN processes taking place in the overall framework of the sustainable development agenda currently embodied by the Rio+20 Conference, to be held in 2012. Management of natural resources, preservation of biodiversity, disaster-risk reduction, and interlinkages between trade and development were among the many subjects dealt with in 2011 at statutory Assemblies and numerous specialized IPU events.



OVERSEEING GLOBAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS



"We cannot conclude this Doha Round without your explicit support" said WTO Director-General, Mr. Pascal Lamy, to parliamentarians from around the world attending the annual 2011 session of the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organization that took place in Geneva on 21 and 22 March. Driven by the synergies of the IPU and the European Parliament, the Conference seeks to enhance democratic transparency and accountability of the WTO. In recognition of the fact that the Conference had firmly established itself as the de facto parliamentary dimension of the WTO, its 2011 session took place – for the first time ever - on the premises of this uniquely important inter-governmental organization.

In a follow-up effort, the IPU and the European Parliament organized a parliamentary panel within the framework of the annual WTO Public Forum, held in September. The focus of the panel was trade in natural resources – a subject of special relevance to members of parliament specializing in international trade.

IN SUPPORT OF LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

A new global agreement to help address the special needs of 48 least developed countries for the next decade emerged from the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV) in Istanbul. The IPU was closely involved in preparations for the UN conference and facilitated the participation of many parliaments from least developed countries. In cooperation with the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, it held a parliamentary forum during the Conference.

The IPU ensured that the new agreement would reflect the concerns of parliaments from both developed and developing countries. It also prepared the ground for a strong implementation plan of the agreement through parliaments.

The Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), as the global agreement was called, contains concrete policy prescriptions for both LDCs and development partners. An important breakthrough was the inclusion of provisions about the role of parliament in development, something that would have been unthinkable only a few years ago. The most important overarching new provision states that *“parliaments have an important role in debating development strategies as well as overseeing their implementation. The engagement of parliaments will ensure effectiveness, transparency and accountability in the design, implementation and review of the policies and programmes in the context of the Programme of Action.”* Other provisions call for strengthening parliament as an institution and for parliaments to promote the engagement of all citizens in the development process.

The IPU pledged to help parliaments mainstream the IPoA in their work. A project proposal to this effect was developed in partnership with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) and discussed with MPs during the Parliamentary Forum in Istanbul. The aim of the project is to strengthen a system of focal points to help parliaments assess their institutional needs with respect to the IPoA, share policy findings with colleagues, and generally provide a bridge to development actors outside parliament.

ADVOCATING DEVELOPMENT AND AID EFFECTIVENESS

The world stands at a critical juncture in global development. Poverty and inequality remain the central challenge. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 requires significant improvement in development cooperation and greater aid effectiveness.

At a conference in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2002, the international community agreed to increase development financing. It realized, however, that simply providing more funding was not enough. Aid had to be made more effective too. Significant progress was made at international conferences in Paris in 2005 and Accra in 2008. At the latter, the role of parliaments in development cooperation was recognized.

Since then, the IPU has assumed a leading role in OECD'S initiative to develop policies and guidelines to promote domestic accountability. It has also worked with the Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa (AWEPA) to provide a parliamentary input to the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, in Busan, Republic of Korea, at the end of November. The IPU joined in the consultations leading up to the Busan conference in an effort to have parliaments' concerns clearly reflected. Consultations on a position paper (see <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/busan11/principles.pdf>) were held at the 124th Assembly in Panama. Two IPU case studies of the Cambodian and Vietnamese parliaments brought further insight into the role of parliaments in development cooperation.

The IPU also supported a global survey of development partners, including parliaments, to take stock of aid effectiveness commitments since 2005. The final report revealed that most aid effectiveness targets lag behind. Parliaments are not adequately represented in national aid coordination structures and have only a limited role in formulating national development strategies.

The IPU and AWEPA organized a Parliamentary Forum during the Busan High Level Forum to focus the attention of parliaments to the negotiation of a new agreement that would define the terms of the relationship between donors (public and private) and recipient countries in the next few years.

The resulting *Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation* reaffirms the critical role of aid and other flows of development finance in attaining key development goals. The agreement recognizes once again the role of parliaments in the oversight of aid and the design of national development strategies. It also commits development partners to invest more in strengthening the oversight capacities of parliaments and to make aid information more accessible to the public and, by extension, to policy makers.

The IPU continued its engagement with the UN Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) - a unique multi-stakeholder body designed to help identify new trends in development cooperation and devise new approaches to support key principles of aid effectiveness, such as mutual accountability. The IPU helped organize and participated with a small group of parliamentarians in preparatory symposia held in Mali and Luxembourg ahead of the 2012 DCF session.



PREVENTING MATERNAL, INFANT AND CHILD MORTALITY

Children and women die needlessly every day. Every minute of every day, a woman dies and many others suffer long-lasting injury or illness from preventable pregnancy-related causes and complications. Over 15 children die from preventable causes during the same short space of time. Most of these deaths can be prevented and that is what the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 4 and 5 are all about.



In 2008, the IPU launched a campaign to raise awareness and help develop capacity in parliaments to adopt good policies and laws and to provide adequate funding to promote and protect the health and well-being of women and children. The work was intensified in 2011 when the IPU held parliamentary debates during the meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York and the IPU Assembly in Panama. In partnership with the Kenyan and Ugandan parliaments, the IPU hosted parliamentary retreats to set the agenda for MDG 4 and 5 activities in these parliaments.

The IPU joined the Global Strategy on Women's and Children's Health launched by the UN Secretary-General and decided to place the issue of maternal and child health on the agenda of the 126th IPU Assembly in Kampala. The IPU contributed to the work of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health convened by the UN Secretary-General and ensured that the role of parliaments was adequately reflected in its policy recommendations. The IPU also strengthened its partnership with other parliamentary assemblies and organizations, UN agencies and specialized organizations, in particular World Vision International and the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.

BOOSTING PARLIAMENTARY ACTION ON HIV/AIDS

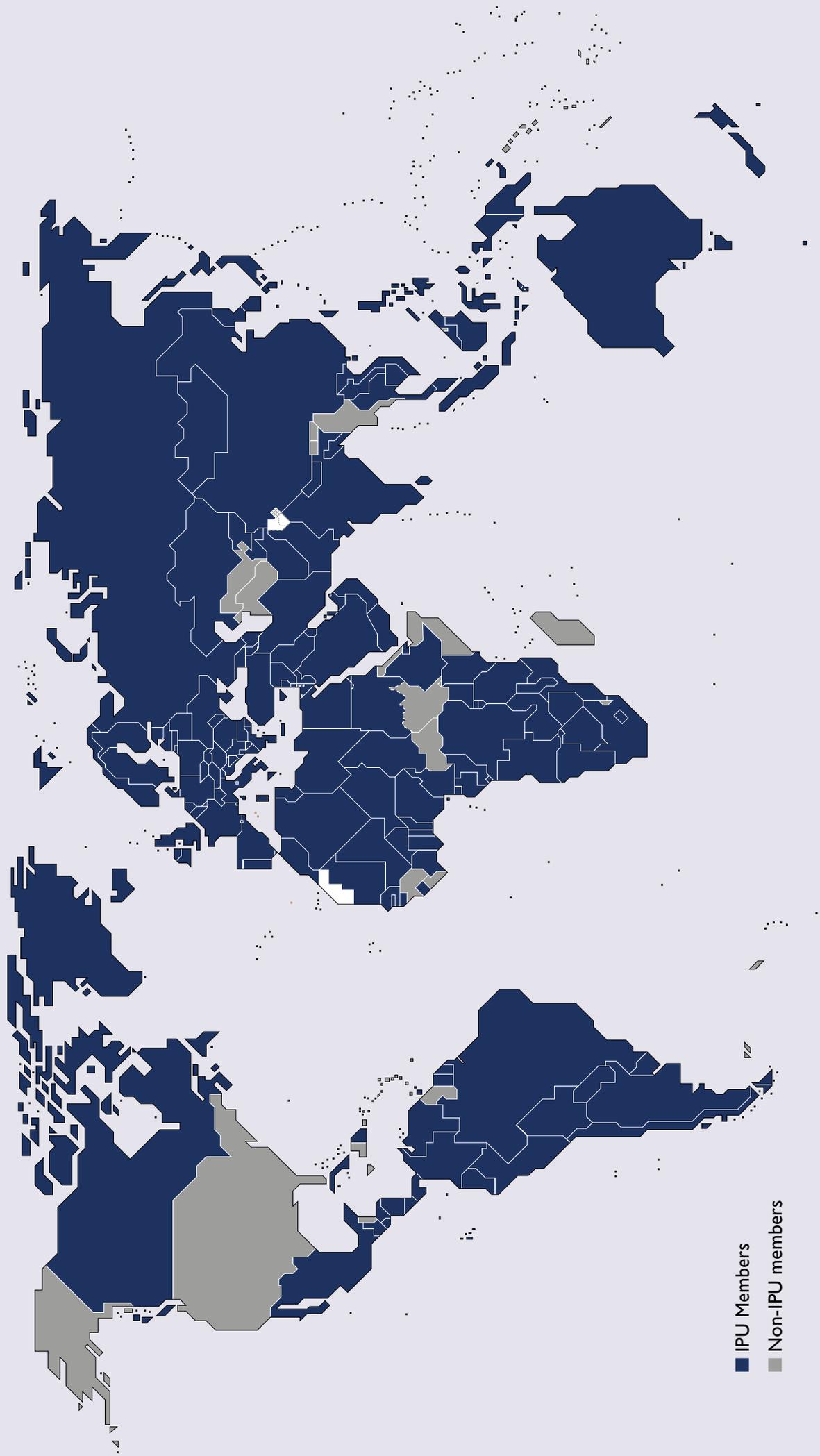
Thirty years after the first cases of HIV were diagnosed, two thirds of the world's countries still have laws, regulations or policies that drive people away from HIV services and undermine the reach and effectiveness of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support programmes. By unanimously adopting the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (2001) and the Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS (2006 and 2011), UN Member States have committed themselves to protecting those persons vulnerable to and affected by HIV, including by making specific commitments on human rights and the law.

Those commitments were the driving force behind the IPU's work on HIV/AIDS in 2011. At a panel discussion held during the 124th Assembly in Panama, parliamentarians agreed that it was time to reorient the AIDS response in the countdown to the MDG deadline of 2015 and ensure greater parliamentary involvement in providing a supportive legal environment. They stressed the importance of political leadership in the AIDS response and of raising awareness in parliaments about HIV/AIDS. They also called for the establishment of a regular IPU reporting system on progress made in weeding out punitive and discriminatory laws that hindered effective HIV interventions.

In June, the IPU staged a Parliamentary Briefing on the eve of the UN High Level Meeting on AIDS in New York. Parliamentarians explored the impact of the law on HIV interventions and how legislation could be used to reinforce, rather than hinder, public health and development responses. These were seen through the prism of three key themes: universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support; protection and promotion of rights of people living with HIV and those most vulnerable to HIV; and discriminatory and punitive laws which are compromising AIDS investments. The parliamentarians also examined the underlying politics of the new global consensus on HIV and looked at the main outcomes likely to emerge from the High Level Meeting.

Throughout 2011, the IPU worked in tandem with UNAIDS, a key partner in its HIV/AIDS activities.





THE IPU AT A GLANCE

President of the IPU

Mr. Abdelwahad Radi (Morocco) was elected President of the IPU on 19 October 2011 for a three-year term.

Membership

In 2011, the Governing Council admitted three new Members - Chad, the Federated States of Micronesia and Trinidad and Tobago. It also readmitted the parliaments of Equatorial Guinea, Honduras and Niger. The Council suspended the membership of the parliaments of Comoros and Liberia, which had accumulated more than three years' arrears in the payment of their contributions.

The IPU currently comprises 159 Member Parliaments and 9 Associate Members.

Members (159)

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, 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, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Associate Members (9)

Andean Parliament, Central American Parliament, East African Legislative Assembly, European Parliament, Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union, Latin American Parliament, Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Transitional Arab Parliament.

Composition of the Executive Committee on 1 January 2012

	Members	Expiry of term
<i>Ex-officio President</i>	Mr. A. Radi (Morocco)	October 2014
<i>Vice-President of the Executive Committee</i>	Mr. A. Alonso Díaz-Caneja (Mexico)	October 2012
<i>IPU Vice-Presidents</i>	Mr. Nhem Thavy (Cambodia)	October 2013
	Mr. K. Örnfjäder (Sweden)	October 2013
	Mr. M. Vardanyan (Armenia)	October 2013
	Ms. S. Moulengui-Mouélé (Gabon)	October 2014
	Mr. M.A.M. Al-Ghanim (Kuwait)	April 2015
<i>Members</i>	Ms. N. Ali Assegaf (Indonesia)	April 2012
	Mr. D. Oliver (Canada)	October 2014
	Mr. F.M. Drilon (Philippines)	October 2015
	Ms. A. Kabore-Koala (Burkina Faso)	October 2015
	Ms. R. Kadaga (Uganda)	October 2015
	Mr. F.K. Kundi (Pakistan)	October 2015
	Ms. N. Motsamai (Lesotho)	October 2015
	Ms. I. Passada (Uruguay)	October 2015
	Mr. J. Winkler (Germany)	October 2015
	Vacancy* (Switzerland)	October 2013

* The member of the Executive Committee from this country has ceased to be a parliamentarian.

Standing Committees: composition of the bureaux

PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY		
<i>President</i>	Mr. S.H. Chowdury (Bangladesh)	Asia-Pacific Group
<i>First Vice-President</i>	Mr. H. Quiroga (Argentina)	Latin American Group
<i>Vice-Presidents</i>	<i>TITULAR</i>	<i>SUBSTITUTE</i>
<i>African Group</i>	Vacancy	Mr. A. Bougue (Cameroon)
<i>Arab Group</i>	Ms. L. Bennani-Smires (Morocco)	Ms. N. Rousan (Jordan)
<i>Asia-Pacific Group</i>	Current President	Mr. S. Danusubroto (Indonesia)
<i>Eurasia Group</i>	Ms. N. Mazai (Belarus)	Mr. V. Nefedov (Russian Federation)
<i>GRULAC</i>	Current First Vice-President	Mr. O.S. Reyes (El Salvador)
<i>Twelve Plus Group</i>	Mr. P. Moriau (Belgium)	Mr. N. Evans (United Kingdom)

Rapporteurs of the Standing Committee to the 126th Assembly

Mr. J.J. Mwiimbu (Zambia)
Mr. M. Gyöngyösi (Hungary)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE AND TRADE

President	Mr. S.E. Alhusseini (Saudi Arabia)	Arab Group
First Vice-President	Ms. B. Contini (Italy)	Twelve Plus Group
Vice-Presidents	<i>TITULAR</i>	<i>SUBSTITUTE</i>
African Group	Vacancy	Mr. H.R. Mohamed (United Republic of Tanzania)
Arab Group	Current President	Mr. W. Rawashdeh (Jordan)
Asia-Pacific Group	Mr. I.A. Bilour (Pakistan)	Mr. D. Adams (Australia)
Eurasia Group	Mr. B.-Z. Zhambalnimbuyev (Russian Federation)	Vacancy
GRULAC	Mr. R. León (Chile)	Mr. F. Bustamente (Ecuador)
Twelve Plus Group	Current First Vice-President	Mr. F.-X. de Donnea (Belgium)

Rapporteurs of the Standing Committee to the 126th Assembly

Lord Judd (United Kingdom)
Mr. O. Benabdallah (Morocco)

DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

President	Mr. O. Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu (Ghana)	African Group
First Vice-President	Vacancy	Eurasia Group
Vice-Presidents	<i>TITULAR</i>	<i>SUBSTITUTE</i>
African Group	Current President	Mrs. P. Fouty-Soungou (Congo)
Arab Group	Ms. J. Nassif (Bahrain)	Mr. R. Abdul-Jabbar (Iraq)
Asia-Pacific Group	Mr. S.S. Ahluwalia (India)	Mr. R. Fatyana (Pakistan)
Eurasia Group	Vacancy	Mr. S. Gavrilov (Russian Federation)
GRULAC	Mr. J.M. Galán (Colombia)	Ms. C. Chacón (Peru)
Twelve Plus Group	Mr. E. Francu (Romania)	Mr. J. Winkler (Germany)

Rapporteurs of the Standing Committee to the 126th Assembly

Ms. P. Turyahikayo (Uganda)
Ms. S. Ataullahjan (Canada)
Mr. C. Sardinha (India)

Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP)

The 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 Association's activities. The ASGP elected a new President in 2011 in the person of Mr. Marc Bosc, Deputy Clerk of the Canadian House of Commons.

The ASGP assists the Inter-Parliamentary Union at the latter's request on subjects within the scope of the Association. Studies carried out by the IPU relating to parliamentary law and practice are routinely shared with the ASGP and benefit from its input. The ASGP also provides substantial support to many of the technical assistance projects conducted by the IPU. In 2011, several of its members provided expertise during assessment and training missions.

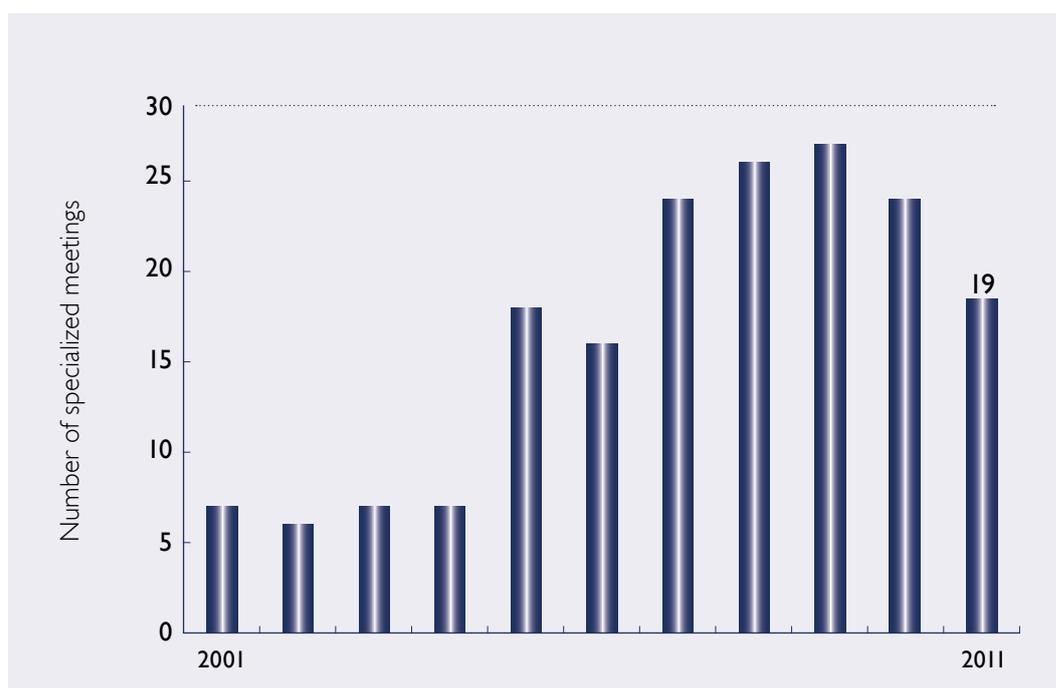
Since 2006, the IPU and the ASGP have been organizing together a conference following the second IPU Assembly of the year on a subject of interest to members and senior staff of parliaments. The 2011 conference addressed the subject of effective capacity-building programmes for parliamentarians.

Specialized meetings in 2011

- **Parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the 55th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women**
NEW YORK, 23 February 2011
- **Annual 2011 Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO**
GENEVA, 21-22 March 2011
- **Regional seminar for parliaments of West and Central Africa on combating violence against women**
OUAGADOUGOU (Burkina Faso), 30 March - 1 April 2011
- **Parliamentary Forum on the occasion of the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV)**
ISTANBUL (Turkey), 8 May 2011
- **Fourth Parliamentary Forum on Shaping the Information Society**
GENEVA, 18-20 May 2011
- **Parliamentary Briefing at the 2011 UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS**
NEW YORK, 7 June 2011
- **Regional seminar on child rights for parliaments of the CEE-CIS region**
YEREVAN (Armenia), 14-16 June 2011
- **Regional Climate Change Workshop for Pacific Island Parliaments**
GOLD COAST (Australia), 8 – 10 August 2011
- **Regional Seminar for Asian Parliaments on "Preventing and responding to violence against women and girls: From legislation to effective enforcement"**
NEW DELHI (India), 15-17 September 2011
- **Parliamentary Panel within the framework of the Annual WTO Public Forum**
GENEVA (WTO Headquarters), 20 September 2011
- **Parliamentary Briefing on the occasion of the 66th session of the UN General Assembly**
NEW YORK, 21 September 2011
- **Joint IPU-ASGP Conference "Effective capacity-building programmes for parliamentarians"**
BERN (Switzerland), 19-20 October 2011

- ↘ Seminar entitled "Promoting the right to development: The role of parliament"
 BERN (Switzerland), 20 October 2011
- ↘ Information seminar on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
 BERN (Switzerland), 20 October 2011
- ↘ Regional Conference on "National and regional defence and security challenges in Latin America: the role of Parliaments"
 BOGOTA (Colombia), 21-22 November
- ↘ Regional parliamentary workshop on "Parliamentary oversight of the security sector: Disseminating best practices in ECOWAS Member States"
 BAMAKO (Mali), 28-29 November
- ↘ Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations
 NEW YORK, 28-29 November
- ↘ Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness
 BUSAN (Republic of Korea), 29 November - 1 December
- ↘ Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP17/CMP7)
 DURBAN (South Africa), 5 December

Ten-year evolution in IPU meetings



FINANCIAL RESULTS

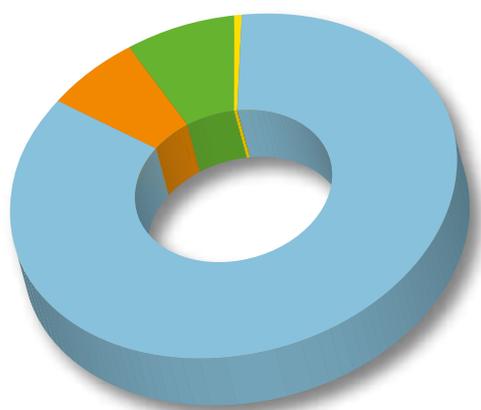
Financing

The IPU is financed primarily through the annual assessed contributions from Member Parliaments. Additional sources of revenue are derived from the internal staff assessment, programme support cost charges, interest and sale of publications.

In addition to the foregoing, the IPU also solicits bilateral and multilateral donors for voluntary funding that is used to finance technical cooperation projects and activities. The most recent summary of revenue sources is presented below:

IPU Revenues by Source

	CHF (Swiss francs)	%
Assessed Contributions	12,008,750	84%
Staff Assessment	921,677	7%
Voluntary Contributions	1,102,054	8%
Investment and other income	59,003	1%
Total Revenue	14,091,484	

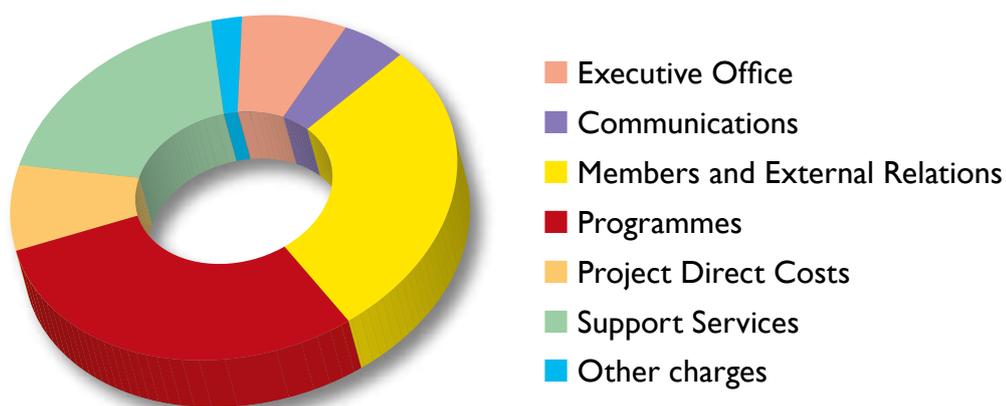


- Assessed Contributions
- Staff Assessment
- Voluntary Contributions
- Investment and other income

Expenditures

IPU expenditures are dedicated to the core strategic objectives of the organization. A breakdown of expenditures by organizational division is shown in the following chart:

	CHF (Swiss francs)	%
Executive Office	996,731	7%
Communications	723,968	6%
Members and External Relations	3,793,740	28%
Programmes	4,000,397	30%
Project Direct Costs	1,023,603	8%
Support Services	2,560,878	19%
Other charges	268,294	2%
Total Operating Expenses	13,367,610	



Financial Statements

The IPU prepares its financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the UN System Accounting Standards as applicable to a going concern. The organization's accounts are audited annually by the IPU external auditor under mandate from the Executive Committee. The external auditor is appointed from the national audit office for a term of three years, renewable once.

Further information on IPU's financial processes, including its annual financial statements are available at: <http://www.ipu.org/finance-e>

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2011 in CHF (Swiss francs)

	2011	2010
ASSETS		
Cash on Hand	15,187	20,427
Cash on Deposit	6,873,938	6,685,693
Term Deposits	529,398	528,883
Investments	2,551,236	2,547,170
	<u>9,969,759</u>	<u>9,782,173</u>
Accounts Receivable		
from Members	1,007,700	852,997
from Staff	72,943	37,255
from Donors	41,199	16,861
from Tax Reimbursements	23,474	23,286
Others	39,365	29,086
	<u>1,090,682</u>	<u>959,485</u>
Prepaid Expenses	111,865	42,194
Inventories of Official Gifts	14,278	19,796
Fixed Assets		
Building and Grounds	7,694,314	7,889,521
Furnishings	64,660	57,606
General Equipment	32,856	42,281
IT Equipment	100,925	104,716
Vehicles	60,907	23,688
	<u>7,953,662</u>	<u>8,117,812</u>
Total Assets	19,234,246	18,921,460
LIABILITIES AND RESERVES		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Payables	345,194	351,202
Advances from Donors	1,455,968	1,506,068
Advances from Members	126,401	121,586
	<u>1,927,563</u>	<u>1,978,856</u>
Loans		
Current Portion	189,600	189,600
Long Term	7,584,000	7,773,600
Pension Fund Liability	2,743,000	2,442,000
Deferred Liabilities	1,490,583	1,744,478
Total Liabilities	13,840,746	14,128,534
Restricted Funds	341,032	257,332
Working Capital Fund (after contribution)	4,958,468	4,535,594
Total Liabilities and Reserves	19,234,246	18,921,460

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 31 December 2011 in CHF (Swiss francs)

	2011	2010
Revenue		
1 Assessed Contributions	12,008,750	12,028,800
2 Staff Assessment	921,677	995,491
3 Voluntary Contributions	1,102,054	1,807,379
4 Investment income	42,370	67,982
5 Other Income	16,633	54,172
Total Revenue	14,091,484	14,953,824
Expenses		
1 Personnel Expenditure – permanent staff	8,239,074	9,188,489
2 Personnel Expenditure – temporary staff	1,591,608	1,752,852
3 Travel Expenditure	1,160,368	1,445,253
4 Contractual Services	826,353	765,162
5 Operating Expenses	834,623	929,309
6 Supplies, Materials and Equipment	132,537	153,571
7 Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	148,755	88,817
8 Grants and Honoraria	65,839	65,966
9 Depreciation, Reserves and Provisions	316,060	294,163
10 Loss on Foreign Exchange	52,394	273,338
Total Expenses	13,367,610	14,956,920
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	723,874	(3,096)
Actuarial Gain/(Loss) on Pension Fund	(301,000)	(398,000)
Net Movement in Working Capital	422,874	(401,096)
Working Capital Fund, Beginning of Year	4,535,594	4,936,690
Working Capital Fund, End of Year	4,958,468	4,535,594

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