



State of
DEMOCRACY
in Pakistan

PILDAT
REPORT

Evaluation of Parliament
2008-2009

Using IPU Self-Assessment Toolkit for Parliaments

Evaluation of the National Assembly of Pakistan

By Faisal Karim Kundi

Deputy Speaker, National Assembly of Pakistan

October 22, 2009

- ❖ Introduced in 2008 by the IPU
- ❖ Objectives:
 - Evaluate Parliament against an international criteria
 - Identify priorities & means to strengthen Parliament
- ❖ Based on 48 Questions grouped under 6 Topics
- ❖ Each Question to be graded on a five-point scale

Scenarios of Evaluation & Pakistan Scenario

- ❖ IPU Toolkit mentions 6 fictional scenarios of evaluation
- ❖ Pakistan Evaluation follows one of the scenarios
- ❖ Scenario 6: Assessment of Parliament by an NGO
- ❖ Evaluation undertaken by a prominent independent Pakistani Think Tank: PILDAT: Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development And Transparency (www.pildat.org) working closely with Parliamentarians

- ❖ **An independent non-profit Research & Training organization formed in 2001**
- ❖ **Stated Mission: To Strengthen Democracy & Democratic Institutions**
- ❖ **Parliamentary Strengthening & Parliamentary Performance Monitoring are 2 key Programmes of PILDAT**

Participants in the Evaluation Process

- ❖ 28 – member group assembled to evaluate
- ❖ 14 Parliamentarians from 5 political parties or groups
- ❖ 2 veteran parliamentary reporters;
- ❖ 3 senior academics;
- ❖ 2 senior journalists;
- ❖ 2 lawyers;
- ❖ 1 former military commander
- ❖ 2 PILDAT staff

The Process

- ❖ **PILDAT initiated the process by taking Assembly leadership into confidence & requesting me to be a part of the evaluation group**
 - **Broad-based participation due to Multi-party legislators**

1. Representativeness of the National Assembly

- ❖ Total Questions: **9**
- ❖ Overall Score by the participants: **55 %**
- ❖ Weakest Aspect: Near impossibility of a person of average means to get elected to the Parliament: **28 %**
- ❖ Strongest Aspect: Composition of the National Assembly is representative of Women: **71 %**
(76 or 22% women)

2. Parliamentary Oversight over Executive

- ❖ Total Questions: **8**
- ❖ Overall Score by the participants: **49 %**
- ❖ Weakest Aspect: Inability to scrutinise executive appointments: **35 %**
- ❖ Strongest Aspect: Autonomy of National Assembly: **64 %**

3. Parliament's Legislative Capacity

- ❖ Total Questions: **7**
- ❖ Overall Score by the participants: **53 %**
- ❖ Weakest Aspect: Weak process to consult various interest groups over legislation: **44 %**
- ❖ Strongest Aspect: Satisfactory Parliamentary Procedures for Full and Open Debate on Legislation in the Assembly: **56 %**

4. Transparency & Accessibility of Assembly

- ❖ Total Questions: **7**
- ❖ Overall Score by the participants: **55 %**
- ❖ Weakest Aspect: Very little Opportunity to citizens' direct involvement in legislation through citizens' initiatives: **37 %**
- ❖ Strongest Aspect: Ample freedom to journalists in reporting on the Assembly & its members: **55 %**

5. Accountability of the National Assembly

- ❖ Total Questions: **7**
- ❖ Overall Score by the participants: **42 %** (Second Lowest)
- ❖ Weakest Aspects: a) Transparency of procedures to prevent conflict of interest; b) Oversight of funding to candidates & parties: **39 %** score each
- ❖ Strongest Aspect: Observance of agreed Code of Conduct by members: **49 %** Score

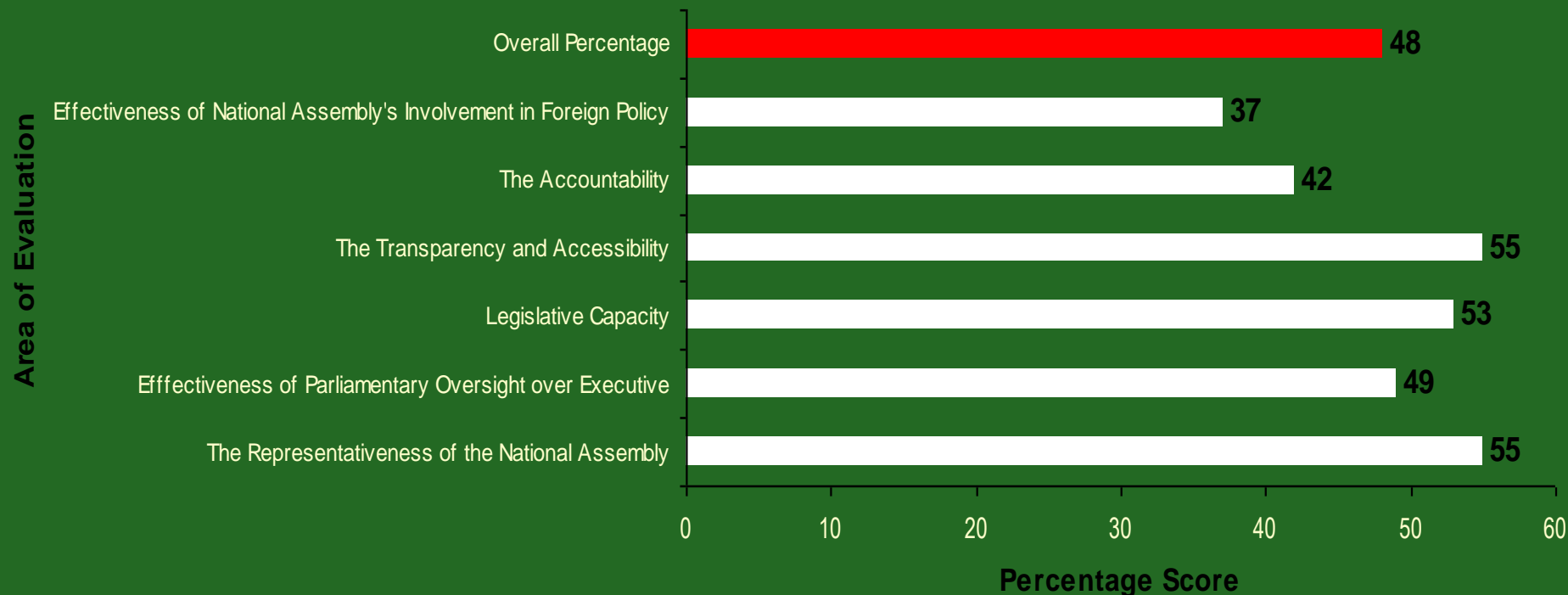
6. Parliament's involvement in International Policy

- ❖ Total Questions: **10**
- ❖ Overall Score by the participants: **37 %** (Lowest)
- ❖ Weakest Aspect: Weak or non-existent parliamentary oversight of deployment of country's armed forces abroad: **30 %** score
- ❖ Strongest Aspect: Effectiveness in inter-parliamentary cooperation: **48 %** Score

Evaluation Results

Overall Assessment: **48 %**

Evaluation of the Parliament



Synopsis of Recommendations

- ❖ **Total 11 Recommendations**
- ❖ **Recommendations on Various Aspects:**
 - **Representativeness of the Assembly: 1**
 - **Parliamentary Oversight over Executive: 3**
 - **Legislative Capacity: 3**
 - **Accountability of National Assembly: 3**
 - **Assembly's Involvement in Foreign Policy: 1**

Recommendations

- 1. Election Spending Limits be strictly enforced**
- 2. Make Parliament's role effective in Budget Process**
- 3. Parliament should scrutinise key appointments**
- 4. Provide adequate and non-partisan research service**
- 5. Institute system of public consultation**
- 6. Attract young people to work in the Parliament**

Recommendations (...Contd.)

- 7. Involve citizens in legislative process**
- 8. Institute a system to check members' conflict of interest**
- 9. Adequate oversight on funding to parties & candidates**
- 10. Institute a system to monitor levels of public confidence**
- 11. Parliamentary Committees on Foreign Affairs be more pro-active**

- ❖ Please see www.pildat.org
- ❖ A limited number of copies of the Evaluation Report are available

Thank You !