



## AGENDA

# International Conference on Benchmarking and Self-Assessment for Democratic Parliaments

2-4 March 2010

*Organized by the World Bank Institute (WBI) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*

*Hosted by the World Bank Institute*

*In partnership with the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MAEE); the European Parliament Office for the Promotion of Parliamentary Democracy (OPPD); the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU); the Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF); the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA); and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)*



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### Context

International consensus has emerged over time around a standards-based approach in the areas of human rights and elections (despite the wide variation in electoral systems). Yet until recently a standards-based approach around what constitutes a democratic parliament, arguably the central institution of any representative democracy, has lagged behind. Many parliaments today are seeking to improve their performance – among other things, to become more open, independent, accountable, and responsive. Although every parliament is a product of its own country's history and culture, certain norms and standards

regarding democratic parliaments transcend the particularity of political and legislative systems. Today a range of inter-parliamentary and other organizations worldwide recognize that the development of such standards can contribute to parliament's own evaluative and reform efforts, as well as guide parliamentary development practitioners and donors in designing more appropriate support programmes. Moreover, this work is useful in further internationalizing the debate on what constitutes a democratic parliament and democracy in general.

### Conference Objectives

- Identify areas of internationally agreed consensus among the current sets of standards and principles, and areas of potential further consensus.
- Examine national case studies and draw a first set of lessons of experience.
- Broaden the research agenda and encourage future applications of the different frameworks at the national level.
- Bring in regional parliamentary perspectives to the dialogue on standards for democratic parliaments.
- Invite additional regional inter-parliamentary organizations to join the process to ensure broad representation and ownership.

<b>Tuesday, March 2</b>	
<b>All day</b>	<b>Arrival of participants</b>
<b>18:00-20:00</b>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="margin-right: 20px;">  </div> <div> <p><b>Launch of the Portal AGORA</b>  <b>Hosted by:</b> the Assemblée Nationale, the MAEE, UK Department for International Development (DFID), and UNDP</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Assemblée Nationale, Jacques Chaban-Delmas building, Salle Lamartine, 101 Rue de l'Université, 75005 Paris</p> <p>This will be the first official presentation of <b>AGORA</b> to the international community. Agora is a unique multi-lateral initiative promoting global leadership on, and advocating for, parliamentary development. It consolidates expertise, knowledge and know-how in one stand-alone tool for parliaments, parliamentarians, donors, practitioners, academics, CSO, media or other actors interested in parliamentary development. In addition, Agora promotes parliamentary institutions as important potential drivers of change in development policies.</p> <p><b>17:30 – 18:00 Arrival and Registration</b></p> <p><b>18:00 – 18:30 Opening and Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b> <i>Bernard Accoyer, MP, France, Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i></li> <li>• <b>Statements by</b> <i>Olav Kjørven, Assistant Secretary-General and Director, Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP</i> <i>Jacques Legendre, Secrétaire général parlementaire de l'APF</i> <i>Dr. William F. Shija, Secretary-General, CPA</i></li> <li>• The discussion will be moderated by <i>Gérard Leclerc, Président, Chaîne Parlementaire, Assemblée Nationale</i></li> </ul> </div> </div>

	<p><b>18 :30-18:50 Presentation of Agora</b></p> <p><b>18:50 – 19:10</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>e-Launch</b> <i>Hon. Abdirahin H. Abdi, MLA, Speaker, East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)</i></li> <li>• <b>Supporting remarks</b> <i>Antonio Vigilante, Director, UN/UNDP Brussels Office</i> <i>Stefan Kossoff, Senior Governance Adviser, DFID</i> <i>Georges Serre, Deputy Director of Globalization, Development and Partnerships, MAEE</i></li> </ul> <p><b>19:10 – 20:00 Reception</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laptops will be available for participants to try Agora</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wednesday, March 3</b></p>	
<p><b>8:30-9:00</b></p>	<p><b>Registration</b></p> <p><b>Venue:</b> World Bank Paris Office, Salle A, 66 Avenue d'Iéna</p>
<p><b>9:00 – 9:30</b></p>	<p><b>Opening Addresses</b> <i>Olav Kjørven, Assistant Secretary-General and Director, Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP</i> <i>Cyrille Pierre, Deputy Director, Global Economy and Development Strategies Department, MAEE</i></p>
<p><b>9:30- 9:45</b></p>	<p><b>Welcome and Objectives</b></p> <p><b>Facilitator</b>     <i>Rick Stapenhurst, Senior Public Sector Management Specialist, Parliamentary Strengthening Program, WBI</i></p>
<p><b>9:45 – 11:15</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment Frameworks for Democratic Parliaments – the Global Landscape</b></p> <p>This session provides an introduction to the major benchmarks and self-assessment frameworks developed by different parliamentary organizations. Representatives of CPA, APF and IPU will introduce their tools, how they were developed, methodologies for use, and how they are continuing to take this work forward. The presentations will be followed by a discussion period.</p> <p><b>Facilitator</b>     <i>Ghassan Moukhaiber, MP, Lebanon</i> <b>Presenters</b>     <i>Dr. William F. Shija, Secretary-General, CPA</i> <i>Senator Pierre de Bané, P.C., Q.C., Canada, Chair, APF Parliamentary Affairs Committee</i> <i>David Beetham, IPU Consultant</i></p>

11:15 – 11:30	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>
11:30 – 12:30	<p><b>Assessment Frameworks for Democratic Parliaments – Common Themes</b></p> <p>This session will look at the thematic areas of consensus that have emerged from the work on benchmarking and self-assessment tools. These include for example, principles related to parliaments’ core representative, legislative, and oversight functions, as well as parliamentary committees, parliamentary staff, parliaments’ budget and infrastructure, among others.</p> <p><b>Facilitator</b>     <i>Katri Komi, MP, Finland, Chair Inter-Parliamentary Union Finnish Group</i></p> <p><b>Presenter</b>     <i>Scott Hubli, Director of Governance Programs, NDI</i></p>
12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch</b>
13:30 – 15:30	<p><b>Regional Perspectives on Benchmarks from Europe, Southern Africa, Asia, and the Pacific</b></p> <p>The frameworks are “living documents” and the dialogue on benchmarking and self-assessment continues at the regional level. This session will explore some of the regional discussions, and in some cases adaptations, in Europe, Southern Africa, Asia and the Pacific. Other regional inter-parliamentary organizations represented at the conference will then have the opportunity to participate in a discussion.</p> <p><b>Facilitator</b>     <i>Hon. Abdirahin H. Abdi, MLA, Speaker, East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)</i></p> <p><b>Presenters</b>     <i>Andreas Gross, MP, Switzerland, Rapporteur on the Assessment of the Quality of PACE Parliaments, Member and former Chair of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)</i>  <i>John Greenway, MP, United Kingdom, Member and former Chair of the Committee on Rules of Procedure, Immunities and Institutional Affairs, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)</i>  <i>Denis Petit, Deputy Head, Democratization Department, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)</i>  <i>Dr. Esau Chiviya, Secretary General, SADC Parliamentary Forum</i>  <i>Hon. Taomati Iuta, MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Kiribati</i>  <i>Dr. Srutinath Praharaj, MLA, West Bengal Legislative Assembly</i></p>
15:30 – 15:45	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>
15:45 – 17:00	<p><b>IPU National Case Studies: Rwanda and Pakistan</b></p> <p>This session will highlight some of the ways that Parliament’s have used, or are using, the IPU toolkit and initial lessons learned. Both Houses of the Parliament of Rwanda used the toolkit to bring fresh perspectives into their strategic planning exercises. A Pakistani think tank, the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT), used the IPU toolkit in partnership with Parliament of Pakistan to conduct an assessment of Parliament.</p>

	<p><b>Facilitator</b> <i>Martin Chungong, Director, Division for the Promotion of Democracy, IPU</i></p> <p><b>Presenters</b> <i>Hon. Faisal Karim Kundi, MP, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan</i>  <i>Greg Power, Director, Global Partners and Associates (on the Rwandan Parliament's Self-Assessment)</i></p>
<b>17:00 – 18:00</b>	<p><b>Discussion of, and first contributions to, the draft participants' statement</b></p> <p><b>Facilitator</b> <i>Niall Johnston, Bangladesh Team Leader, Parliamentary Strengthening Program , WBI</i></p>
<b>18:00-19:30</b>	<b>Cocktail offered by the European Parliament Office for the Promotion of Parliamentary Democracy</b>
<b>Thursday, March 4</b>	
<b>9:00-9:30</b>	<p><b>Welcome and summary of the previous day's discussions</b></p> <p><b>Facilitator</b> <i>Kevin Deveaux, Parliamentary Development Policy Adviser, UNDP</i></p>
<b>9:30 – 11:00</b>	<p><b>Case Studies from CPA Parliaments</b></p> <p>This session will highlight experiences from Parliaments that have applied the CPA benchmarks.</p> <p><b>Facilitator</b> <i>Dr. William F. Shija, Secretary General, CPA</i></p> <p><b>Presenters</b> <i>Hon. Taomati Iuta, MP, Speaker of the Parliament of Kiribati</i>  <i>Dame Jennifer Smith, DBE, JP, DHumL., MP, Deputy Speaker, Bermuda House of Assembly</i>  <i>Jill Anne Joseph, Deputy Principal Clerk and Manager, Strategic Planning Office, Senate of Canada</i></p>
<b>11:00 – 11:30</b>	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>
<b>11:30 – 13:00</b>	<p><b>NDI National Case Studies: Latin America and the Balkans Parliamentary Benchmarks and Civil Society</b></p> <p>Using a selection of 25 of the most common standards, NDI developed a survey tool which examines the perceptions of MPs, parliamentary staff, and civil society organizations representatives regarding the gap between legislative power and practice. To date, the survey tool has been piloted in four countries: Colombia, Guatemala, Peru, and Serbia. It shows a relatively widespread gap between how parliamentarians see themselves and how civil society organizations view parliament with respect to the parliamentary benchmarks, although this gap varies by country and by benchmark. This gap between parliamentary and CSO perceptions is also often reflected in an overly adversarial approach by CSOs who engage in parliamentary monitoring, through the use of scorecards or other methodologies. WBI and NDI have</p>

	<p>also partnered to conduct a global mapping of CSOs engaged in parliamentary monitoring and identify good parliamentary monitoring practices. This work suggests that there is value in engaging parliamentary monitoring organizations in discussions regarding parliamentary benchmarks in order to improve the quality and usefulness of their monitoring efforts. This session will discuss these survey findings, as well as initial findings from the WBI-NDI global mapping of parliamentary monitoring organizations, and will include a discussion of possible recommendations for civil society engagement on parliamentary benchmarks.</p> <p><b>Facilitator</b> <i>Hristina Runceva, MP, Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia</i>  <b>Presenters</b> <i>Robert Benjamin, Director, Central and Eastern Europe, NDI</i>  <i>Andrew Mandelbaum, Joint NDI and WBI Consultant, Parliamentary Monitoring Organization Mapping Project</i></p>
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14:00 – 15:30</b>	<p><b>What Role for Donors – Using the Frameworks to Improve Parliamentary Development Support</b></p> <p>The work on benchmarking and self-assessment has been followed closely by donors, including in annual donor coordination meetings on parliamentary development. It is important that donor support to parliaments reflect a shared international consensus on the nature of democratic parliaments - rather than donors consciously or unconsciously seeking to mold parliaments in programme countries in their own image. While the different frameworks have been designed for use by all parliaments, it is hoped that they will play a special role in guiding parliamentary development practitioners and donors in designing better support programmes. The challenge today is to operationalize the existing frameworks in a coordinated fashion as tools to inform the design or evaluation of parliamentary strengthening programmes. Donor representatives in this panel will discuss ways to address this challenge, as well as their own work in this field.</p> <p><b>Facilitator</b> <i>Laurence Païs, Democratic Governance Mission, French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs</i>  <b>Presenters</b> <i>Keith Schultz, Legislative Strengthening Advisor, USAID</i>  <i>Thomas Huyghebaert, Advisor for Democracy Support, European Commission</i>  <i>Rasheed Draman, Director, Africa Programmes, Parliamentary Centre</i></p>
<b>15:30 – 16:00</b>	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>
<b>16:00 – 17:30</b>	<p><b>Wrap-up, Lessons, and Recommendations for the Way Forward</b></p> <p><b>Facilitators</b> <i>Rick Stapenhurst, Senior Public Sector Management Specialist, WBI</i>  <i>and Kevin Deveaux, Parliamentary Development Policy Adviser, UNDP</i></p>
<b>17:30 – 18:00</b>	<b>Adoption of the Participants' Statement</b>