FAST FACTS

UNDP Parliamentary Development Work
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UNDP

50 YEARS

Empowered lives. Resilient nations.

UNDP is the largest provider of technical assistance to parliaments worldwide, **supporting one in three parliaments around the world** and approximately **seventy parliamentary support programmes** across the range of developing country typologies, including countries in transition, SIDS and crisis and post-crisis contexts. UNDP's parliamentary strengthening programming is done as part of its wider work on inclusive political processes including support for elections, constitution-making processes, civic engagement, and women's political participation and leadership. UNDP's support focuses on empowering parliaments as key actors for delivering sustainable development priorities within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Priorities include: climate change, transparency and anticorruption, human rights, women's political empowerment and crisis prevention and recovery.

Training session of the Network of Women Parliamentarians. UNDP Guinea-Bissau

Climate Change

UNDP is implementing a global *Parliamentary Action on Renewable Energy (PARE) Project* – in partnership with Climate Parliament - that aims to build the capacity of parliamentarians to strengthen their advocacy and monitoring of the development of renewable energy sources and to promote sustainable energy policy and regulatory reform to encourage investment in renewable energy in ten countries in Africa, Asia and the Arab. In **India**: MPs supported by the PARE project played the lead role in more than doubling India's 2020 renewable energy target to 15% in the new Five Year Plan. Through an initiative in the powerful Estimates Committee of Parliament, they also doubled the budget for renewable energy. They persuaded the Government to re-establish a generation-based incentive for

UNDP's programming focuses on…

✓ Building the capacity of parliamentary administration staff, parliamentary committees and parliamentarians to effectively carry out their three chief functions (legislative, representation and oversight);

✓ Promoting institutional reform through the development and implementation of parliamentary Strategic Plans;

✓ Promoting inclusive, consultative and participatory parliamentary processes by enhancing the participation of marginalized groups in parliament (i.e.: women, youth, minorities, indigenous people, persons with disabilities, etc.) and improving parliamentary communication, openness and outreach;

✓ Enhancing the effectiveness of women members of parliament and improving their ability to caucus and learn from one another;

✓ Strengthening parliaments' relationships with the executive and judiciary branches of government and with civil society;

✓ Making parliament fit for purpose to implement and monitor the SDGs.

✓ Engaging parliaments on cross-cutting issues by strengthening parliaments' capacities, functioning, and level of engagement in anti-corruption, gender mainstreaming, national dialogue and reconciliation, crisis prevention and recovery, and human rights;

✓ Developing knowledge products i.e.: handbooks for parliamentarians, training modules, and toolkits that draw on lessons learned in the field of parliamentary development;

✓ Increasing access to parliamentary knowledge, through two cutting edge web-based platforms: The International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics (www.iknowpolitics.org) and AGORA (www.agora-parl.org).

wind power with funding of US$130 million, and played a key role in launching $157 million in tax-free bonds for renewable energy.

Anti-corruption, Transparency & Openness

In **Chile**, UNDP provided technical assistance to the Bicameral Ethics Commission on a variety of issues related to the management of conflict of interests, an internal legislative Ethics Offices and an integrity system for Parliament. In **Kosovo**, a parliamentary needs assessment for engagement in anti-corruption was

carried out. UNDP supported the development of the draft parliamentary Anti-Corruption Action Plan 2015-2018 and code of conduct in **Moldova** and the Code of Ethics for the People's National Assembly in **Guinea-Bissau**. UNDP is also supporting parliaments to become more open, accountable, and responsive to citizens, by engaging parliaments in the Open Government Partnership and the Legislative Openness Working Group. In **Georgia** and **Ukraine**, UNDP supported the adoption of parliamentary Openness Action Plans, to further accountability, transparency, access to information, and citizen engagement in legislative processes. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, UNDP supported new regulations allowing the Speaker to preside over the budget debates in Parliament (instead of the Minister of Finance).

Gender equality & women's political empowerment

UNDP supported a draft bill in **Colombia** to give constitutional status to the principles of parity, alternation and universality to women political participation. In **Guinea-Bissau**, UNDP supported the specialized Standing Committee for Women and Children to disseminate /raise awareness of the law against domestic violence in 7 regions of the country. UNDP also built the capacities of the Network of Women Parliamentarians in gender budget analysis. In **Moldova**, UNDP supported a Gender Audit of Parliament, the elaboration of a Parliament's Gender Equality Action Plan and the establishment of a cross party women caucus. UNDP also assisted women MPs to facilitate better participation of women in decision-making, and initiated regular policy consultations with underrepresented women. This was achieved through 5 Regional Forums that debated issues pertinent to the SDGs framework, where over 200 women largely from vulnerable groups received the opportunity to address their concerns directly with decision-makers for the first time. In **Zimbabwe**, the Women's Parliamentary Portfolio Committee facilitated the incorporation of inputs from women's groups to the draft Bill of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission and the draft Gender Commission Bill. In **Sri Lanka**, UNDP supported the establishment of the first ever Parliamentary Committee on Women and Gender. In **Viet Nam** - UNDP helped secure statutory quotas for participation of women in the electoral process. The 2015 Election law set aside 35% of the candidate slots for positions for female candidates. In **Algeria** - the first forum of women parliamentarians was created. In **Rwanda**, UNDP supported 3 additional political parties to establish women political wings at provincial levels.

Crisis prevention & recovery

UNDP has provided technical support for parliaments to play a stronger mediation role in local conflicts (**Togo**), worked to support crisis-sensitive legislative drafting (**Kyrgyzstan)**, and worked with parliaments to develop comprehensive legal framework against gender-based violence (**El Salvador**). UNDP has also supported parliamentary working groups in the Arab States, West Africa and Central America on topics such as community security, political violence and the role of parliamentary committees in mediation and conciliation. UNDP is providing support to newly established parliaments in post-conflict countries such as **Libya, Somalia** (Federal Parliament) and **Myanmar**. UNDP has been supporting the Defence and Security Committees in **Iraq**, and developing social cohesion programmes targeting capacity development of institutions including Parliament in **Jamaica**.

Human Rights

In **Georgia**, UNDP supported parliament's successful implementation of the action plan of the Committee on Human Rights. In **Moldova** - UNDP assisted the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights with a baseline report on coherence of national legislation with international obligations and best practices on human rights. In **Kyrgyzstan**, UNDP supported the Parliament's Committee on human rights to oversee he implementation of the Law "On the rights and guarantees of Persons with Disabilities including a visit to the courthouses to ensure accessibility of PwDs. UNDP assisted the Office of the Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights and civil society in **Ukraine** in preparing the alternative CEDAW report. It contributed to the concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee on CEDAW human rights violations in Crimea and conflict-affected territories.

Law-making capacity

UNDP provided technical assistance in drafting/revising laws such as the Procurement Law, Anti-Money Laundering Law, and Counter-Terrorism Law in **Somalia** ; the Right to Information Bill (**Sri Lanka**); the development of draft laws related to decentralization and local development (**Ukraine**); the 2015 constitutional amendment bill and the 2014 Local Government amendment bill (**Uganda)**; laws relating to (i) the establishment of the institutions provided for in the Constitution, including the Supreme Court, (ii) the measures implementing the freedom of public protests and (iii) the election and the decentralization process (**DRC**); criminal procedure law, civil procedure code and laws on improving accountability of the judges (**Kyrgyzstan**); laws for a) creating conditions for the open and transparent governance; b) reducing transaction costs, by simplifying the business procedures, and c) privatizing the state enterprises and transform small and medium enterprises (**Kazakhstan**); the 2015 Parliament Service Bill legitimizing the establishment of a Parliamentary Service Board, which will have total oversight function of the Parliament Administration previously under the Executive (**Swaziland**); the review of the HIV regulatory and legal framework (**Gabon**); the revision of the Women Act (2010) and introduction of legislation to ban of Female Genital Mutilation (**Gambia**); ensuring the consistency of laws with the Constitution (**Bolivia**); building the capacities of parliamentary staff regarding EU law harmonization (**Georgia).**

Oversight & Accountability

MPs received support in budget and financial oversight and revising, and approving parliamentary budgets (**Somalia, Trinidad and Tobago**). In **Iraq**, UNDP facilitated a training for

the Parliament on the preparation and oversight of the National Budget for Iraq and supported the establishment of the first Budget Oversight Office in the Iraqi Parliament. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, the Public Procurement Bill was passed. In **Colombia** - UNDP conducted a pilot of a Congressional Budget Office. In **Serbia** - UNDP supported the National Assembly to develop the Portal for monitoring public finance. In addition to collecting raw data from the Treasury Administration, the Portal is going to cross-reference data with the State Audit Institution, Public Procurement Office and Public Debt Agency by absorbing their databases. In **Turkmenistan** – UNDP is assisting Parliament in developing legislation on ombudsman and establishing the office of ombudsman. In **Cape Verde**, the capacity of the Court of Auditors and Parliament have been improved in terms of external control of public finances. Parliament could lead effectively over 5 control initiatives from the institutions responsible for the provision of basic services (education, health and social protection) and the use of public resources. In **Mauritania**, parliamentary oversight improved significantly through substantial amendments to the budget law, increasing the number of hearings of members of the Government, the number of oral and written questions.

Civic engagement

In **Myanmar**, UNDP conducted an assessment of the committees' resources, structures and procedures and developed and supported the implementation of the Committee Development Plan, to allow for improved consultation and outreach to the public. In **Iraq**, UNDP is building the capacity of CSOs and communities in engaging in legislative and oversight processes. In **DRC**, UNDP support to civil society has improved transparency and accountability, and the dissemination of the analysis report of the Finance Act 2016 supported the parliamentary debate on increasing the share of the budget in 2016. In **Rwanda** - The parliament conducted public outreach for citizen input into draft legislations e.g. the draft law on matrimonial regimes, family donations and successions were revised. In **Zimbabwe**, UNDP supported 51 public hearings by Portfolio committees in 2015 generating 10 key recommendations from the public.

Youth

In **Colombia**, UNDP supported the creation of a Youth Commission in Congress and Municipal Youth Councils in over 1,000 municipalities around the country, aiming to strengthen the participation of young people in local governance. In **Georgia**, to raise public awareness and promote the idea of open parliament among the youth, a student contest – Open Parliament – Voice of Youth, was organized. In **Kosovo**, UNDP assisted the establishment of the Assembly's Parliamentary Internship Programme. In **Nepal**, a mock Youth Parliament session was organized for 100 participants. In **Somalia** - UNDP supported organized the Open Doors day for youth for the Somaliland House of Representatives. The Young Graduates Programme of the

Federal Parliament has proven to be a flagship programme in developing and safeguarding human capacity in this institution. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, UNDP has been pioneering the reform of the juvenile justice system by supporting the legislative review of the Children's Act, Children's Authority Act, Family and Children's Bill, to bring the country in line with the UN Conventions on the Rights of a Child.

Institutional strengthening and technical support:

UNDP worked with parliamentary committees and secretariat staff to enhance the functional autonomy of parliaments (**Trinidad and Tobago**) and build and strengthen the institutional and human resource capacity i.e.: optimizing the committee structure and rules of procedures, drafting the organizational chart and revising the Standing Orders and other laws linked to the operation of the parliament (**Fiji, Lao PDR, Maldives, Myanmar, Somalia, Libya, Swaziland**). UNDP assisted the development and implementation of Parliamentary Strategic Plans in a number of countries, including **Swaziland, Sierra Leone, Kosovo, Maldives, Myanmar, Guinea-Bissau, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Madagascar,** and **Trinidad and Tobago**. UNDP supported the Parliament of **Afghanistan** in completing a self-assessment of the secretariat performance and also supported the organizational audit of the National Assembly in **Madagascar**. In **Georgia**, the Public Relations Department was assisted in developing its Communications Strategy and Action Plan. The International Relations Department's mandate was revised to expand its role in parliamentary diplomacy – a new Department Charter was adopted in 2016 accordingly. In **Lebanon**, UNDP expanded an e-library database of legislation experts and consultants to support MPs and the Parliamentary administration. In **Myanmar** - strategic development plans were developed in key areas such as Committees, ICT, Research, and implementation of a Learning Centre. UNDP supported the establishment of the Learning Centre for the Myanmar Parliament which offers professional development and capacity building programme for MPs and staff. In **Somalia** - preparatory work is being done to build and complete the legislative archive of Somalia since 1955. UNDP supported the institutionalization and capacity building of parliamentary groups in **Tunisia**, the development of terms of references, work plans and capacity development of committees in **Sri Lanka**, the establishment of the Committee on Government Assurances in **Sierra Leone.** In **Somalia** - support has been extended to provide technical assistance to 2 newly formed parliaments of Galmudug and Jubaland.

For more information, please visit www.undp.org
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