

WHAT DO PARLIAMENTS MEASURE - WHY AND WHICH INDICATORS ARE USED FOR BEST RESULTS?

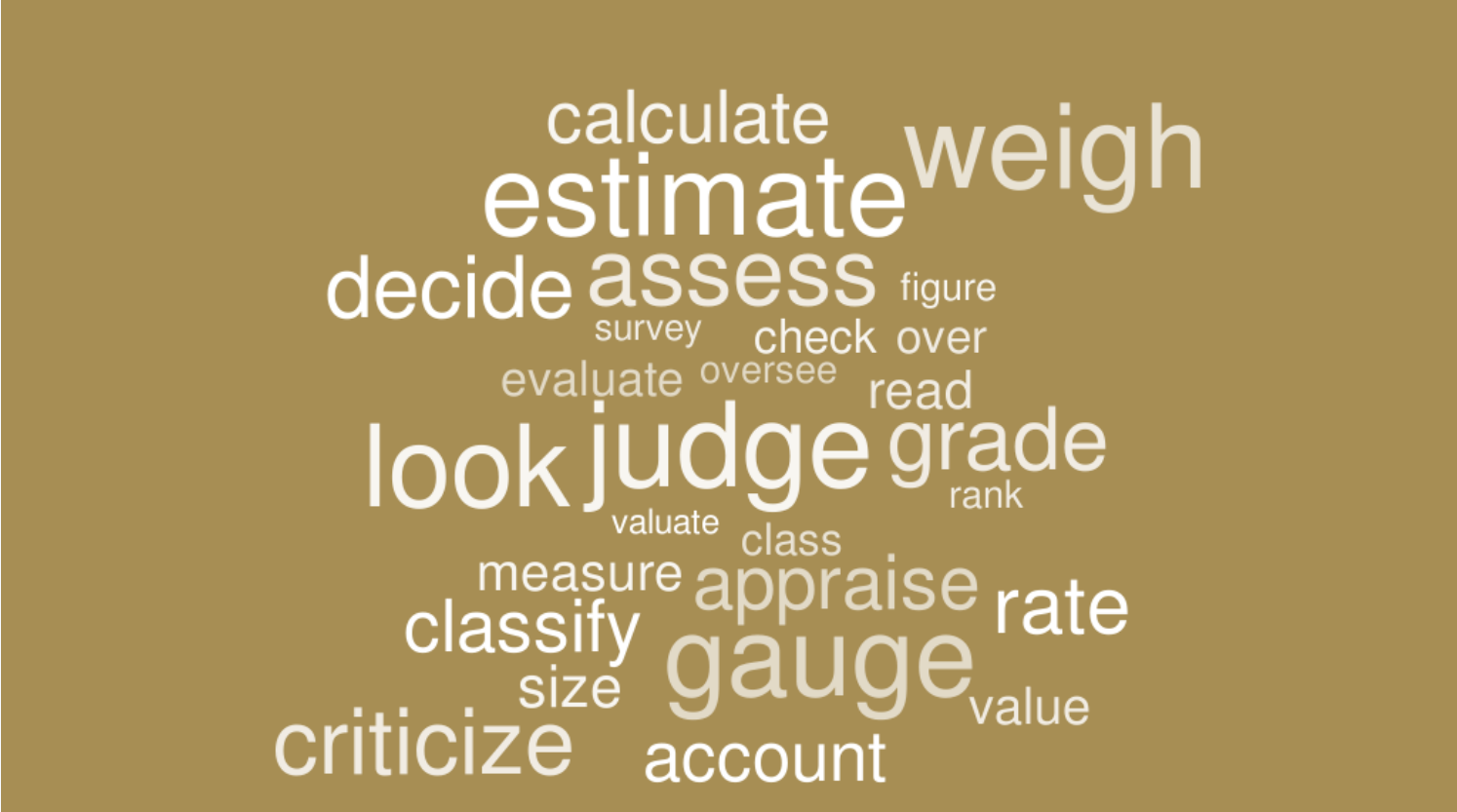
MEASURING WHAT MATTERS

TUMI ZANTSI

IN THIS PRESENTATION

- What informs WHAT Parliaments measure? & Why do Parliaments Measure what they do?
- Measurement in the South African Parliament.
- The IPU Project on Developing Indicators for Democratic Parliaments.

THE EVALUATIVE NATURE OF PARLIAMENTS

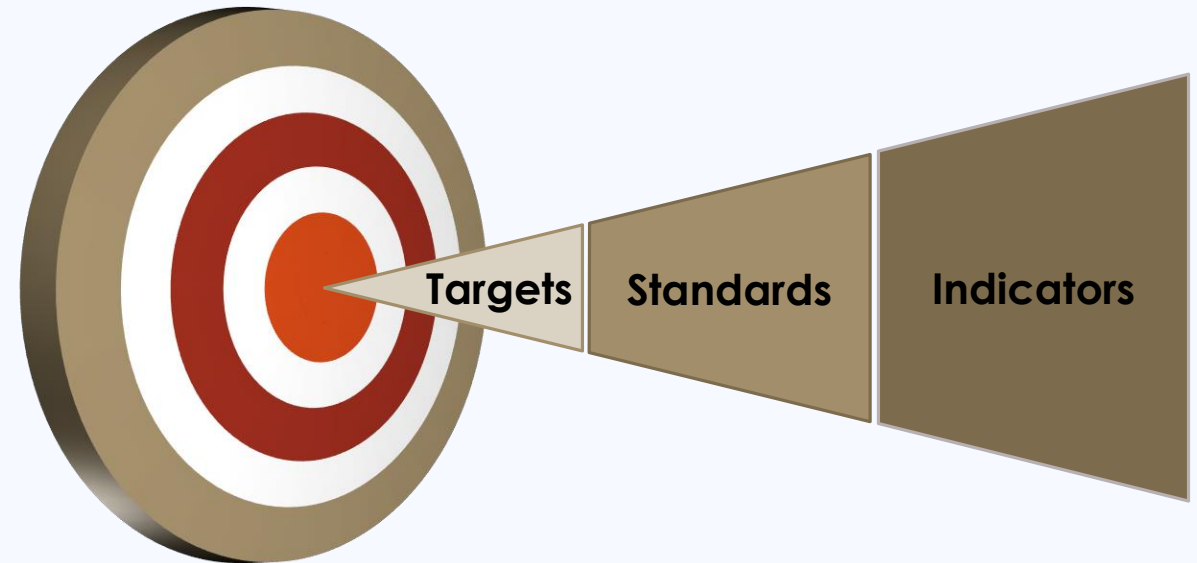


WHAT DO PARLIAMENTS MEASURE?

What do you want to improve –

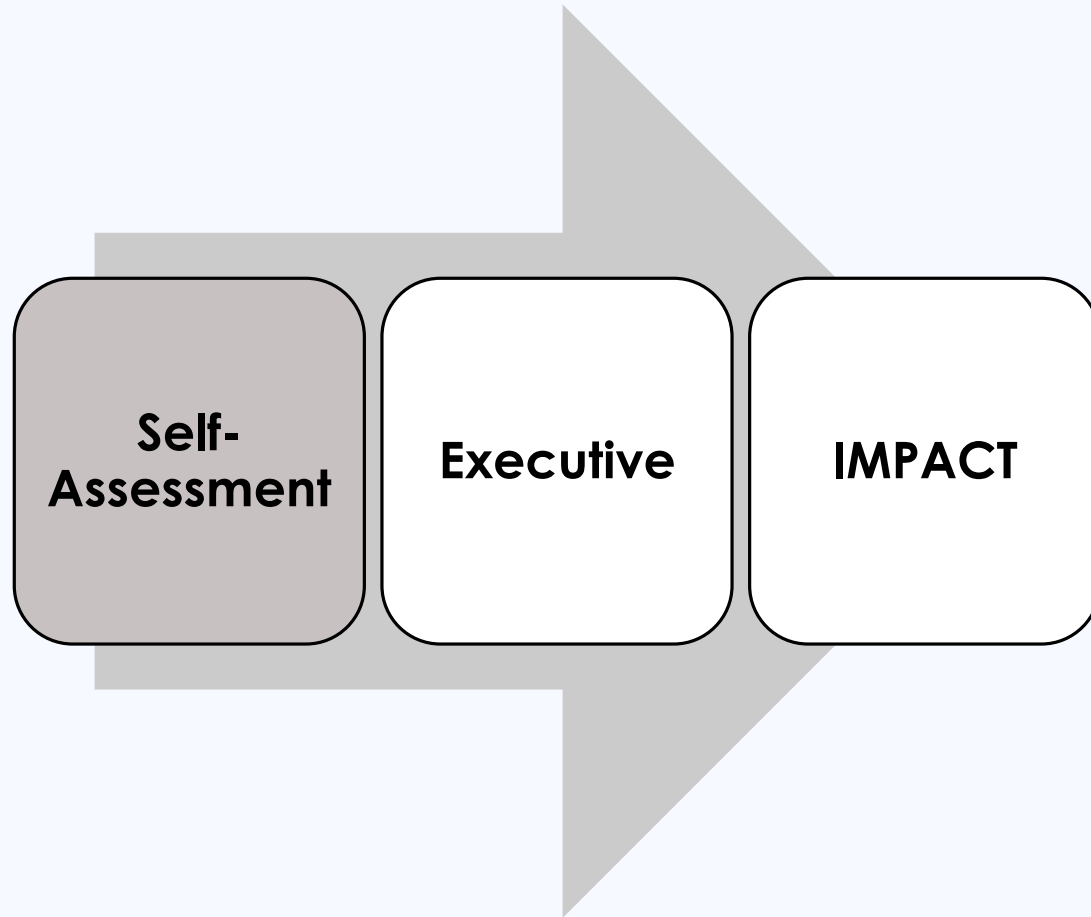
However, parliaments sometimes need an assessment (self or external) to identify the gaps and, based on that, to realize what do they need and want to improve.

The IPU's development of indicators for democratic Parliaments takes this further, by providing universal tools for assessment and improvement.



**Indicators ask: HOW DO WE KNOW
IF THINGS ARE GETTING BETTER OR
WORSE?**

Why do Parliaments measure what they do?



Self-Assessment

Focusing on the results that matter most in order to fulfil the organisation's mission and realise its vision;

Monitoring the right measures that tell us how those results are tracking, so we know the next performance gaps to close;

Continually improving the organisation's policies, processes, and systems, to leverage their finite resources for the biggest performance improvements.

M&E WITHIN THE SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

Demand

- Committees Oversight
- Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) supports fiscal oversight
- Office on Institutions Supporting Democracy (OISD) strengthen oversight function of Chapter 9 Institutions

Supply

- The High Level Panel on the Assessment of Key Legislation and the Acceleration of Fundamental Change
- Parliamentary Budget Office
- Strategic Priorities Assessment by the Research Unit
- Office on Institutions Supporting Democracy

Self-Assessment

- Independent Panel Assessment of Parliament (2009)
- Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament
- Strategic management & Governance

MEASUREMENT DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

2010/11

- Qualitative, Activity Reporting
- No indicators or targets

2015/16

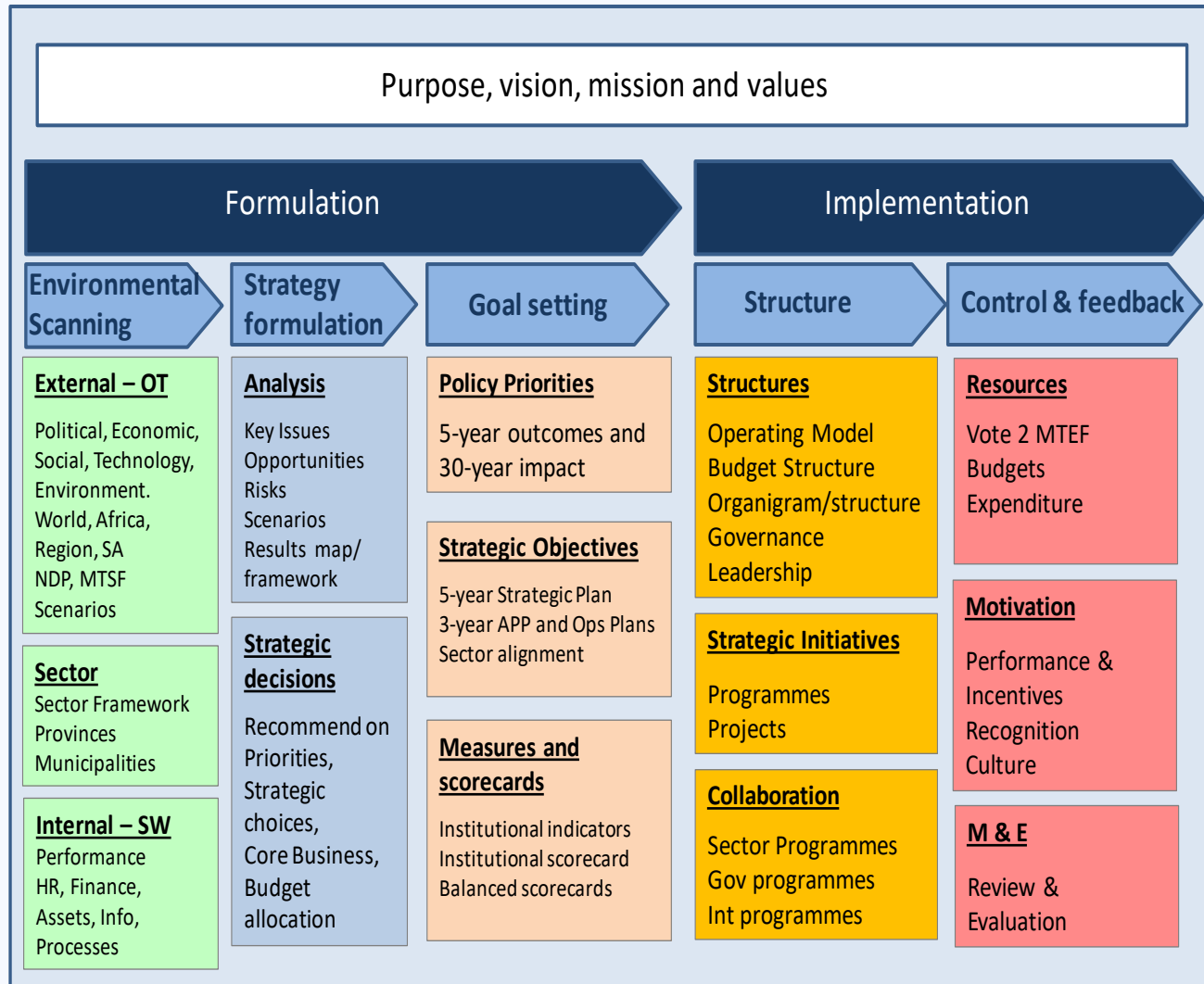
- 45 Indicators - with baselines, targets
- Outputs Reporting
- No adopted Framework or Guide

2020/21

- 16 Indicators – with baselines, targets
- Strategic Management Framework
- No detailed Guide on Indicators

Current Progress on Measurement

Strategic Management Framework - Parliament



Progress on Indicators:

- Business Process
- Technical Descriptors
- Guides:
 - In-year reporting
 - Annual Reporting

To Improve:

- Guide on Indicators
- Improved Data Management

The IPU's Project on Developing Indicators for Democratic Parliaments

- Grounded in universal standards for democratic Parliaments
- Assess parliamentary capacity and performance for parliamentary strengthening
- Linked to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets 16.6 (effective, accountable and transparent institutions) and 16.7 (responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making)



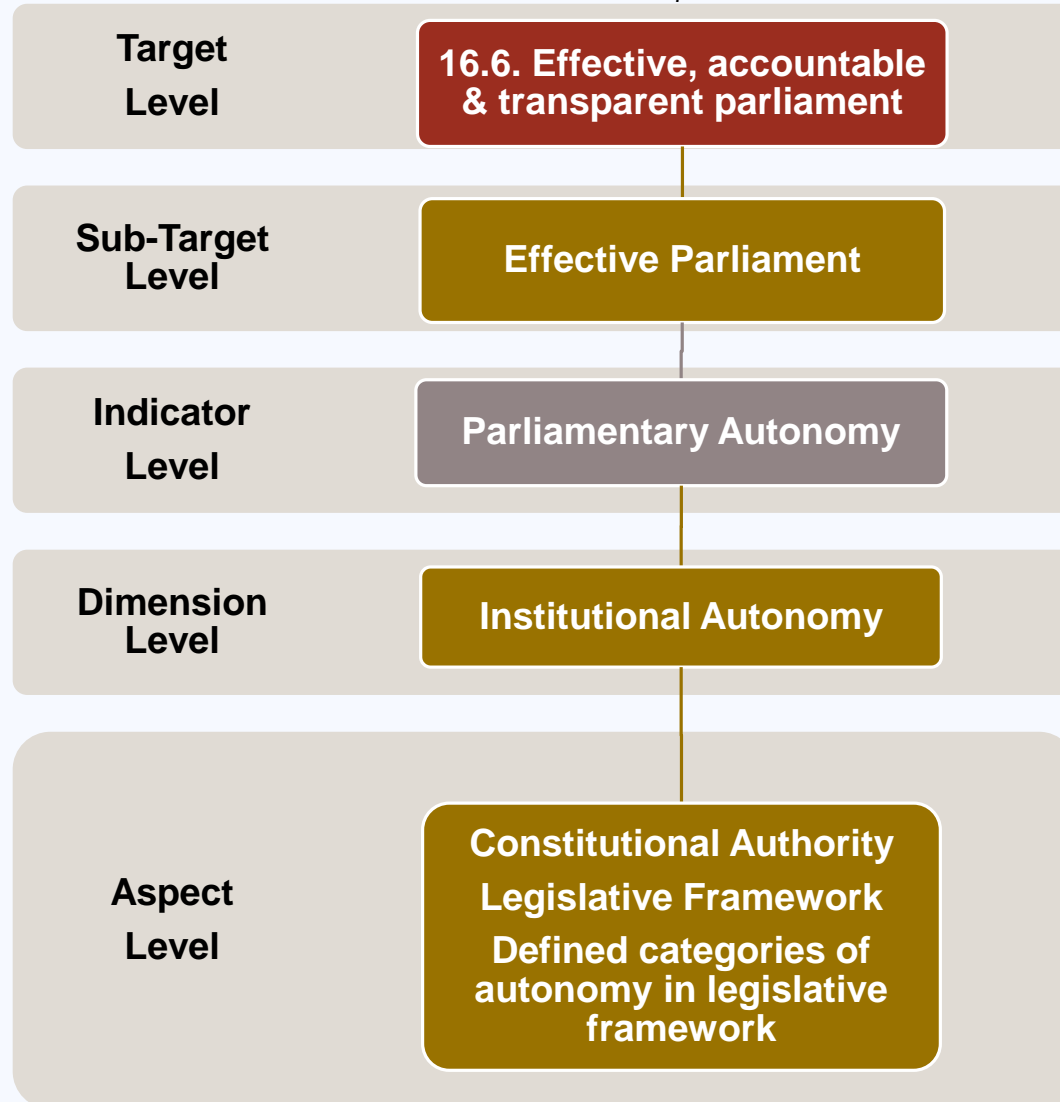
Drafting

Reviewing

Piloting

Indicator Framework

Examples:



The assessment framework includes the following areas for each dimension:

- **Introduction:** What it measures and why it is important, including possible clarification on terms that are used
- **Evidence:** For specifying the legal and parliamentary sources that served as the basis for selecting a certain grade
- **Recommendations for Change:** For each Parliament to identify areas for improvement
- **Sources:** Further reading is provided whenever applicable in relation to a given dimension
- **Example of good practice:** whenever available, 1-2 examples are included on relevant parliamentary practice for parliaments to consult

MEASUREMENT FOR DEEPENING DEMOCRACY

- Achievement of the Parliamentary Mandate
- Improving Accountability and Performance of the Executive
- Improved Quality of Life of Citizens



Conclusion

“TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE, TO INCREASE THE CAPABILITY OF OUR BUSINESS PROCESSES TO SUSTAIN A HIGHER LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE, **REQUIRES LEVERAGE**. IF AN IMPROVEMENT CAN ONLY BE SUSTAINED BY CONTINUALLY PUTTING IN MORE EFFORT (FORCE), IT'S NOT HIGH-LEVERAGE..” STACEY BARR

MEASUREMENT HELPS US FIND THAT LEVERAGE...