



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# Impact Report 2020



# The IPU

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

Today, the IPU comprises 179 national member parliaments and 13 regional parliamentary bodies.

It promotes democracy, helps parliaments become stronger, younger, gender-balanced and more diverse. It also defends the human rights of parliamentarians through a dedicated committee made up of MPs from around the world.

Twice a year, the IPU convenes over 1,500 delegates and MPs in a world assembly, bringing a parliamentary dimension to the work of the United Nations and the implementation of the 2030 global goals.

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# Adapting, assisting our Members and accelerating the IPU's digital transformation



IPU Secretary General Martin Chungong  
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2020 was a game-changer for the IPU. Starting in March, the IPU had to completely reinvent itself to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on its activities. Despite the lockdowns and restrictions on international travel, we remained open for business and swiftly adapted to the global turmoil by finding new ways to interact with our Members and, by advancing our digital transformation, reasserting the IPU's role as the premier global platform for parliamentary dialogue.

## **Supporting parliaments**

Strong, effective parliaments that deliver for the people are essential for democracy and development. COVID-19 made the role of parliament more important than ever. Emergency legislation needed adoption, and government proposals needed scrutiny. To mitigate the disruption to normal parliamentary work, the IPU facilitated exchanges of good practice between parliaments on technology and remote working.

Our campaign [Parliaments in a time of pandemic](#), launched immediately during the first lockdown in April, proved to be a rallying call for parliaments to face the new challenges. The IPU's ongoing efforts to strengthen parliaments and make them more effective through the dissemination of good practice and institutional development took on added relevance during these difficult times.

In June, [we called on parliaments](#) to stay 'open' during the pandemic. Countries need democratic leadership now more than ever. This pandemic is changing our societies, sometimes beyond recognition. It is hammering our economies, destroying jobs and businesses, and exposing our inequalities.

It was thus heartening to see that most parliaments continued to operate despite the extraordinary circumstances, devising new modes of functioning and adapting their rules to make sure that law-making, among other parliamentary activities, could continue. Parliaments demonstrated the ongoing and resilient nature of democracy, its values and institutions.

## **Embracing the new virtual reality**

Despite not being able to meet in-person, the IPU convened the first part, in a virtual format in mid-August, of the [Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament](#), a global conference that takes place every five years. Over 100 Speakers adopted a solemn and aspirational [political declaration](#) setting forth their commitment to robust parliamentary action for a safer, healthier and more prosperous world.

Then, in November, the IPU Governing Council, our plenary decision-making body, met virtually for the first time ever to adopt the 2021 IPU work programme and budget and [elect a new President](#). The election itself proved to be a prime example of digital democracy. Some 400 parliamentarians from over 140 IPU Member Parliaments exercised their democratic responsibility, by voting electronically during a 24-hour window. They voted in a secret ballot through a secure online platform, and the results were verified and certified by an independent auditor.

## **Eliminating violence against women in parliament**

Even as the world marked 25 years since the Beijing Declaration on gender equality, COVID-19 amplified many dimensions of gender inequality. Domestic violence has reached alarming levels, for example, prompting talk of a shadow pandemic.

In response, we published a specific [guidance note on gender and COVID-19](#), with examples from other parliaments of women's leadership in parliamentary decision-making as well as recommendations on how to make COVID-19 legislation more gender-sensitive.

Dissemination of the IPU's [Guidelines for the elimination of sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament](#) generated requests for further information from many parliaments and the policy guidelines were also adopted by networks of women parliamentarians in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie.

2020 also saw the collaboration of the IPU and African Parliamentary Union on a regional study on sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament in Africa. The resulting publication, expected in 2021, follows on from an earlier [study](#) of European parliaments published by the IPU and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The IPU's ambition is to create global awareness of the issue and spur action to stem it.

Evidence over the past few months suggests that elected women leaders have managed the pandemic more successfully, and this has confirmed the value of continuing to invest in gender equality and women's political empowerment.

### **Advocating for human rights of MPs**

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries took sweeping steps – even declared states of emergency – to stop the spread of the virus and protect their populations. Most of these steps had important consequences for human rights. Too often, lockdowns and emergency laws provided opportunities to detain or otherwise infringe the rights of opposition MPs.

In response, the IPU developed and disseminated [recommendations for parliaments](#) on how to ensure respect for human rights while protecting public health. Furthermore, by adapting quickly, the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians continued without pause to defend individual MPs' human rights. In 2020, the IPU examined and took action on 552 allegations of human rights violations against parliamentarians in 42 countries, up from 533 in 2019.

### **Empowering young MPs**

In 2020, an increasing number of young MPs took part in IPU meetings to promote youth-related outcomes. Some 25 young Speakers of Parliament participated in the Speakers' Conference, and 121 young MPs participated in the virtual Governing Council. Meanwhile, young MPs on the Board of the IPU's Forum of Young Parliamentarians were at the forefront of advocacy efforts in support of more young people in politics and to build back better from COVID-19. They did so at a variety of international conferences, including those hosted by the UN, the Community of Democracies, Laureates and Leaders for Children (founded by Nobel Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi) and more.

### **Building back bolder**

With the risk of COVID-19 delaying or reversing progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the IPU, in cooperation with the UN Environment Programme, produced a [policy note for parliamentarians on green approaches to COVID-19 recovery](#). If implemented, the suggestions will help countries to meet the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as create new jobs.

The joint IPU/UNDP publication [Parliaments and the Sustainable Development Goals: A self-assessment toolkit](#) is now available in thirteen languages, making it the most translated IPU publication to date. Using this as a guide, multiple online events helped build parliamentary capacity for implementation of the Paris Agreement, emergency preparedness, the reduction of disaster risk and awareness of the SDGs. In 2020, more than 1,400 parliamentarians participated, a record number since we initiated these meetings

### **Looking ahead**

Of course, throughout 2020, the other challenges facing the world didn't slow. In fact, they have been exacerbated as attention and resources have been redirected to the exigency of saving lives. Climate change, rising inequality, threats to security including terrorism and violent extremism, conflicts, famine, the crisis of multilateralism, and human rights abuses, including of parliamentarians, continue unabated.

These challenges will not fade with the pandemic. We are confident that parliaments, as they showed in 2020, will rise to these persistent challenges and rededicate their efforts in this regard.

The IPU is duty-bound to accompany and assist them in their endeavours, building on the experience of 2020. The current review of the IPU's Strategy thus takes on particular relevance. We are certain that a revised IPU Strategy for 2022-2026 will integrate the lessons learnt from the pandemic and help position the IPU as an ever-more resilient organization that can nimbly adapt to complex circumstances and maintain its uninterrupted forward motion, as it has done since 1889.



Martin Chungong  
Secretary General





## **OBJECTIVE 1**

# **Build strong, democratic parliaments**

Strong, effective parliaments are essential for democracy and development. The IPU supports parliaments by providing technical assistance for institutional development. COVID-19 has made the role of parliaments more important than ever. Emergency legislation needed adoption and government proposals needed scrutiny. COVID-19 also caused massive disruption, since lockdowns and social distancing prevented normal parliamentary work. The IPU supported parliaments by sharing good practice on technology and remote working.





## From in person to virtual

From March 2021, as the pandemic spread around the world, well-established parliamentary procedures ground to a halt. Parliaments could no longer meet in plenary and committee. Their members could not meet in person with constituents. It was a major challenge for parliamentary administrations.

The IPU connected IT staff in more than 50 parliaments to share research findings from the IPU's Centre for Innovation in Parliament (CIP). Parliamentary staff were able to raise questions with their counterparts, as well as share any tips and good practices. The CIP responded to numerous requests for information and advice from several parliaments. The IPU's campaign web pages, "[Parliaments in a time of pandemic](#)", were visited by thousands of people worldwide.

On another positive note, the crisis brought the world's parliaments closer together, as they exchanged ideas for remote work. Parliamentary officials innovated under pressure, and parliaments with good experience of technology, such as in **Brazil** or **Chile**, were able to adapt their systems quickly and share their knowledge with others. Smaller parliaments, in the **Maldives** for example, used off-the-shelf video-conferencing to return to work quickly.

The transition to a digital mode of working has been a major cultural change, requiring the IPU and parliaments to move away from the status quo, to experiment and adapt. But the pandemic has also been an opportunity, shining the necessary light on technology and accelerating agendas for digital change. Digital technology has gone from being a "nice-to-have" to an "essential-for-work."

## Supporting parliaments in their pandemic response

Throughout the year, the IPU supported several national parliaments by organizing more than 40 activities and helping them to build capacity in a range of areas from strategic planning to policy evaluation. For example, three webinars coached MPs to better understand and respond to COVID-19. Subsequent webinars touched on plans for a post-pandemic economic recovery.

In **Djibouti**, we worked with National Assembly MPs and parliamentary staff to draft a bill on the emergency stockpiling of urgent medical equipment and supplies. We also supported National Assembly staff with the production of a guide for MPs on parliamentary committees. Extended project funding by the European Union will guarantee IPU support for human rights in the country for years to come.



## Peace processes and effective parliaments

In **Myanmar**, we supported the parliament with the launch of an e-learning platform for MPs and staff. As COVID-19 gained a foothold in the country, nearly 50 per cent of our 24 activities went online. In February, we supported a discussion on the role of parliaments in the peace process. At a three-day webinar, some 100 MPs heard from national experts and other MPs in the region. The IPU also trained parliamentary staff on several issues, including the use of technology, the development of online courses and the induction of new MPs.

Continuing its work since 2018 with the National Assembly of **Zambia**, the IPU supported a series of self-assessments to modernize the parliament. At a two-day workshop in September, the parliament mapped out strategic priorities and projects for the next five years.

Key figure:  
**100**

**100 parliaments** contributed to our campaign "Parliaments in a time of pandemic", describing the innovative ways in which they are adapting to lockdowns and social distancing.

An usher cleans a microphone in the French National Assembly.  
© Thomas Samson/AFP

In **Tunisia**, the IPU used online research and expert conversations to enable staff at the Oversight Support Unit to build knowledge and capacity for oversight procedures and reviews of procedural rules.

## Adapting approaches for professional development

In 2020, we began an initiative that will consolidate over 40 years of the IPU's experience of supporting parliamentary development. The project is ambitious and complex, requiring collaboration with multiple stakeholders, but is a unique opportunity to record and share parliamentary good practice. Project outcomes will guide training for members of parliament and staff, offering key practical insights and advice to strengthen the work of parliaments.

### Our impact

Some 163 parliaments and partner organizations have now endorsed the IPU's Ten Common Principles for Support to Parliaments. Adopted by the IPU in October 2014, the Common Principles help parliaments to become better, more effective institutions, based on the strong belief that they should be able to drive their own development.

Monitoring and evaluation remains a challenge, however, and in December, the IPU and the parliament of **Uganda** organized a third [Expert Roundtable on the Common Principles](#) with the theme of "challenges and opportunities in parliamentary monitoring and evaluation". More than 160 participants from over 50 countries attended the virtual meeting, exchanging strategies, practices and tools for better performance.

## Case study

### Starting with parliament: Eliminating violence against Djibouti's women and girls

From a parliamentary committee room to Djibouti's desert interior, the IPU has supported a multi-pronged effort to end violence against women and girls. Working with Djibouti's National Assembly, we helped create a caucus of women parliamentarians and reform a committee with a new human rights mandate. In February 2020, we helped the National Assembly to review and adopt a new law on violence against women and girls.

Part of an EU-funded project on human rights, our support did not end there. We also supported National Assembly members to promote the new law on violence against women directly with their citizens. The exchanges provided vital feedback on the law and insights into citizens' lives. Such exchanges strengthen parliament and also advance human rights.

In October, we turned the spotlight onto parliamentary staff, publishing a comparative paper on parliamentary administrative autonomy. The paper compared parliaments around the world on a range of topics from recruitment practices to budgetary powers. The paper builds parliamentary know-how and is an important stepping stone towards more effective, resilient and autonomous parliaments.

## How to better engage with the public

IPU work is grounded in the experiences and realities of parliaments. The next Global Parliamentary Report, the IPU's flagship in-depth report on parliamentary practice, will focus on how parliaments can connect more closely with the public. To produce the report, we conducted more than 120 interviews with parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from around the world. We wanted to understand how and why parliaments engage, how this impacts their work and how such efforts contribute to public trust. Due for publication in 2021, the lessons learned will be captured in a series of case studies to inspire and catalyse further change.



**Wed 9 Dec 2020**  
**Sitting 1** 9:00–11:30 CET  
**Sitting 2** 16:00–18:30 CET

### Third Expert Roundtable on the Common Principles for Support to Parliaments

Challenges and opportunities in parliamentary monitoring and evaluation

Presenters from a variety of parliaments will share their experiences for a rich exchange of innovative practices!

The meeting will take place online in two sittings to suit different time zones. Its working languages will be English, French and Spanish.

Registration details [here](#)  
Deadline for registration is 1 December.





## Mobilizing the parliamentary community to develop indicators for democratic parliaments

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) include targets for effective, accountable and transparent institutions (target 16.6), as well as responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making (target 16.7). Working with a broad coalition of organizations, the IPU is developing a set of indicators that will allow parliaments to measure themselves against these targets. Other coalition members include the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, INTER PARES, the European Commission, the National Democratic Institute, the UN Development Programme, UN Women and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

## Using data to advocate for progress in representation

The IPU is the official custodian of SDG indicators 5.5 and 16.7.1a, which cover the full and effective participation of women in decision-making and in public institutions. The IPU has been tracking the percentage of women in parliaments for more than 20 years. In 2020, it also reported for the first time to the UN system on parliamentary speakers and chairpersons of selected parliamentary committees. The data shows that women are under-represented as chairs of committees for foreign affairs, finance and defence, and over-represented as chairs of committees on gender equality.

## ►► The year ahead

This year, 2021, we will launch several major publications, including the Global Parliamentary Report and a new edition of the World e-Parliament Report, the IPU's biennial report on innovation and the use of new technologies in parliament. The IPU and partners will also present a first draft set of indicators to measure parliamentary capacity and performance.

We will also advance with our project to set up a Centre for Parliamentary Learning to provide learning resources on topics related to all areas of parliamentary work to support the continued professional development of MPs and staff.

*"I believe that the IPU is the ideal forum to reach the goals of success we want for humanity: a world with more equality, social cohesion, peace, better environmental quality, and which can address, in unity, the global challenges we are now facing."*

**Mr. Duarte Pacheco,**  
on his election as new IPU President





## OBJECTIVE 2

# Advance gender equality and respect for women's rights

Crises are never gender neutral and COVID-19 has been no exception. Even as the world marked 25 years since the Beijing Declaration on gender equality, COVID-19 highlighted the multiple dimensions of gender inequality. Domestic violence has reached alarming levels, for example, prompting talk of a shadow pandemic. COVID-19 has impacted women in other ways too, adding extra burdens at home and at work, and exacerbating insecurities. Political representation that is fair and equal will help to correct these inequalities and reduce the vulnerabilities of women and children too. The IPU supports parliaments in efforts to increase the number of women MPs, including by advising them on gender quotas, and by gathering data to build an evidence base for action.



## Supporting parliaments to become more gender equal

Sustained collaboration with multiple parliaments bore further fruit in 2020, often following the adoption and implementation of robust quota laws.

- In **Egypt**, the proportion of women MPs increased to 27 per cent from 16 per cent
- In **Mali**, some 28 per cent of MPs are now women, up from 9.5 per cent
- In **Serbia**, women won 39 per cent of parliamentary seats in the 2020 election, up from 34 per cent previously.
- Ahead of elections in **Tanzania** at the end of 2020, the IPU organized training and expert support for several women. Many said the support boosted their confidence. And while the majority of them had been nominated to reserved seats in the past, many subsequently decided for the first time in 2020 to contest an elected seat.

## Supporting parliaments to legislate against discrimination and violence

It is estimated that discriminatory laws affect 2.5 billion women and girls around the world. Parliaments can change this.

In 2020, the IPU and UN Women organized **online consultations** to gather the views and experiences of MPs and experts in 23 countries. Good practice and lessons learned will be collated into a single handbook in order to help MPs eliminate discrimination from their national laws. The IPU and UN Women expect to launch the handbook in 2021.

*“We as stakeholders... must task ourselves more collectively to make a deliberate effort in addressing the gaps that exist in implementing our legal frameworks to ensure we create greater inclusivity.”*

**Mr. Femi Gbajabamila**  
Speaker of the House of Representatives of Nigeria

## Collecting and sharing information for an evidence base

Our report on [Women in parliament](#) analysed women’s participation from 1995 to 2020, and lessons learned since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a global blueprint for gender equality, was adopted 25 years ago. The report warned that – although parity has been adopted more widely as a target – progress has been slowing in recent years.

With UN Women, the IPU published its flagship annual [Women in Politics](#) map. We also issued new data on gender and parliament through Parline, the IPU’s online data resource on parliaments, including on women’s caucuses, gender equality committees, women speakers and key historical data.

The IPU’s data and research was widely used, including in the UN Secretary-General’s SDG progress report and the World Economic Forum’s report on the gender gap. In the **United States**, four Congresswomen quoted IPU data when they introduced a House resolution calling on the US government to help mitigate violence against women in politics.

In 2020, IPU research was also used in a national campaign in Jordan and a seminar on cyberbullying hosted by the parliament in Switzerland.

Demand for online tools was strong in 2020. The IPU was able to offer user-friendly videos on SDG5, promoting parliamentary action for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls:



**Key figure:**  
**54**

**54 per cent** of panellists  
at IPU events in 2020  
were women.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**Globally – 25 years**

- In the past 25 years, the total percentage of women in parliaments across the world reached 24.3 per cent (2020), up from 18.1 in 1995. In lower and middle income parliaments, the percentage of seats held by women increased from 18.8 to 24.9 per cent. Upper income led the percentage increase from 8.4 to 24.3 per cent.
- In 2020, 10 parliaments had reached gender parity. In 2020, 10 parliaments had at least 50 per cent women in their lower or single chambers. In the United States, 47 per cent of seats held by women in the US House of Representatives were held by women. Among 100 parliaments, 5 per cent met women three or more times in the media. MENA region, one in the Americas, one in the Asia-Pacific, and one in sub-Saharan Africa were in top 10. In 2020, the total was 52 such chambers among 100 parliaments.
- Over a 25-year span, the largest progress in women’s political participation has been achieved by Ecuador, the Republic of Congo, the Republic of Serbia, and the Republic of Bulgaria, with 21.2, 20.4, 19.6, and 18.3 percentage points gained, respectively, in that order in single houses.

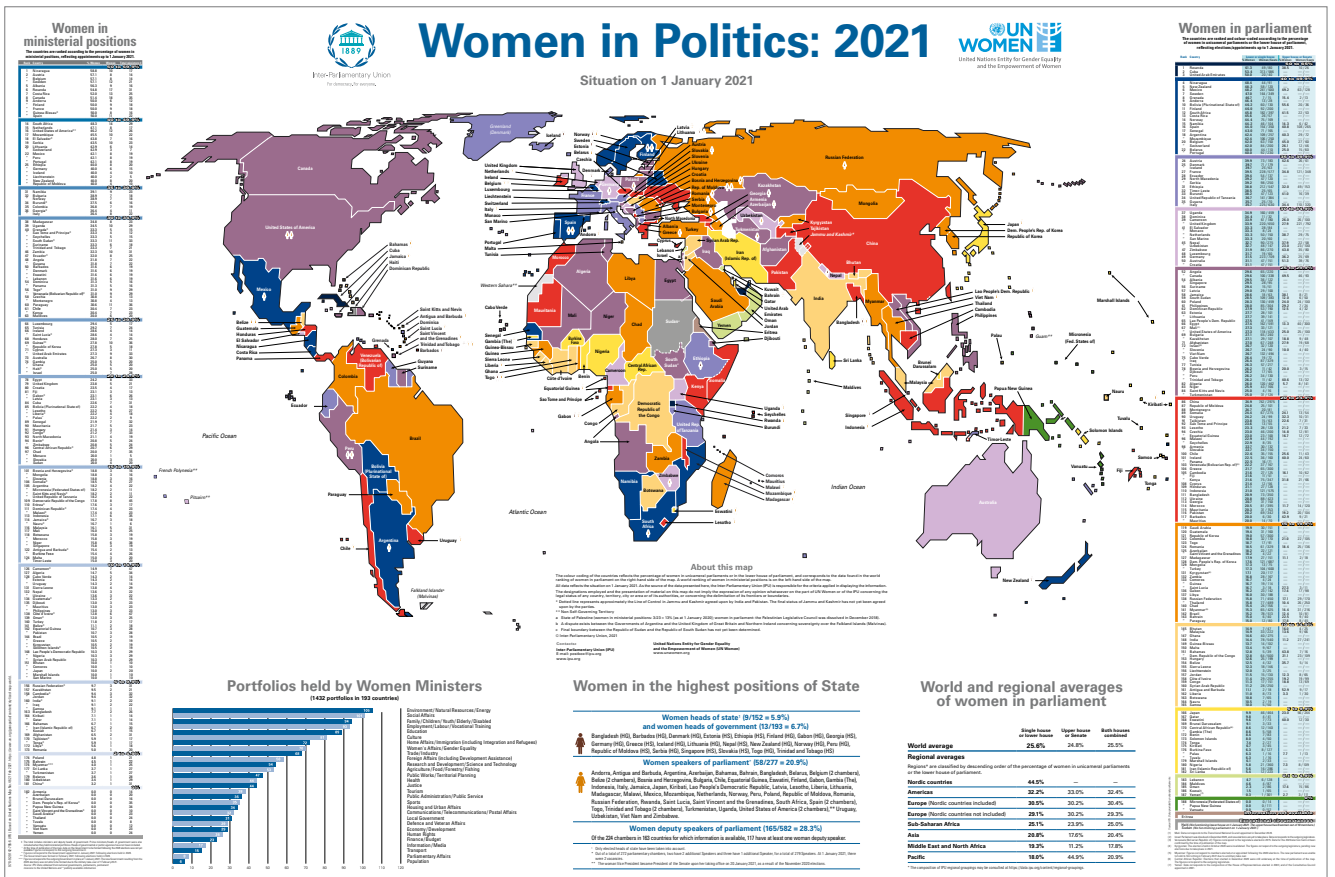
**Women progress in the past 25 years**

A quarter of a century after the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, expectations regarding women’s participation in politics have grown in ambition. Achieving a critical mass of 50 per cent of seats held by women is no longer the objective. Shifting the paradigm towards full equality has been the biggest achievement of the past 25 years. With such a bold goal ahead, action steps are needed to accelerate the change that will lead to gender parity in parliaments.

The last 25 years have seen a significant increase in the proportion of women in parliaments around the world. In 1995, just 18.1 per cent of seats held by parliamentarians were held by women. By 2020, this figure had almost doubled to 22.1 per cent. And although the pace of progress has slowed in the past five years, in 2020, the share of women in national parliaments is close to 25 per cent.

A symposium in Beijing, China to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration. © Zhang Yuwei/ Xinhua via AFP





- [Five things you can do to improve gender equality in leadership](#)
- [Gender equality laws around the world – what can parliaments do?](#)
- [Violence against women: What can parliaments do to protect women?](#)
- [Women, peace and security](#)

These videos were produced in partnership with several partners, including the Arizona State University and the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory, the World Bank and UN Women.

### Advocating for change

In 2020, the IPU organized two intergenerational conversations involving leaders, MPs, young women and girls from around the world. The conversations were held within the framework of the Generation Equality Forum, a global forum of organizations working for gender equality and convened by UN Women. Such events help inform the IPU's work and will continue in 2021 and beyond.

In August, women parliamentary speakers met virtually at the 13<sup>th</sup> Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament, organized by the IPU and the Austrian Parliament. The speakers called for equal distribution of unpaid care work and elimination of the gender gaps in pay and social protection.

The IPU will promote these goals in 2021 and beyond. The speakers also called for zero tolerance of violence against women in parliament, sharing their own experiences, and best practices too.

### Supporting legislation to combat discrimination and violence against women:

- **Djibouti** adopted legislation to eliminate gender-based violence, after technical assistance from the IPU in 2019.

*"With so few parliaments reaching gender parity in 2020, we still have a long way to go. It will take stronger political will and concrete action by both women and men to speed up progress. More women in parliament leads to better decision-making, more peaceful societies, and more representative democracies that work for everyone."*

**Susan Kihika**  
President,  
IPU Forum of Women  
Parliamentarians

**#Beijing+25**  
**#IWD2020**  
**#SDG5**

- **Sierra Leone** took steps to eliminate female genital mutilation, after the IPU helped build technical capacity and political support. A parliamentary caucus was established and is now driving parliamentary action on the issue with continued support from the IPU.

## Our impact

### From guidance to action: Eliminating violence against women in parliament

Dissemination of the IPU's **Guidelines for the elimination of sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament** prompted requests for further information from the parliaments of Denmark, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the Parliament of the Wallonie-Bruxelles Federation in Belgium.

These anti-harassment policy guidelines also inspired networks of women parliamentarians in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the *Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie*.

Given their popularity, the guidelines have been published in several languages, including Spanish, Arabic, Turkish, Japanese and Korean.

The IPU and the African Parliamentary Union are collaborating on a regional **study on sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament in Africa**. The study is expected to be completed in 2021.

## Case study

### Parliamentary leadership against female genital mutilation in Sierra Leone

MPs in Sierra Leone learned more about female genital mutilation (FGM) and its impact on human rights and health through an IPU-supported workshop in the capital, Freetown. The three-day workshop showed how FGM can be removed from traditional initiation ceremonies for girls, and provided MPs with persuasive arguments to persuade constituencies and community leaders to abandon FGM.

The workshop also led to the creation of the first ever parliamentary Caucus on Female Genital Mutilation in Sierra Leone.

## Did you know?

Created in 2015 in Geneva, the International Gender Champions is a leadership network that brings together female and male decision makers to break down gender barriers in multilateral spaces. Currently chaired by Martin Chungong, the IPU Secretary General, the network now has over 400 active champions in its six multilateral hubs (Geneva, New York, Paris, Vienna, Nairobi and The Hague). All champions commit to the Gender Parity Pledge, meaning that they seek gender balance and refuse to participate in any single-sex panels.

## ►► The year ahead

In 2021, we will continue to support parliamentarians working remotely, including through the development of practical tools. These will be made more interactive to reach more parliaments and other audiences in an increasingly online world. In 2021, we will launch a new regional study on violence against women in politics in African parliaments, together with outreach activities and tools.

We will continue to support our members through peer-to-peer exchanges, collection and dissemination of good practices, with a special focus on ensuring that COVID-19 responses and recovery are gender-responsive.





## OBJECTIVE 3

# Protect and promote human rights

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on human rights. Too often, lockdowns and emergency laws have provided an opportunity to detain or otherwise infringe the rights of opposition MPs. The numbers for 2020 confirm an upward trend of reported violations against parliamentarians and acts of intimidation and violence. Women MPs have suffered disproportionately. The IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians continued to gather data and to defend the rights of MPs. In **Côte d'Ivoire**, IPU interventions helped secure the release of four MPs from detention.





## Parliamentarians, especially women, face growing violence

In 2020, the IPU Committee examined 552 alleged violations in 42 countries, up from 533 violations in 2019. These cases included 83 new alleged violations in 13 countries. Human rights violations against MPs have been growing since the IPU Committee was established more than 40 years ago.

For the fifth year in a row, the Americas accounted for the greatest proportion of human rights violations against parliamentarians. **Venezuela** accounted for 178 of the 552 cases, equal to 32 per cent.

In four countries – **Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela** and **Yemen** – the growing number of violations, especially against opposition MPs, suggests a deteriorating political situation.

Detention represents a significant violation. At the end of 2020, the IPU Committee was examining the cases of 30 MPs, detained in a total of nine countries, including **Venezuela, Uganda** and **Zimbabwe**. The cases highlight the way in which some governments have used pandemic lockdown laws to infringe the rights of opposition MPs.

Women MPs suffer disproportionately from violence and acts of intimidation. Torture, ill treatment and violence affect 34 per cent of women parliamentarians in the cases considered by the IPU, compared with 18 per cent for male MPs. In 2020, the IPU examined 98 cases concerning women parliamentarians, up from 85 in 2019 and almost three times higher than six years previously in 2014, when we had 34 cases on our books.

## Human rights during the pandemic

The pandemic has had significant consequences for human rights. The IPU developed and disseminated recommendations for parliaments on how to ensure respect for human rights while protecting public health.

The IPU also organized workshops on human rights and public health. In July and November, the IPU partnered with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Commonwealth Secretariat to organize two online workshops for the human rights committees of Commonwealth parliaments in Canada and other countries in Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean and Asia-Pacific regions.



Former Guatemalan MP Mr. Amilcar Pop who was granted police protection partly thanks to IPU pressure. © AFP

### Our impact

In December 2019, five MPs from **Côte d'Ivoire** were arbitrarily detained. After extensive IPU lobbying, four of them were released in September 2020.

Intervention by the IPU in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** allowed MP Jean-Jacques Mamba to return to his country and resume work without fear of arrest. He had left the DRC earlier in 2020 to avoid arbitrary detention after filing a petition that led to the removal of the First Deputy Speaker.

In **Guatemala**, authorities have provided former MP Amilcar Pop with permanent police protection in line with IPU requests. The former MP had been the subject of repeated death threats and serious harassment for his work as an opposition MP.

In **Turkey**, former MP Selahattin Demirtas received a boost from the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), after the IPU made an elaborate third-party intervention. The ECHR adopted IPU arguments, ruling that Demirtas' 2017 arrest on terrorism-related charges did indeed violate his basic rights, including freedom of expression and the right to participate in elections.

# Violations of the human rights of MPs in 2020

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



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

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

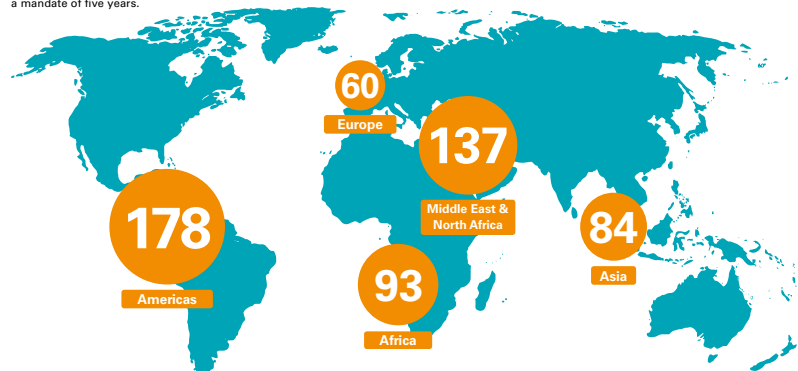
Its work includes mobilizing the international parliamentary community to support threatened MPs, lobbying national authorities, visiting MPs in danger and sending trial observers.

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

More information about Human Rights at the IPU  
<https://www.ipu.org/our-impact/human-rights>

## Most common violations

- 1 Undue suspension and loss of parliamentary mandate
- 2 Lack of fair trial and other unfair proceedings
- 3 Threats, acts of intimidation
- 4 Violation of freedom of expression



552 MPs in 42 countries

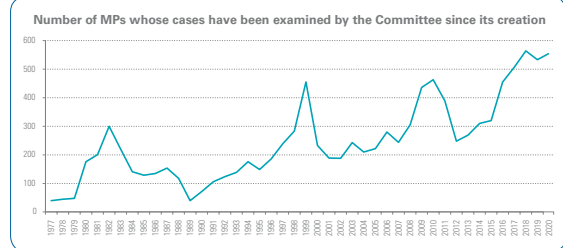
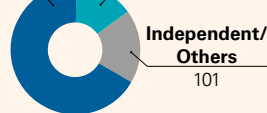
98



454

Opposition  
371

Majority  
80



If you are or know of an MP in danger, contact us immediately on [hrteam@ipu.org](mailto:hrteam@ipu.org)

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Several parliaments adopted IPU recommendations. Particularly noteworthy was the inquiry by the United Kingdom Parliament's Human Rights Committee, which wanted to ensure that the UK's COVID-19 response complied with human rights.

*"The proactiveness of the IPU and its Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians has had an impact on the ongoing proceedings. They helped facilitate my return to the DRC without being arrested or detained when I arrived in the country. I am sure that the Committee's efforts will contribute to a final resolution of my case."*

Mr. Jean-Jacques Mamba  
DRC MP

## Case study

### The IPU supports parliaments in Burkina Faso and Uzbekistan to advance their human rights agendas

In **Burkina Faso**, the government presented bills to parliament to formalize the ratification of a UN treaty to abolish the death penalty and strengthen the mandate of the country's torture prevention mechanism. The bills follow IPU-recommended consultations organized by the National Assembly together with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. Participants discussed implementation of these specific UN recommendations on human rights.

Through a series of virtual workshops in 2020, the IPU and the OHCHR supported efforts by the parliament in **Uzbekistan** to implement UN recommendations on human rights. Key action points included the creation of a specific parliamentary committee on human rights, the creation of an independent committee on the elimination of torture, the translation of IPU handbooks on human rights into Uzbek, strengthening parliamentary oversight, ensuring parliamentary transparency and setting up a legal framework for dialogue with civil society.

## ▶▶ The year ahead

In 2021, the IPU will look at new ways to support the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, using the available digital tools more extensively. The IPU expects to support more and more individual parliaments with the implementation of UN human rights mechanisms. The IPU will also produce a toolkit for parliaments to self-assess their protection of human rights and to help them become more effective guardians of human rights.





## OBJECTIVE 4

# Contribute to peacebuilding, conflict prevention and security

Peace is crucial not only for democracy and the rule of law, but also to protect lives and minimize the destruction caused by conflict. More than 130 years after its establishment, the IPU still provides a vital forum for international parliamentary dialogue. We also support parliaments in countries that are emerging from conflict or transitioning to democracy, to develop as robust, democratic institutions that can help heal the scars of national division. By preventing in-person meetings, however, the COVID-19 pandemic prevented multiple opportunities to build trust and common understanding. In the meantime, arms spending has continued to rise, international arms control regimes are eroding further, and violent extremist groups are exploiting the general uncertainty. Despite this, the IPU continued on its steady path, supporting parliamentary contributions to peacebuilding, conflict prevention and security.







## Advocating for peace and security

The IPU connected parliaments with several important global initiatives, for example. We supported the [UN Secretary-General's COVID-19 appeal](#) for an immediate global ceasefire through a [statement](#) issued by the President of the [IPU Standing Committee on Peace and International Security](#), the Chairperson of the [IPU High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism \(HLAG\)](#), and the IPU President. We also continued campaigning for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty to enter into force and promoted ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The IPU recommends that governments spend less on weapons and more in other sectors, such as health, which has been under intense pressure during the pandemic.

To mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 1325, Women, Peace and Security we produced a [video](#) to explain the negative impacts of conflict on women and the multiple ways in which women can contribute to a durable peace. The video urged parliamentarians to adopt and implement national action plans that advance women's participation in peace and security.

The IPU's participation in the 2020 edition of Geneva Peace Week also went online. Our digital products looked at the importance of [evidence-informed arms control](#), [good security sector governance](#) and [youth engagement in politics](#). The digital nature of our communications allowed them to travel further than the event itself, reaching more countries and larger audiences than ever before. They can also be used in the long run for information and training purposes.

Online discussions and webinars replaced our usual in-person presence but nevertheless afforded the opportunity to foster dialogue and the lively exchange of ideas. Our New York office organized well-attended briefings on UN processes, including a review of the UN's peacebuilding architecture. We gathered inputs from MPs for a draft publication on parliamentary support for disarmament.

### Key figure:

# 50

50 countries have now ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) at least partly thanks to strong advocacy by the IPU, including our landmark 2014 resolution



A ceremony at the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, Japan on 6 August 2020. © Naoki Maeda/The Yomiuri Shimbun via AFP

## Countering terrorism and violent extremism

The IPU's programme on countering terrorism and violent extremism organized two meetings of the [IPU High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism](#).

As part of our ongoing efforts to support the victims of terrorism and to make their voices heard, we also organized an event – *Countering terrorism and violent extremism: the perspective of victims* – on the sidelines of the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament. We worked with the UN Office on Counter-Terrorism and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime to design model legislation for victims of terror. The first four of six expert consultations took place in November and December 2020.

## Parliamentary diplomacy in support of peacebuilding and reconciliation

In July 2020, the IPU Committee on Middle East Questions discussed the situations in **Palestine** and **Libya**. For the first time since October 2018, a representative from the **Israeli** Knesset attended the Committee meeting, engaging in dialogue with his **Palestinian** counterpart.

### Our impact: Optimism in a time of global crisis

In 2020, we partnered with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons to commemorate 75 years since the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Our joint campaign promoted ratification of the [Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons \(TPNW\)](#). By the end of 2020, 50 states had ratified the treaty, enabling it to come into force at the start of 2021.

*“The Austrian Parliament unconditionally supports a world free of nuclear weapons... We must continue all our efforts for a worldwide ban of all nuclear weapons and destroy all existing weapons. I am convinced that this is the only way to protect humankind from this danger.”*

Mr. Wolfgang Sobotka  
President of the Austrian National Council

## Case study

### Parliaments to assure our common future

Working with MPs and other partners, the IPU contributed to the guide, *“Assuring our common future”* which provides background on disarmament and examples of effective policies and parliamentary action.

Partners in the project included Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Parliamentarians for Global Action, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and the World Future Council. The Guide will support parliaments with the implementation of the UN Secretary-General's disarmament agenda *“Securing our Common Future”*.

## ►► The year ahead

In 2021, the IPU will continue to help parliaments push for the implementation of key treaties on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. We will support parliaments in enabling good governance within the security sector. Operating within the guidelines of the UN Secretary-General's disarmament agenda, we will also accompany parliaments through key events, such as the 10<sup>th</sup> review conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

We will hold the first ever parliamentary summit on counter-terrorism in Vienna, as part of the Fifth World Conference of Parliamentary Speakers. This event will launch a global parliamentary network on counter-terrorism, including an interactive map and a mobile application. Parliamentarians will be able to use the map and application to get information on related activities, meetings and documents. They will also be able to access a database of legislation on countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism.





## OBJECTIVE 5

# Promote inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation

In 2020, the IPU continued to promote inter-parliamentary dialogue, albeit in a virtual format, conducting an extraordinary Governing Council including an online election of a new IPU President, as well as holding the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament. The concluding declaration from the Speakers' Conference constitutes an important step forward on a range of vital global issues requiring multinational collaboration.





## Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

The Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament was split into two stages, with the virtual segment taking place in August 2020, to be followed by an in-person or hybrid conference in Vienna in 2021. This global parliamentary event, held in a virtual format for the first time, brought together more than 500 delegates, including some 115 parliamentary speakers and more than 300 MPs. One third of these MPs were women. Eleven observer delegations were able to follow the proceedings.

The Conference discussed a range of topics including parliamentary diplomacy; the nexus of the health, climate and economic crises; sustainable development; youth participation in politics; gender equality; parliaments and democracy; human mobility; counter-terrorism; and science and technology. Parliamentary speakers, public personalities and distinguished experts all contributed to discussions, which concluded with the [Declaration on parliamentary leadership for effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and planet](#).

The Declaration lays the ground for more parliamentary cooperation to tackle the world's challenges. And in September, the IPU President shared key messages from the Speakers' Conference at an IPU-hosted event on multilateralism. The event, which took place in the lead-up to the UN75 Summit, discussed how the UN and the IPU could better collaborate on COVID-19, climate change, arms spending and inequality.

The IPU President then communicated the Speakers' Declaration by video to the UN General Assembly at the UN75 Summit itself. The IPU also circulated the Declaration among UN Member States.

## The IPU Governing Council goes virtual

In November, at an extraordinary session of the IPU's Governing Council, the new IPU President, Mr. Duarte Pacheco, was elected and a number of important decisions were taken, including on human rights and on the IPU's 2021 work programme and budget.

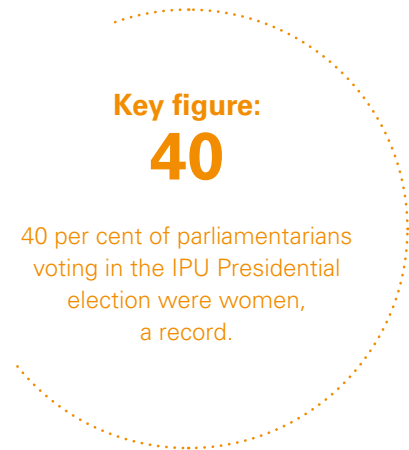
Special procedural rules were adopted to govern the virtual meeting and the session was particularly well attended. Some 145 national parliaments participated, equal to more than 80 per cent of the total IPU membership. Almost half the delegations were led by a presiding or deputy presiding officer. Of the 458 participating MPs, some 40 per cent were women and 26 per cent were young MPs.

Despite the challenges of technology and multiple time zones, the election of the IPU President was conducted in a smooth, inclusive and accountable manner.

## Strengthening cooperation with other parliamentary organizations

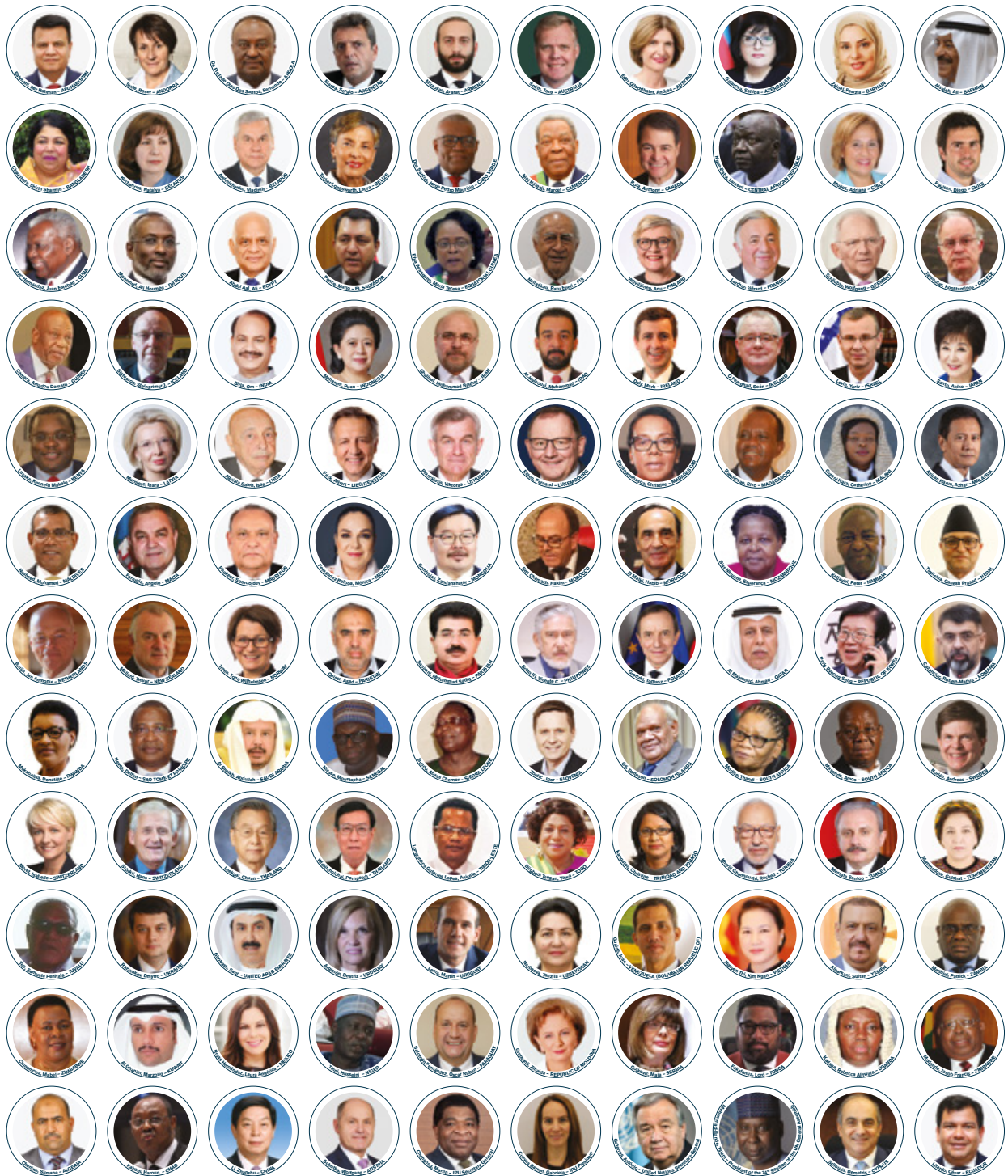
After the success of the Governing Council, including the remote presidential election, several regional parliaments contacted the IPU for advice and information. We expect to share our technical experience of virtual meetings in the coming months.

The IPU and the *Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie* (APF) also held several working sessions during the year, following the APF's accession to IPU associate member status in 2019. The meetings helped prepare the IPU for affiliation with a similar status at the APF in January 2021.



Duarte Pacheco was elected new IPU President in November 2020 with 56 per cent of the vote. © Assembleia da República/Sandra Ribeiro





Virtual 19-20 August 2020 **Vienna 2021**

# World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

Parliaments for peace, people and planet

#5WCSP



## Our impact

The IPU's annual reporting exercise with its members highlighted numerous examples of good practice and follow-up actions from IPU resolutions and other decisions. Of the 41 Member Parliaments reviewed in 2020, responses were received from 20 of the selected parliaments, as well as 16 voluntary responses.

Examples of follow-up actions to IPU decisions include:

- **Benin** ratified the Arms Trade Treaty and its National Assembly participated in capacity-building programmes on implementation
- **Costa Rica** ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
- **Gambia** established a Standing Committee on Human Rights and Constitutional Matters
- **The Federated States of Micronesia** agreed a Congressional Resolution "Declaring the goal of the Congress... to have the country reach universal health coverage by 2030"
- The Parliamentary Committee on Economic Affairs and Climate of the **Netherlands** consulted with youth groups on climate change
- In **Norway**, the parliamentary speaker partnered with youth organizations to discuss how youth can participate in social debates
- In **Pakistan**, the Senate signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the IPU to provide technical assistance to the Senate Secretariat, Senate Committees and Members on legislative drafting

## Seminar on the structure and functioning of the IPU

A record number of parliamentary staff took part in the 2020 French-language virtual seminar for parliamentary staff, including representatives from the IPU's associate members and permanent observers.

## Towards universal membership

The IPU now has 179 Member Parliaments, but continues to interact with non-Member Parliaments too, for example at the Speakers' Conference. The Speakers of Belize and the Solomon Islands were both active participants. The President Pro Tempore of the US Senate also sent in a video address. New opportunities for cooperation are being examined with these three non-Members.

### ►► The year ahead

The year 2020 saw the IPU make huge strides in digital democracy. We expect to consolidate these gains in 2021, building our capacity for outreach and meetings of MPs in a structured and inclusive manner. We will explore the possibilities and flexibility offered by digital technology for hybrid meetings and work closely with Members and geopolitical groups for more targeted, efficient interventions.

## Case study

### The IPU brings digital democracy to life

The election of a new IPU President, Duarte Pacheco, was a textbook example of digital democracy. In a single round of voting, the Portuguese Member of Parliament was elected with 56 per cent of the vote. Some 40 per cent of all votes were cast by women, marking progress also on gender equality.

The digital process was built on solid ground. An online voting platform was set up and the Governing Council then appointed two Tellers to ascertain and announce the election results. And an independent auditor – the UN International Computing Centre – verified the integrity of the election, paying particular attention to ballot secrecy and security, as well as platform accessibility and the process for counting votes.

In a 24-hour window, some 400 MPs from 142 IPU Member Parliaments voted for one of four candidates. Voter turnout was over 97 per cent.





## OBJECTIVE 6

### Youth empowerment

2020 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IPU's 2010 resolution, [Youth Participation in the Democratic Process](#). Democracy requires parliaments to represent their citizens, and young people have the highest stakes in their countries' futures. Most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated vulnerabilities for youth, including in the areas of employment, education and health care. Despite this, most parliaments have too few young MPs. Since 2010, the IPU has been collecting data on youth representation, especially the representation of young women, to raise awareness and to support advocacy for increased youth participation.



## Our impact: 10 years of youth empowerment in and through parliament

The tenth anniversary of the youth resolution was a good opportunity to look back at what has been achieved and to recommit to continued action. From youth quotas to lowering the age of eligibility to run for office and creating new parliamentary structures empowering youth, IPU Members have made significant progress. As part of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, parliaments reported on their implementation of the 2010 Youth Resolution. Highlights include:

- In **Norway**, the Speaker of Parliament regularly meets with youth and, in collaboration with non-profit organizations, has produced a guide for youth to participate in social debates.
- The parliaments in **Malta, Malaysia** and **The Gambia** lowered their voting ages for parliamentary elections, to 16 in Malta and to 18 in Malaysia and The Gambia.
- Congress in **Micronesia** supported youth representation on national delegations to international meetings. Its programme has also prioritised and increased employment among socially and economically disadvantaged youth.
- In **El Salvador**, the first Parliamentary Youth Group, made up of parliamentarians between 25 and 35 years of age, was established.
- In **Mexico**, the Chamber of Deputies introduced measures to enhance youth representation in parliament, establishing a committee on youth and holding regular parliamentary hearings and youth consultations.

At the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, the speakers renewed their commitments to youth empowerment and agreed a set of recommendations for increased youth participation in politics and parliaments. The IPU is anticipating another decade of action.

## Young women's political participation and leadership

As the world celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration for gender equality, the IPU injected new energy into efforts to increase young women's participation in politics. Together with the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, we connected politicians with young women, including from youth and women's movements, international organizations, UN agencies and academics. The meeting discussed barriers to young women's political participation, as well as potential solutions.

The ensuing [call to action](#) noted that sexism, harassment, intimidation and violence, as well as funding challenges and the lack of intergenerational solidarity, prevent young women from entering public office. Solutions include more funds for young women to engage in politics, the recruitment of more young women into public service leadership, and quotas. Parliaments and political parties must be gender-sensitive and free of violence, sexual harassment and bullying.



Key figure:  
**10**

10 years ago, the IPU adopted its landmark resolution on youth participation in the democratic process.

Young people debate some of the key barriers facing young women and girls.  
© UK House of Lords/Roger Harris

**#InternationalDemocracyDay**

*"It's important that space is made for youth. We need to have a seat on the table. Civic engagement is the core of democracy and youth should be part of it."*

**Xiye Bastida**  
Climate justice activist and co-founder of the Re-Earth Initiative





# Youth participation in national parliaments

10 years of empowering youth in parliament



37% 37 per cent of chambers of parliament have no MPs under 30.

Some 25 per cent of the world's single and lower chambers have no MPs aged under 30.

25%

73% 73 per cent of the world's upper chambers have no MPs aged under 30.

## QUOTAS

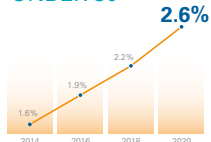
9

Based on our 2020 surveys, only 9 countries have youth quotas in their legal frameworks, a number that remains unchanged since 2016.

## AGE

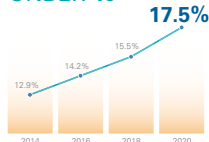
Global percentage of young MPs (men and women) by age category

### UNDER 30



2.6 per cent of the world's MPs are aged under 30 – increase of 1 per cent since 2014.

### UNDER 40



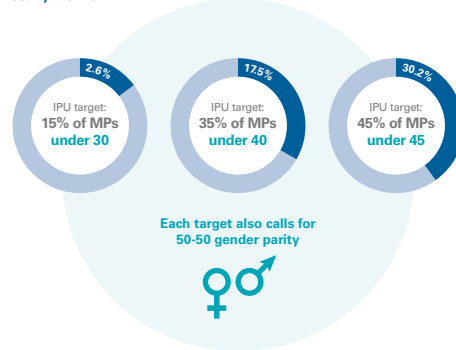
17.5 per cent of the world's MPs are aged under 40 – increase of 4.6 per cent since 2014.

### UNDER 45



30.2 per cent of the world's MPs are aged under 45 – increase of 6.3 per cent since 2014.

Progression of number of young MPs towards the respective targets set by the IPU



Percentage of women in each age category of young MPs

1.1%

6.1%

9.8%

## ELIGIBILITY

The age at which citizens are eligible to run for parliamentary office rarely coincides with the legal voting age



69%

69 per cent of countries impose a "waiting time" between voting age and age of eligibility for office.

The waiting time is generally longer for upper than for single or lower chambers.



The age requirements for upper chambers range from 18 to 45, with an average of 28.6.



The age requirements for single and lower chambers range from 17 to 30 with an average of 21.6.



39%

Only 39 per cent of chambers analysed have a committee whose name explicitly refers to "youth"

16%

16 per cent of parliaments have a caucus of young MPs.

## Empowering young MPs

An increasing number of young MPs took part in IPU international meetings to promote youth-related outcomes in 2020. Some 25 young speakers of parliament participated in the Speakers' Conference, and 121 young MPs participated in the virtual Governing Council. Meanwhile, young MPs on the Board of the IPU's Forum of Young Parliamentarians promoted the need for more young people in politics and to build back better from COVID-19. They did so at multiple international conferences, including those hosted by the UN, the Community of Democracies, Laureates and Leaders for Children (founded by Nobel prize winner Kailash Satyarthi) and more.

In **Djibouti**, the IPU supported young parliamentarians who had been elected to office in the 2018 elections. A two-day workshop was attended by 70 per cent of the National Assembly's young MPs, developing their leadership and communications skills and helping them integrate youth perspectives into their parliamentary work. Besides building skills, the young MPs produced a roadmap to continue building capacity and to connect more effectively with the country's youth. The plan includes strengthening the parliament's network of young parliamentarians and raising awareness on youth issues too.



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
for democracy for everyone.

# Youth participation in national parliaments

10 years of empowering youth in parliament





## Case study

### **Nigerian youth advances slowly but surely**

With IPU support, Africa's most populous nation, **Nigeria**, is opening its politics up to youth. In 2020, we organized a high-level online conference on strengthening women's and youth participation. Participants committed to adopt constitutional amendments and new legislation that enhances youth representation in both the National Assembly and at local level. Constitutional revisions are due in 2021.

In 2018, Nigeria had already reduced the age of eligibility to stand for election. The 2020 conference was part of ongoing IPU support in Nigeria, including similar conferences in 2017 and 2018.

## ▶▶ The year ahead

In 2021, the IPU will launch a major communications campaign to support intergenerational dialogues on youth policies and empowerment. Young MPs will drive these efforts and contribute to IPU deliberations in 2021.

Online training courses for young MPs will be another priority. We welcome any requests for cooperation from parliaments that would like to empower their youngest members.



## OBJECTIVE 7

# Mobilize parliaments around the global development agenda

Recent data from the UN Economic Commission for Africa indicates that at the current rate of progress the continent is now likely to meet just one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<sup>1</sup> Despite the setbacks – compounded by the pandemic – progress can still be made. All stakeholders, including parliaments, can help to accelerate momentum. In 2020, the IPU continued supporting parliaments to turn the SDGs into reality for their citizens.

<sup>1</sup> Report from the IPU/UNECA webinar “The impact of COVID-19 on SDG implementation in Africa: What role for parliaments?”, 13 November 2020, available at [www.ipu.org/file/10125/download](http://www.ipu.org/file/10125/download).





## Global tools and advocacy for local impact

COVID-19 presents both challenges and opportunities. We worked with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) to produce [a policy note for parliamentarians on green approaches to COVID-19 recovery](#). The policy note suggests multiple possible actions by parliaments for national recovery from COVID-19. If implemented, the suggestions will help countries to meet the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as create new jobs. The IPU has invited parliamentarians to share any experiences and lessons learned to facilitate these green recoveries.



## Our impact

As part of our global engagement on women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health (WCAH), we published an action-oriented [roadmap to help parliamentarians develop solutions on WCAH](#). Produced jointly with the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, an alliance of more than 1,000 organizations, the roadmap helps parliamentary members and staff, for example in **Rwanda**, to spot any legal obstacles that might prevent women, children and adolescents from accessing health care.

We also trained more than 100 parliamentary staff from 12 sub-Saharan countries to understand how legislation can better respond to the needs of women, children and adolescents. The Parliament of **Botswana** subsequently reviewed its legislation on adolescent sexual and reproductive health. Recognizing that COVID-19 has provoked more gender-based violence, the parliament has also been working on new legislation on this topic. In 2020, it passed the Sexual Offenders Registry Bill.

The parliament of **Zambia** organized a seminar to ensure implementation of legislation on nutrition, after the IPU Secretary General, Martin Chungong (a member of the Scaling Up Nutrition movement lead group) urged all parliaments to sustain efforts and investment in nutrition.

As well as supporting the translation of the SDG self-assessment toolkit, we worked with parliamentary members and staff in **Albania, Indonesia** and **Ukraine** to raise awareness and knowledge of the SDGs. Such activities will inform parliamentary self-assessments that will help countries to design and implement their SDG action plans.

## Sustaining development priorities in times of pandemic

Often organized with partners, multiple online events helped build parliamentary capacity for implementation of the Paris Agreement, emergency preparedness, the reduction of disaster risk, and awareness of the SDGs. In 2020, more than 1,400 parliamentarians participated, a record number since we initiated these meetings.

At the regional level, we worked with the UN Economic Commissions for Asia and the Pacific, Africa and the Arab regions to mobilize parliaments in a bid to exchange ideas and build capacity to achieve the SDGs. Attendees included parliamentary members and staff from 46 countries around the world. Some workshops emphasized the role of parliaments in mountainous countries in lessening the impacts of climate change.

Mother and child carrying rice in a village in Central Sulawesi Province, Indonesia. © Basri Marzuki NurPhoto/AFP





We also collaborated with the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and the Global Center on Adaptation to co-organize the inaugural meeting of parliamentarians of the CVF. The event focused on the role of parliaments in the 48 countries most threatened by climate change, including many Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The IPU has paid particular attention to the needs and vulnerabilities of small countries such as SIDS for many years, and a number of political pronouncements have been initiated by SIDS through the IPU.

Building support for parliaments on climate change, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the UNFCCC Secretariat. We also extended an existing agreement with UNEP by five years.

We also continued our cooperation with the World Health Organization, raising awareness and providing COVID-related information to parliaments in some of the key stages of the pandemic. Special attention was paid to the needs of the populations particularly vulnerable to the consequences of

**Key figure:**  
**13**

13 is the number of languages in which the IPU/ UNDP publication [Parliaments and the Sustainable Development Goals: A self-assessment toolkit](#) is available. The toolkit is now the IPU's most translated publication, showing its usefulness to our Members, who in many cases decided to translate it themselves.

the COVID-19 pandemic, such as women, children and adolescents, and the ways in which parliaments can address those vulnerabilities. Child marriage as a common consequence of poverty was a particular focus of our cooperation with the WHO.

**Following up on our commitments**

The [IPU's 2019 resolution on universal health coverage](#) provided a good opportunity for parliamentarians to recommit in 2020, and to discuss how strong health systems can help protect the population during times of emergency. Due for publication in 2021, an accountability report will show implementation of the 2019 resolution. Marginalized and vulnerable populations are worst affected by crises. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the IPU President engaged with the Every Woman Every Child movement to keep attention on the issue.

At the regional level, we followed up with south Asian parliaments on implementation of the Malé Declaration, adopted at the 2019 South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving the SDGs. South Asian parliaments have been making progress on the SDGs, especially on gender equality (SDG 5). Between them, they have passed more than 20 pieces of legislation, especially on the following topics: maternity leave and benefits, parliamentary seats for women, women's property rights, and protection against harassment of women in the workplace.



An IPU 2020 survey found that 58 per cent of parliaments had completed Voluntary National Reviews, progress reports to the UN on implementation of the SDGs. The survey showed an increase in engagement from 38 per cent in 2019, but also how more work is needed to engage parliaments more fully in the process.

*“This has been an excellent session and I would like all heads of government to listen to programmes like this so better quality of health care can be given to the people who need it the most.”*

Mr. Dineshwar Nand Jaiprashad

MP Guyana, on the webinar *Universal health coverage in times of COVID-19 – Parliamentary best practices and challenges*

## ▶▶ The year ahead

The IPU will step up its efforts to rally political will and promote parliamentary engagement with the SDGs. We will focus on turning the global goals into reality, especially through the identification of legislative solutions. Ongoing capacity building for parliaments will continue to be a priority.

### Case study

#### **Rwanda’s parliament takes legislative action on women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health**

An IPU-supported workshop in Rwanda helped to sensitize new members of parliament on key issues for women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health, following elections in January 2020.

Rwanda’s Parliamentary Network for Population and Development is now starting a consultative process to address these gaps. In 2020, the Parliament also revised legislation to enable civil registration at health facilities. Enabling civil registration allows individuals to have a legal identity and thus to access vital services.

The IPU has been collaborating with Rwanda’s parliament on these issues for several years. Collaboration includes capacity development as well as support for community outreach and field visits. Notable results include the 2016 Reproductive Health Law.





## OBJECTIVE 8

# Bridge the democracy gap in international relations

As the UN marked its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in August 2020, IPU members met virtually at the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, reiterating the IPU's commitment to multilateralism. A new series of IPU virtual briefings helped members of parliament understand UN processes. In its relationship with the UN, the IPU continued to focus on peace and security, the SDGs, and gender equality. The IPU continues to help parliaments bridge the gap between international agreements and national legislation.





## Effective engagement with the United Nations

In September, the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly adopted a new Resolution on the UN, national parliaments and the IPU. The Resolution acknowledged the need to bridge the gap between international commitments and in-country implementation through national laws and budgets. It also recognized the IPU’s work with parliaments on the COVID-19 pandemic as well as promotion of universal health coverage. Furthermore, it called for closer cooperation between the UN and the IPU to advance the SDGs.

In September 2020, the IPU President delivered four video messages to major UN meetings: the UN75 Summit, the High-Level Meeting on Biodiversity, the meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration on gender equality and the High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament.

### Our impact: Virtual briefings for parliamentarians on the UN

Throughout the year, we organized virtual briefings for members of parliament to help them better understand UN processes, such as negotiations and reforms. Officials of the UN, ambassadors and other experts all participated in the meetings, which have the objective of making the UN more open to national parliaments. The use of online platforms helped ensure wider participation by parliaments and experts alike.

The first briefing, for example, focused on SDG 1 – poverty – and showed how the UN can expand its poverty definitions to better capture the real number of poor in the world.

For the second briefing, which focused on the UN peacebuilding architecture, UN officials and experts briefed more than 100 parliamentarians from around the world.

## High-Level Political Forum

The UN’s annual High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) examines national progress on the SDGs. The IPU has consistently advocated for parliaments to play a stronger role. On 15 July, some 100 parliamentarians participated in a virtual Parliamentary Forum at the HLPF entitled *The Big Reset: Learning from COVID-19 to Fast Track the SDGs*. The meeting tracked the HLPF’s main theme, looking at factors which explain the mixed record of progress on the SDGs. MPs agreed that the pandemic offers an opportunity to build back better and that the SDGs offer a solid framework for successful economies.

The IPU’s 2020 report on parliamentary engagement in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) demonstrated that more parliaments than ever are engaged in assessing their national progress towards the SDGs. Nevertheless, it also showed that more work is needed to strengthen parliamentary oversight of this important process. Out of 26 survey respondents, just over 50 per cent of parliaments (14) provided input into the VNR process.



**Key figure:**  
**76**  
76 countries co-sponsored a new Resolution at the UN General Assembly on interaction between the UN, national parliaments and the IPU.

The IPU’s 2020 Parliamentary Hearing, an annual forum to connect parliamentarians and the UN, held in February.  
© IPU/Joel Sheakoski

## Annual Parliamentary Hearing

At the beginning of the year, the IPU's 2020 Parliamentary Hearing, an annual forum to connect parliamentarians and the UN, was attended by 200 parliamentarians at the UN Headquarters in New York. Participating parliamentarians joined UNESCO officials, ambassadors, experts and civil society representatives to identify parliamentary action on the theme of the role of education in peace and sustainable development.

### Case study

#### UN75

As the UN celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary by looking at ways to reform, the IPU contributed by sharing insights and ideas from its members. The IPU shared conclusions and messages, for example, from its Fifth World Conference of Speakers, its Annual Hearing and by responding to the UN75 Declaration.

## Engaging with world trade

As COVID-19 severely hit the world economy and international trade, many people were plunged into extreme and multidimensional poverty. At a November panel to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Trade Organization (WTO), IPU Secretary General, Martin Chungong said the pandemic had presented meaningful opportunities to rethink global trade.

Possible opportunities included making the WTO and global trade more transparent and inclusive; accelerating discussions to make the WTO's Appellate Body and Dispute Settlement Body fully operational, and changing regulation to make microcredit more accessible for women and youth.

On the WTO, the IPU organized a webinar for some 150 delegates, including 80 parliamentarians from about 30 parliaments. The webinar identified possible ways forward to develop sustainable trade policies to combat poverty, focusing on equal access to vaccines against COVID-19.

*"Rethinking multilateralism and engaging more women and youth in a context of open trade and inclusive economies will be key to the post-COVID-19 recovery."*

Ms. Angelique Ngoma  
Member of Parliament, Gabon



## Thu 3 Dec 2020 14:00–16:00 CET

# WEBINAR

### The global post-COVID-19 economy: Devising sustainable trade policies to support the fight against poverty

According to recent data from the World Trade Organization (WTO), global trade suffered a sharp contraction in the first half of 2020 and has continued to decline in the second half, with a drop of 14 per cent in volume and 21 per cent in value.

The webinar is organized as a parliamentary contribution to global mobilization to tackle the economic consequences of the pandemic.

Besides garnering parliamentary contributions to the global response to the pandemic, this webinar will explore the possibilities of maintaining the stability of global value chains – essential components of restoring global trade.

**Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO**

- Ms. Margaret Mensah-Williams** Member of the National Assembly of Namibia
- Mr. Bernd Lange** Member of the European Parliament

**Guest speakers**

- Ms. Kathleen Van Brempt** Member of the European Parliament
- Senator Juan Antonio Coloma** (Chile)
- Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton** Executive Director, International Trade Centre

Please send an e-mail to [postbox@ipu.org](mailto:postbox@ipu.org) to confirm your participation.



## ▶▶ The year ahead

Building on our successful 2020 virtual briefings for parliamentarians, we will host more briefings in 2021, aiming to engage more and more parliamentarians. The 2021 virtual Annual Parliamentary Hearing, which took place in February, will contribute to the UN Special Session on Corruption in June.

We will also organize a parliamentary session on the occasion of the WTO Public Forum which will address *Trade beyond COVID-19: Building Resilience* in September.

In addition, we will organize a Parliamentary Conference on the occasion of the WTO 12<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference during the week of 29 November 2021.



# Towards universal membership

## Members (179)

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

## Associate Members (13)

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

\* The membership rights of Honduras and Papua New Guinea are now suspended due to arrears of three or more years of contributions (non-participating Members).

## Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments

The Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP) brings together Secretaries General and other senior office holders in charge of parliamentary services. It studies the law, procedure, practice and working methods of different parliaments and proposes measures for improvement and for securing cooperation between the services of different parliaments. It is a consultative body of the IPU, and the ASGP President reports annually to the IPU Executive Committee on the ASGP's activities. The ASGP assists the IPU on subjects within the scope of the Association. Studies carried out by the IPU relating to parliamentary law and practices are routinely shared with the ASGP and benefit from its input. Under the presidency of Mr. Philippe Schwab, Secretary General of the National Council of Switzerland, the ASGP collaborated closely with the IPU. Secretaries General are closely involved in the Centre for Innovation in Parliament. At each Assembly, the ASGP helps to organize meetings of the parliamentary hubs within the Centre, as well as coordination meetings with the Secretaries General of parliaments that are hosting hubs. The ASGP is formally an observer to the Steering Committee that provides strategic advice to the Centre about ways to support innovation in parliament. Secretaries General also contribute to the enhanced use and application of the Ten Common Principles for Support to Parliaments. Members of the ASGP regularly provide substantial support to many of the parliamentary capacity-building projects carried out by the IPU, and contribute to the IPU's research into policy measures to combat violence against women in parliament. In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic meant that the ASGP was unable to meet. The IPU and the ASGP jointly organized an online meeting in February 2021 to examine the adaptation of parliaments in a time of pandemic, in which more than 70 Secretaries General participated.

# IPU Executive Committee



**Mr. D. Pacheco** (PORTUGAL)  
Ex-Officio President  
End of mandate: Nov 2023



**Mr. G. Chen** (CHINA)  
Vice-President of the Executive Committee  
End of mandate: Oct 2022



**Mr. J. F. N. Mudenda** (ZIMBABWE)  
IPU Vice-President, African Group  
End of mandate: Oct 2023



**Mr. A. Saidov** (UZBEKISTAN)  
IPU Vice-President, Eurasia Group  
End of mandate: Oct 2023



**Mr. D. McGuinty** (CANADA)  
IPU Vice-President, Twelve Plus Group  
End of mandate: Oct 2021



**Mr. G. Gali Ngothé** (CHAD)  
Member  
End of mandate: Oct 2022



**Mr. J.P. Letelier** (CHILE)  
Member  
End of mandate: Oct 2023



**Mr. R. Rabbani** (PAKISTAN)  
Member  
End of mandate: Oct 2023



**Ms. A.D. Mergane Kanouté** (SENEGAL)  
Member  
End of mandate: Apr 2023



**Mr. M. Grujic** (SERBIA)  
Member  
End of mandate: Oct 2022



**Ms. C. Widegren** (SWEDEN)  
Member  
End of mandate: Oct 2023



**Ms. L. Fehlmann Rielle** (SWITZERLAND)  
Member  
End of mandate: Oct 2021



**Ms. P. Krairiksh** (THAILAND)  
Member  
End of mandate: Oct 2023



**Ms. E. Anyakun** (UGANDA)  
Member  
End of mandate: Oct 2023



**Ms. B. Argimón** (URUGUAY)  
Member  
End of mandate: Oct 2024

## Resource mobilization: How is the IPU funded?

The IPU's work to promote peace, democracy and sustainable development is financed primarily by our Members and Associate Members. We also receive a growing amount of voluntary contributions from governments, development agencies, UN bodies and foundations. Several donors have provided multi-year funding agreements that were active during 2020. These include the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the European Union,

Irish Aid, and the Governments of Angola, China, Kuwait, Micronesia and Switzerland. Partnerships with the UN family, particularly UNDP, WHO, UNOCT, UNODA, UNODC and UN Women, deliver support to a number of country-level programmes. The Republic of Korea continued to offer support in terms of secondment of senior research staff to the IPU. The IPU remains committed to looking for more voluntary funding to help meet its strategic objectives.

# IPU specialized meetings in 2020

161<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians  
20–30 January 2020  
Geneva Switzerland

[2020 Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the UN](#)  
17 and 18 February 2020  
New York, NY United States



## Virtual events

[One planet, one humanity: Webinar on International Day of Multilateralism](#)  
24 April 2020

[Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic: Parliamentary action to reduce risks, strengthen emergency preparedness and increase resilience](#)  
28 April 2020

Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians  
25–29 May 2020

[Information seminar on the structure and functioning of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for French-speaking participants](#)  
15–19 June 2020

International Day of Parliamentarism and IPU's 131<sup>st</sup> Anniversary  
30 June 2020

[Strengthening the capacities of parliamentary staff in sub-Saharan Africa to support engagement with women's, children's and adolescents' health](#)  
24 June–02 July 2020

[Webinar: Building back better: Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic to enhance the role of parliaments in disaster risk reduction](#)  
9 July 2020

[Engaging parliaments on the promotion of human rights including on the work of the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review \(UPR\)](#)  
13–14 July 2020

[Parliamentary Forum on the occasion of the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#)  
15 July 2020

[Webinar for the Asia-Pacific Region Parliaments: The impact of COVID-19 on SDG implementation in Asia-Pacific: What role for parliaments?](#)  
28 July 2020

[13<sup>th</sup> Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament](#)  
17 and 18 August 2020

[Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament](#)  
19 and 20 August 2020

[Climate Legislation Webinar Series – Webinar 1: Compliance and implementation under the Paris Agreement](#)  
27 August 2020

[COVID-19 and democracy: Can parliaments come to the rescue?](#)  
15 September 2020

[Climate Legislation Webinar Series – Webinar 2: Law and governance approaches within the ocean–climate nexus](#)  
17 September 2020

[Parliaments and the UN: The way forward](#)  
17 September 2020

[Parliamentary Responses to Solutions for Forced Displacement in the IGAD Region](#)  
30 September 2020

[Climate Legislation Webinar Series – Webinar 3: Legislative approaches in ensuring social stability in communities facing climate-induced risks](#)  
8 October 2020

[Briefing for MPs on UN processes: SDG 1 and the UN definition of poverty](#)  
20 October 2020

162<sup>nd</sup> session of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians  
22–31 October 2020

[Parliamentary Roundtable at the Internet Governance Forum \(IGF\)](#)  
10 November 2020

[IPU-ECA Webinar for parliaments in Africa – The impact of COVID-19 on SDG implementation in Africa: What role for Parliaments?](#)  
13 November 2020

[Universal health coverage in times of COVID-19 – Parliamentary best practices and challenges](#)  
17 November 2020

[Briefing for MPs on UN processes 2: Reviewing UN peacebuilding](#)  
18 November 2020

[Engaging parliaments on the promotion of human rights including on the work of the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review \(UPR\)](#)

17 and 18 November 2020

[Young women's political participation and leadership](#)

18 November 2020

[Eliminating Violence against Women in Politics: What works and what doesn't?](#)

25 November 2020

[Webinar for the Arab Region Parliaments: The impact of COVID-19 on SDG implementation and the role of parliaments](#)

26 November 2020

[The global post-COVID-19 economy: Devising sustainable trade policies to support the fight against poverty](#)

3 December 2020

[Measuring inclusive decision making: Using administrative data to measure representation in the legislature, public service and the judiciary](#)

8 December 2020

[Third Expert Roundtable on the Common Principles for Support to Parliaments](#)

9 December 2020

[Webinar: Climate change adaptation in mountain areas: What role is there for parliamentarians?](#)

11 December 2020



# Financial results

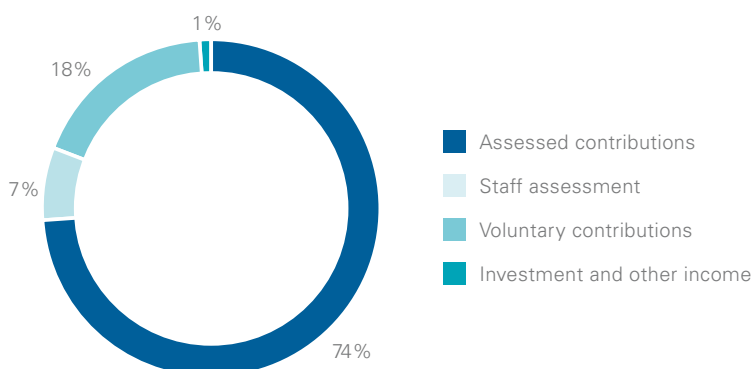
## Financing

The IPU is financed primarily through the annual assessed contributions from Member Parliaments. Additional revenue is derived from the internal staff assessment, programme support cost charges, interest, fund income and meeting room rentals. In line with International Public Sector Accounting Standards, the IPU no longer recognizes the staff assessment element as either income or expenditure in its Statement of Financial Performance but utilizes it for budgetary purposes.

In addition, the IPU also solicits bilateral and multilateral donors for voluntary funding that is used to finance technical cooperation projects and activities. A summary of revenue sources for 2020 is presented below, including staff assessment for expenditure comparison.

### IPU Revenues by Source (budget basis)

	CHF (Swiss francs)	%
Assessed contributions	10,936,476	74%
Working capital fund	0	0%
Staff assessment	977,015	7%
Voluntary contributions	2,695,169	18%
Investment and other income	85,471	1%
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>14,694,131</b>	



# Expenditures

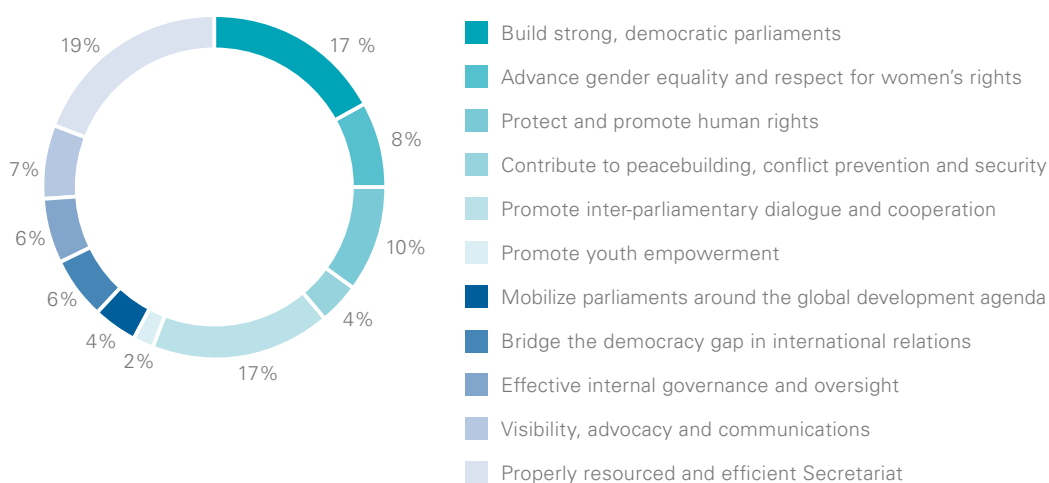
IPU expenditures are dedicated to achieving the strategic objectives of the Organization. A breakdown of expenditures by strategic objective and enablers is shown in the following chart, which includes staff assessment for comparison.

## IPU Expenditures by Strategic Objective (budget basis)

	CHF (Swiss francs)	%
Build strong, democratic parliaments	2,189,889	17%
Advance gender equality and respect for women's rights	1,095,141	8%
Protect and promote human rights	1,264,759	10%
Contribute to peacebuilding, conflict prevention and security	525,566	4%
Promote inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation	2,222,257	17%
Promote youth empowerment	210,043	2%
Mobilize parliaments around the global development agenda	542,904	4%
Bridge the democracy gap in international relations	799,223	6%
Effective internal governance and oversight	782,456	6%
Visibility, advocacy and communications	999,907	7%
Gender mainstreaming and a rights-based approach	5,683	0%
Properly resourced and efficient Secretariat	2,517,452	19%
Other charges and eliminations	15,834	0%

### Total expenses

**13,171,114**



# Financial statements

The consolidated financial statements of IPU and its legacy Pension Fund for 2020 are prepared in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) on a full accrual and going-concern basis. The organization's financial statements are audited annually by IPU's external auditor under mandate from the Executive Committee. The external auditor is appointed from a national audit office, currently the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

This is the ninth year in which the IPU financial statements have been consolidated with the legacy Pension Fund and prepared in full compliance with IPSAS.

Further information on the IPU's financial processes, including its annual financial statements and consolidated budgets, is available at: <https://www.ipu.org/about-us/structure/secretariat/budget-and-finance>

## The IPU and closed Pension Fund

Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2020 in CHF (Swiss francs)

	2020	2019
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash on hand	14,874	14,483
Cash in current accounts	9,764,131	4,746,575
Cash held by investment fund manager	414,496	392,773
Term deposits and savings accounts	534,886	4,738,919
Sub-total cash and cash equivalents	10,728,388	9,892,751
Accounts receivable		
From Members	1,123,263	805,643
From donors	2,089,986	3,923,433
From tax reimbursements	353	52,313
Others	32,137	17,704
Sub-total accounts receivable	3,245,739	4,799,093
Investments	6,264,691	6,945,168
Other current assets	286,301	85,749
Sub-total current assets	20,525,118	21,722,760
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Fixed assets		
Building and grounds	7,771,817	8,029,536
Furnishings	11,073	17,510
General equipment	28,233	43,633
IT equipment	108,930	71,248
Vehicles	–	4,575
	7,920,053	8,166,503
Intangible assets	192,958	252,332
Accounts receivable from donors	176,600	
Sub-total non-current assets	8,289,611	8,418,835
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>28,814,729</b>	<b>30,141,595</b>

	2020	2019
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued payables	281,097	343,077
Advances from Members	189,744	268,467
Deferred revenue	3,436,333	5,492,408
Loans	189,600	189,600
Sub-total current liabilities	4,096,774	6,293,552
Borrowings long term	4,862,464	4,992,470
Deferred revenue	176,600	
Closed Pension Fund	11,335,624	11,958,951
Other employee benefits	1,382,061	1,431,981
Sub-total non-current liabilities	17,756,748	18,383,401
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>21,853,522</b>	<b>24,676,953</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		
Restricted funds	441,619	437,909
Actuarial gain (loss) recognized in net assets	-4,493,111	-4,262,739
Accumulated fund balance (Working Capital Fund after contribution)	11,012,704	9,289,478
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>6,961,212</b>	<b>5,464,647</b>

### The IPU and closed Pension Fund

Statement of Financial Performance at 31 December 2020 in CHF (Swiss francs)

	2020	2019
<b>Revenue</b>		
Assessed contributions	10,936,476	10,526,650
Voluntary contributions	2,695,169	3,003,257
Investment income	221,683	679,128
Other income	75,165	23,439
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>13,928,494</b>	<b>14,232,474</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Personnel expenditure – permanent staff	8,045,118	8,123,114
Personnel expenditure – temporary staff	2,559,781	2,833,084
Change in closed pension fund provision	-853,699	-823,368
Travel expenditure	250,762	1,237,460
Contractual services	867,932	732,690
Operating expenses	416,189	643,993
Supplies, materials and equipment	112,028	103,985
Allowance for doubtful accounts	211,283	71,747
Grants and honoraria	59,250	92,773
Depreciation and amortization of assets	426,610	406,572
Amortization of loan	59,594	61,072
Statutory write-off of Member contributions	–	187,860
Loss on foreign exchange	46,710	30,167
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>12,201,558</b>	<b>13,701,149</b>
<b>Operating surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>1,726,937</b>	<b>531,325</b>





# 2020 publications

## Issues Briefs

- [Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Europe](#) (now available in Arabic)
- [Sexism, harassment and violence against women parliamentarians](#) (now available in Arabic)

## Handbooks

- [Eliminating Forced Labour: Handbook for Parliamentarians No. 30](#)
- [Road map for action on women's, children's and adolescents' health No. 31](#)

## Toolkits

- [Evaluating the gender sensitivity of parliaments: A self-assessment toolkit](#) (now available in Armenian, Serbian and Ukrainian)
- [Parliaments and the Sustainable Development Goals: A self-assessment toolkit](#) (now available in Armenian, Bahasa, Lao, Ukrainian and Portuguese)

## Reports

- [Green approaches to COVID-19 recovery: Policy note for parliamentarians](#)
- [Celebrating 130 years of the IPU: Anniversary Book](#)
- [Overall Activities Report of the Presidency, 2017–2020](#)
- [Accountability report, IPU President Activities: Translating together international commitments into national realities](#)
- [Impact Report 2019](#)
- [Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament: Report on the virtual meeting, 19-20 August 2020](#)
- [Women in parliament: 1995–2020 - 25 years in review](#)
- [Engaging parliaments of the Pacific region in the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540](#)

## Reference publications

- [Putting parliamentary self-development into practice](#)
- [Comparative research paper on parliamentary administration](#)

## Guidelines

- [Guidelines for enhancing the engagement and contribution of parliaments to effective development cooperation](#)
- [Guidelines for the elimination of sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament](#) (now available in Turkish, Korean and Arabic)

## Infographics

- [Violations of the human rights of MPs – 2020](#)
- [Women in Politics: 2020](#)

## Guidance notes

- [Gender and COVID-19: A guidance note for parliaments](#)
- [Human rights and COVID-19: A guidance note for parliaments](#)

# IPU collections

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

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

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

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

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

**Reference publications** are designed as guidelines to help support parliamentary development.

**Guidelines** are aimed to turn attention from analysis to solutions. They support and better equip parliaments in efforts to put their own houses in order.

**Infographics** are usually in the form of maps to highlight visually a particular theme.

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