

PARLIAMENTARY DEVELOPMENT : NEWSLETTER

United Nations Development Programme

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – EXPERTS IN YOUTH, DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

UNDP is inviting applications with relevant expertise in youth, democratic governance and participation, including expertise in political processes, legislative bodies, and enabling legislative and policy frameworks and harmonizing national legislation with international standards on youth and children. The call for applications is available for public view in [English](#) | [French](#) | [Spanish](#). The deadline to apply is 4 July.

Your inputs for UNDP's new Guidance Note on Strategic Planning for Effective and Representative Parliaments

One of the criteria selected to assess the performance of UNDP's support to parliaments in the framework of the new Strategic Plan, is the existence of a Parliamentary Development Plan, and its level of development, inclusion and implementation, with support from UNDP. In this context, the parliamentary development team will launch in 2014 a Guidance Note to assist UNDP country offices in conducting such planning exercise. The Guidance Note will provide strong guidance and baselines for any staff member or consultant looking at launching such activity. We are therefore now calling upon your experiences to map recent experiences, lessons learned and tips for implementers.

Please take **the on-line survey in [English](#) or [French](#)**: (only 10 multiple choice questions and multiple answers possible) and send examples of Strategic Plans, annual work plans, Terms of References or any other relevant documents to marilyn.cham@undp.org by **June 30**.

FOREWORD

Inclusion is the main theme of the 10th edition of UNDP's parliamentary development newsletter with a special focus on youth, women and minorities. Ensuring inclusive and open parliaments is critical for promoting "citizen expectations for voice, the rule of law and accountability", as stated in Outcome 2 of UNDP's new [Strategic Plan](#) (2014-2017). Inclusive parliaments need to ensure that all sectors of society – particularly the poorest and marginalized groups, including women, youth and minorities – are equally and fairly represented, and are given equal opportunities for participation. Although demand for inclusiveness is strongly voiced in the Arab region recently, it has also been reflected in post conflict recovery,

June 2014 10th Edition: Women, Youth & Minorities

Facilitator's Note:

Welcome to the Parliamentary Development News Update, which aims at sharing and disseminating the latest news and developments in the area of parliamentary development. Your contributions as a member of the Parliamentary Development Community of Practice are vital to enhance this Network. Please send your contribution to: marilyn.cham@undp.org. We also encourage you to become member of the UNDP Parliamentary Development [Teamworks space](#) in order to access additional information, including previous Newsletters.

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democratic transitions and wider development processes in all regions throughout the past decade. Experiences from Kenya, Zimbabwe, Nepal, Ghana, Bolivia, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, and many others demonstrate the crucial importance of inclusion and public participation in parliaments. To this end, UNDP is increasingly supporting the capacities of parliaments around the world to effectively engage all citizens without discrimination and to protect their rights, and capture their aspirations in the laws that are passed. The UNDP [Strategic Plan](#) 2014-17 reaffirms this commitment through its objective to support “parliaments, constitution making bodies and electoral institutions to perform core functions for improved accountability, participation and representation” (Output 2.1). Outcome 2 of UNDP’s first [Youth Strategy](#) also specifically calls for greater “youth civic engagement and participation in politics and public institutions”.

With regards to women, UNDP has been: training MPs on gender-budgeting ([Sudan](#)); supporting first-time women parliamentary candidates ([Indonesia](#)); promoting the adoption of gender-sensitive laws such as the Domestic Violence Bill ([The Gambia](#)), the law on the Protection of Women and Family Members from Domestic Violence ([Lebanon](#)), and the gender-parity electoral law ([Tunisia](#)); strengthening parliamentary oversight of the implementation of the gender equality law ([Kosovo](#)); developing a 30% gender provision to increase women’s presence in Parliament ([Liberia](#)); enhancing the use of ICTs to empower women in politics ([iKNOW Politics](#)); strengthening women parliamentary groups ([El Salvador](#)), organizing a Practice / Mock Parliament for Women ([Tonga](#) and [Solomon Islands](#)); supporting the Woman and Child Committee in conducting gender legal reviews and addressing priority laws ([Lebanon](#)); assisting parliament in developing a Gender Strategy and Action Plan ([Jordan](#)); launching an Action Plan for women parliamentarians ([Algeria](#)); training women MPs and undertaking a gender review of the Rules of Procedure ([Somalia](#)); promoting the adoption of the Declaration on Arab Women’s Political participation and establishment of network of Arab women parliamentarians in the [Arab States region](#).

With regards to youth, UNDP has been: organizing national youth parliaments ([Trinidad and Tobago](#)); holding parliamentary consultations on the rights of girls and children ([Ethiopia](#)); assisting youth parliamentary committees in developing a National Youth Strategy ([Sierra Leone](#)); developing policy implementation strategies on women and youth participation in party structures and elections ([Lebanon](#)); organizing a youth training camp ([Iraq](#)); increasing awareness of youth in the areas of social contract, accountability, and democratic political processes, strengthening the leadership skills of women and youth for greater political leadership roles in party structures, including through the support to student councils of universities and the Youth Palestinian Legislative Council ([OPT](#)).

All these achievements are highlighted in the interactive map below. The map also shares success stories and international best practices of national legal frameworks and law reforms that strengthen women’s empowerment, such as: the 2010 Women’s Act and 2013 Domestic Violence Bill in [The Gambia](#), the 2008 Gender Equality Act and 2010 Act on gender quota in [Iceland](#), amendments of the 1958 family code in [Morocco](#) (2004) and the 1926 civil code in [Turkey](#) (2002), the 2013 electoral quota for women in

INTERACTIVE PLATFORMS

UK Parliament Games



[MyUK](#) is an internet game that supports young people’s understanding of Parliament and democracy. During this game, students have a fresh 5-year term to lead their government as Prime Minister. They can choose and pass new laws and realize their personal vision of the UK.. This playful activity is designed for informal as well as formal learning situations, and it introduces students to the lawmaking process in a fun, engaging way. Students learn about the lawmaking process; the role of the House of Commons, the House of Lords, and the Monarch; the importance of debating and voting on legislation. **Visit the [website](#).**

UN Women Database on mapping gender provisions in constitutions worldwide



The innovative searchable database provides a comprehensive overview of the current status of provisions relevant to women’s rights and gender equality across the world, including comparison of the data across various countries. The resource covers 195 countries, including all UN Member States and Observers, and is organized regionally into Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania. The database can be searched by keywords, provisions, regions or countries. **Please click [here](#) to access the database.**

[Mexico](#) , the 2011 National Assembly Electoral Act in [Lesotho](#), the gender-budgeting laws in [South Korea](#), the creation of the Women’s Trust Fund to increase the representation of women in governance in [Nigeria](#), the election of a woman Speaker and Deputy Speaker in [Suriname](#) and first female speaker in the Northern Bahr el Ghazal’s State in [South Sudan](#), the parliamentary Committee on Equal Opportunity in [Kenya](#), the gender-equality laws related to maternity leave, domestic workers, women quota for trade unions and pension reform in [Argentina](#).

We hope you enjoy the read!
The parliamentary development Team, NY

UNDP Parliamentary Support Across The World & best practices

Please [click on the map](#) to view highlights of parliamentary support across the world. The “filter” allows you to search information by country, activity and key words. The Map also includes best practices of national legal frameworks that are conducive to gender equality in Parliament, politics and beyond (i.e.: recent laws adopted; legal reforms and enforcement of gender-related laws in line with CEDAW and other international conventions).

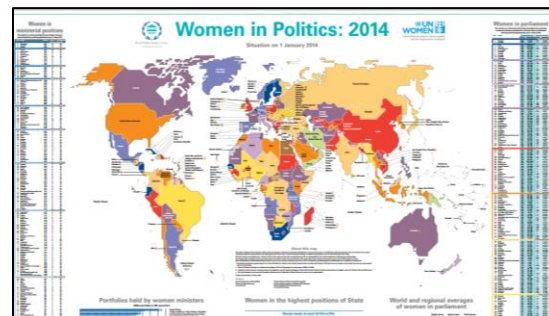


Global Project

Lessons learned from UNDP’s Inclusive and Participative Political Institutions (IPPI) Project in the Arab States Region (2012-2013)

UNDP and the Permanent Mission of Belgium to the UN organized a roundtable discussion on “supporting inclusive political processes and institutions in the Arab region” on Wednesday, 30 April, in NY, drawing from the lessons of two specific projects: the ‘Inclusive and Participative Political Institutions in the Arab States’ (IPPI) Project (2012-2013) and the ‘Support to constitutional and parliamentary processes and national dialogue in Tunisia’

IPU/UN WOMEN: “Women in Politics Map: 2014”



The countries are ranked and colour-coded according to the percentage of women in unicameral parliaments or the lower house of parliament, reflecting elections/appointments up to 1 January 2014. The map also includes world and regional averages of women in parliament. Please [click here](#) to view the map.

UNDP - América Latina Genera



The Portal is a knowledge web platform on gender equality and parliaments. It gathers resources, experiences, tools for parliaments on gender-mainstreaming and was recently renovated. The Portal is accessible [here](#).

RESSOURCES

IPU’s “Women in Parliament: a year in review”

2013 breaks all the records for women’s participation in parliaments worldwide. The percentage of parliamentary seats occupied by women rose to 21.8 per cent, an increase of 1.5 percentage points – double the average rate of increase in recent years. The document reviews the progress made by women in Parliament in 2013.

The analysis is available in [English](#) and [French](#).

Project (2012-2015). Within the framework of the IPPI Project, UNDP worked with legislatures in Arab States including in countries undergoing transitions, to support structures, legal frameworks and capacities to engage Civil Society and all citizens - particularly youth and women - in inclusive processes.



IPPI Project Brief: The IPPI Project Brief, including lessons learned and key results, is available at this [link](#).

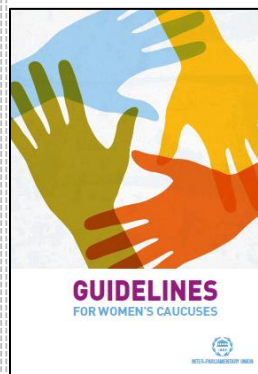
IPPI Knowledge Products on women and youth

A series of innovative tools, knowledge products, and other key documents related to youth and women were produced at the country and regional levels within the framework of the IPPI Project. The **full list of knowledge products is available [here](#).**

- **Iraq** - [Draft Bill establishing the Independent High Commission on Gender Equality](#)
- **Iraq** - [Youth Participation in the decision-making process– Report on the Youth Training Camp](#)
- **Jordan** - [Political parties' gender strategy](#)
- **Lebanon** - [Gender legal review of Lebanese legislation](#)
- **Lebanon** - [National Youth Policy Implementation Strategy](#)
- **Lebanon** - [Study on youth participation in political parties and elections](#) (NB: similar study on women is in the process of being finalized)
- **Lebanon** - [Study on youth employment opportunities](#)
- **OPT** - [Handbook on the Youth Palestinian Legislative Council \(YPLC\)](#)
- **OPT** - [Report and recommendations of the youth and social contract conference in the West Bank](#) (Arabic)
- **OPT** - [Recommendations of the social contract conference in the West Bank](#) (English)
- **OPT** - [Youth and the social contract - Gaza conference recommendations](#)
- **OPT** - [The Political System and the Status of the Women and Youth Leaders](#)
- **Regional** - ['Algiers Declaration on Arab Women's Political Participation'](#)



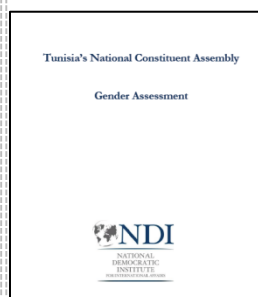
IPU: Guidelines for women's caucuses



The purpose of these Guidelines is to provide a practical tool for women seeking to create a women's parliamentary caucus, or improve an existing caucus. They are intended to guide such initiatives, raising a series of key questions and examining all the aspects that need to be

considered in creating and managing an effective caucus. **The Guidelines are available on AGORA [here](#).**

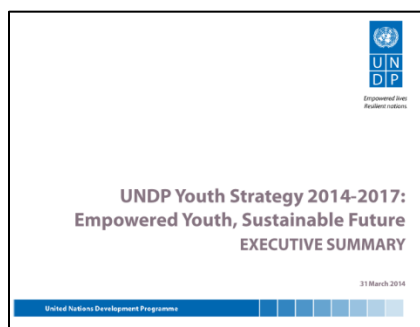
NDI Gender Assessment of Tunisia's National Constituent Assembly



The assessment was conducted from July through December 2013. Through questionnaires and interviews with both female and male Assembly members and parliamentary staff, the assessment collected perspectives on the

opportunities and challenges women have faced in Tunisia's first democratically elected legislature. Based on the assessment, NDI issued recommendations - focused on the areas of

Featured: UNDP Youth Strategy 2014-2017: "Empowered Youth, Sustainable Future"



UNDP's Youth Strategy is the Organization's first wide strategy to inform on-going and future programming and policy development on youth. In response to the worldwide phenomenon of young men and women calling for meaningful civic, economic, social and political participation, including in recent consultations on the post-2015 development agenda, UNDP's

Youth Strategy identifies development challenges and issues facing youth today, and more importantly offers forward-looking recommendations for strategic entry points and engagement of a broad range of partners, including young people themselves, in addressing youth empowerment issues around the world. The UNDP Youth Strategy offers key entry points for systematic and coordinated action to support youth within an increasingly complex development context for their social, economic and political development. The Strategy was presented in Tunis, Tunisia followed by a knowledge sharing and prospective forum on civic engagement and participation in political processes and public institutions (31 March – 2 April).

- The [executive summary](#) of UNDP's Youth Strategy is accessible in English, French and Spanish;
- Also read the [10 Guiding Principles](#) of UNDP's Youth Strategy.
- The advanced unedited copy of the Strategy Note is available [here](#).
- The final Strategy Note will be available soon on UNDP's website dedicated to youth: www.undp.org/youth.

Launch of the 'How-To Guide: Renewable Energy for Parliamentarians' by UNDP Administrator Helen Clark

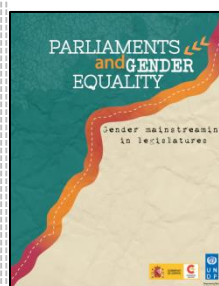


In the framework of their joint 'Parliamentary Action on Renewable Energy' (PARE) project, UNDP and Climate Parliament have developed a '[How-To Guide: Renewable Energy for Parliamentarians](#)'. The Guide explores the benefits of renewable energy development, presents an overview of renewable energy technologies and their respective applications, and offers concrete guidelines and tips for parliamentary action. The Guide is richly illustrated with case studies and best practices, and

pays specific attention to policy and regulatory frameworks. The launch of the Guide was organised at the occasion of the first [Forum of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative](#), on June 4, and took place during the session on 'New business models: bringing sustainable energy to the energy

parliamentary operations, networking and outreach, and party leadership engagement—to strengthen opportunities for women in a future parliament, for which elections are expected by the end of 2014. You can find the report on AGORA's website in [English](#), [French](#) and [Arabic](#).

[Parliaments and Gender Equality in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)



Tool for developing capacities in gender mainstreaming in parliaments, based on the experiences developed in Latin America and the Caribbean. The proposed tool consists of a series of strategic steps or stations that guide a process oriented towards

legislative change with gender equality as the arrival point. Parliaments that decide to involve themselves in this challenge will set out on a journey that includes a process of self-diagnosis, the definition of a Plan for the development of capacities and their implementation and evaluation. The methodology will be useful in reinforcing the political control activities under the Legislative Branch and in strengthening its responsibility to offer public information to the citizenry.

- The English version is available [here](#).
- The Spanish version is available [here](#).



- An analysis of experiences that promote equality in parliaments – accessible [here](#).
- Tips to institutionalize these efforts – accessible [here](#).
- Analysis of Diversity in Parliaments – accessible [here](#).

poor'. Presenting the Guide were UNDP Administrator Helen Clark and European Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs. The UNDP Administrator spoke to the important role parliamentarians have in promoting renewable energy development, both by creating the political will and space required and through building strong, effective policy and regulatory frameworks.

- A copy of the **Guide** can be downloaded [here](#).
- For more information on the PARE project, please contact the AGORA team at info@agora-parl.org.

Other highlights from the field

Bolivia - strengthening parliaments' role in promoting the rights of minorities and Indigenous Peoples (IPs)

Parliamentary delegations from over 20 countries (including Morocco, Kenya, Chile, Guyana, Haiti, Mexico, Argentina, Suriname, Burundi, Congo, Peru, Colombia, Portugal, Ecuador, Nepal, Angola, Bolivia, Guatemala, El Salvador, Panama, and Uganda) reaffirmed their commitment to protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples during the International Parliamentary Conference held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia (7 to 9 April 2014). In addition to anchoring the principles of self-determination and self-governance of IPs, UNDP made specific recommendations regarding the upcoming [World Conference on Indigenous Peoples \(WCIP\)](#), the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to be held on September 22-23, 2014 in New York City, calling for Indigenous Peoples to have a meaningful role in the proceedings of the Conference and in the formulation of its outcome document. UNDP's Global Human Rights Advisor, Shireen Said, made a statement, including recommendations and suggestions that later featured in the [conference declaration](#). Inputs were also gathered for UNDP's draft thematic paper on '[Governance and Indigenous Peoples](#)' including key messages that will be submitted to the WCIP, once finalized. Parliamentarians also agreed to submit a series of specific parliamentary actions for the consideration of the World Conference. UNDP conducted interviews with several MPs including Indigenous women MPs from Nepal, Peru, Ecuador, Kenya and the Secretary General of the Bolivian House of Representatives ([see links to videos on the right](#)).



Photo: H.E. Mr. Evo Morales, the first indigenous President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia (right), and Marcelo Elio, President of the Chamber of Deputies (left).

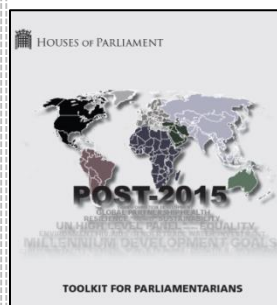
Following the conference, the **Legislative Assembly of El Salvador ratified a constitutional reform on June 12 that recognizes indigenous peoples** and commits the state to adopt public policies to encourage the development of all indigenous communities in the country. **Read the full article [here](#).**

Women's equal participation and representation in Parliament: 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

The 58th session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW) took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 10 to 21 March 2014. Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world attended the session. The main theme discussed concerned the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls. Many of the discussions also sought to address the low levels of women in political decision-making and the persistence of discriminatory attitudes, norms and legal frameworks which impede progress.

- Read the [key takeaways and lessons for women's equal participation and representation in Parliament including best practices of national legal frameworks](#) that are conducive to gender equality in politics and beyond;
- Read the [draft agreed conclusions of the CSW](#).

Post-2015 Toolkit for Parliamentarians



The Toolkit was developed by the CPA (UK branch), with support from UNDP. It draws inputs from the international conference on parliaments and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The Conference was held at the Houses of Parliament in London on 25- 29 November 2013. It provides information and advice to help parliamentarians to become actively involved in the post-2015 process, including ideas from parliamentary colleagues on how parliamentarians can influence the formulation of the post-2015 development goals and examples and case studies explaining how parliamentarians can monitor the implementation of the post-2015 development goals through their legislative, oversight, budget scrutiny and representational responsibilities. **The Toolkit is available [here](#).**

Sudan - Training MPs on gender-budgeting

Since 2011, Sudan enshrined a 25 per cent gender quota in its election code. 25 per cent of the women members are elected on the basis of proportional representation at the state level from separate and closed party lists. Voters vote for only one women's list of their choice. Only parties whose women's lists clear the 4% threshold qualify to access seats reserved for women (112 seats reserved for women in total). By 2012 Sudan had its highest proportion of women in parliament (30 per cent) and in government (28 per cent). Within the framework of the Accountability and Citizens' Participation Project (2011-2015), UNDP has been working closely with stakeholders who have a direct influence on, or a direct interest in how budgetary processes are run best. This has involved political parties, the media and civil society groups including women and minority groups. They have taken part in broad programmes of training and educational activities. These have focused on the budgetary process (how government funds are divided up) as well as an emphasis on the oversight of that process (checking that it is transparent and accountable). More widely, UNDP has been instrumental in improving the skills, knowledge and understanding of parliamentarians on public budget management. Included is that parliamentarians must consider how their budgetary decisions impact women, and vice versa. UNDP supports Sudan with several initiatives to foster transparent governance by strengthening institutional mechanisms. For example, women standing committees have been established within the state legislative councils.

- Read the full story [here](#).
- Read more about UNDP Sudan's Accountability and Citizens' Participation Project [here](#).

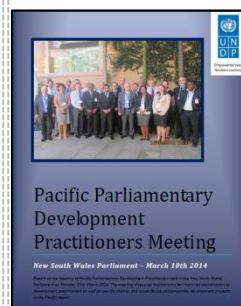
Photo: Training of local MPs in Sudan on public budget management and gender budgeting



Algeria – Declaration on Arab Women's Political participation adopted & network of Arab women parliamentarians established

An International 'Conference on Effective and Sustainable Participation of Women Elected Assemblies' was held in Algiers, in December 2013. The '[Algiers Declaration on Arab Women's Political Participation](#)' adopted, enlists 14 points of action to increase and enhance women's political participation across the Arab region, including constitutional and legal reforms to ensure equality of access for women, enacting temporary special measures to ensure higher representation in elected bodies, and public education awareness to change prevailing stereotype prejudicial towards women's political participation. Participants also committed to establishing active network of current Arab women parliamentarians at national and regional levels to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of women's political participation, and to develop strategies and action plans to achieve

UNDP Pacific Parliamentary Development Practitioners Meeting Report



Report of the meeting of UNDP Pacific Parliamentary Development Practitioners held in the New South Wales Parliament on Monday 10th March 2014. The meeting discussed mechanisms for improved coordination by development practitioners as well as specific themes and issues facing parliamentary development projects in the Pacific region. **The Report is available on [Teamworks](#).**

VIDEOS

UNDP Webinar video: Supporting inclusive constitutional and parliamentary processes in Tunisia



Tunisia has been undertaking a comprehensive democratic transition since the 2011 revolution, which launched the 'Arab Spring', culminating with the adoption of 'a constitution of consensus' voted by the National Constituent Assembly on January 26, 2014 with an impressive result of 200 votes in favor (out of 216 members). The adoption of the constitution is a major milestone and opens a new chapter in the transition in Tunisia. The next phase will be crucial in the consolidation of democracy. On May 15, 2014, Jonathan Murphy, UNDP's current Chief Technical Advisor to the Tunisian Constituent Assembly, participated in a webinar to present and discuss the key results and lessons learnt from

this goal. An Action Plan for women parliamentarians was also launched in Algeria with support from UNDP following the Conference.

- The Declaration is accessible in [French](#), [English](#) and [Arabic](#).
- Read the full story [here](#).

Bangladesh & Trinidad and Tobago – Youth Parliaments

UNDP brought 154 child parliamentarians from all districts and backgrounds, including marginalized groups, to the **Bangladesh Parliament** for a week-long mock parliament session (May 7, 2014). Child parliamentarians set out to highlight children's issues in Bangladesh, and produced two draft bills: "Bangladesh Child Rights Commission Act 2014" and; "Prohibition of Physical and Mental Torture on the Students at the Institutional Level Bill 2014." Read the full story [here](#).



Photo: Child parliamentarians cast their votes in a plenary session of Child Parliament 2014 in Bangladesh.

2013 saw the 11th sitting of the National Youth Parliament of **Trinidad and Tobago** where 54 youth parliamentarians met to debate a motion in the name of the Leader of the Opposition on "Combating Violence in Schools". This year's debate will again see 41 Youth MPs (there are 41 elected MPs in the House of Representatives in Trinidad and Tobago) sitting to debate a matter of public importance.

- The 11th National Youth Parliament can be viewed on Youtube via the [Channel of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago](#).
- To read more about the National Youth Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, please click [here](#).



Photo: The Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago embarked on a Youth Parliament Week. This includes school children participating in "mock" debates, asking questions to the Speaker and President of the Senate. This activity helps empower youth as to the ongoing activities and responsibilities of Parliament.

UNDP's 'Support to the constitutional and parliamentary processes and national dialogue' Project in Tunisia (2012-2015) as well as challenges ahead and future directions.

- The recording of the Webinar is available at the following [link](#).
- Jonathan's PowerPoint presentation is also available at the following [link](#).
- Read UNDP Tunisia's Activity Report (May 2012 – June 2014) on the Project of Support to Constitution-building, Parliamentary Development and National Dialogue in Tunisia in [English](#) / [French](#).

UNDP Animated on-line film on the legislative process in Lebanon

The animated film is educational and informative, introducing the Lebanese legislative process to youth. It is accessible [here](#).



Movie on UNDP/MIFTAH's work supporting young Palestinian political women leaders



The video provides an overview of UNDP and the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH) support to 83 young women political activists to develop capacities to more actively and effectively engage in political dialogues and advocate on policy making levels, helping them to build their leadership capacities and create networks and dialogue channels with decisions makers within their political affiliations. The video is accessible [here](#).

El Salvador - Strengthening the Parliamentary Group of Women

UNDP El Salvador has been providing technical advice to the Parliamentary Group of Women in four areas:

- ✓ Design of legal reforms to improve gender equality: law against family violence, penal code, procedures, family code, social security laws. A reform proposed by the Commission of women and gender equality (established in May 2012) on the law against violence was approved in 2013.
- ✓ Creation of an inter-institutional technical group to review the legal reforms. The group was integrated by the General Prosecution of the Republic, General Attorney, ISDEMU (Salvadoran Institute for Women's Development) and Supreme Court of Justice.
- ✓ Design of the first Gender Policy and Institutional Plan at the Parliament.
- ✓ Establishment of political participation quota of 30% of women as candidates (national and regional parliament and municipal councils). The law will be applied for the first time in 2015.
- **Read the full story [here](#).**

Sierra Leone - Parliamentary Committee on Youth Affairs tackles the National Youth Strategy

The draft National Youth Strategy supported by UNDP was presented to the Parliamentary Committee on Youth Affairs on 20th March 2014 for their inputs. The National Youth Strategy 2014-2018 was then finalized and launched by the President on the 15th of April 2014. The Youth Affairs Committee will actively conduct oversight of the implementation of the National Youth Strategy once the implementation is begun by the Ministry. **Read the full story [here](#).**

Indonesia - UNDP supports first-time women parliamentary candidates

490 female politicians have benefited from training under UNDP's 'Strengthening Women's Participation and Representation in Governance in Indonesia's (SWARGA) project, ahead of the April 9, 2014 parliamentary elections. UNDP's support resulted in an increase in the number of female candidates in the parliamentary elections. Of 6,607 legislative candidates racing for the House of Representatives (DPR) seats in the elections, some 37 percent or 2,467 were women, up from 30 percent in the legislative elections in 2009. Of the 560 candidates elected to the DPR, 94 were



Photo: Women candidates during the training

women, or around 17 percent. Previously, from the 2004 general elections, the representation of women in the Indonesian parliament was just almost 11 percent.

Read the full story [here](#).

Video interviews with MPs on the rights of women, minorities and Indigenous Peoples

- ✓ **[Interview with Marcelo Elio Chávez](#), Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Plurinational State of Bolivia**



- ✓ **[Interview with Lucky Sherpa](#), Member of the Constituent Assembly, Nepal**



- ✓ **[Interview with Rosa Elvira Muñoz](#), Indigenous women Member of the National Assembly of Ecuador**



- ✓ **[Interview with Claudia Coari Mamani](#), Member of the Congress of Peru**



OPT - Young Palestinians prepare for politics

A new initiative offers young people in the OPT an opportunity to participate in democratic political processes and make their voices heard peacefully. The youth empowerment project has been training young people to vote, campaign in elections, and become members of the country's first Youth Palestinian Legislative Council. **Read more** [here](#).



Photo: A young Palestinian woman learns about the finer points of democratic governance at a UNDP-supported training session.

Kosovo - committee oversight of the implementation of the gender equality law

The Committee on Human Rights, Gender Equality, and Missing Persons was supported in drafting the new designs, methods and techniques for monitoring of the law implementation in Kosovo. Socially sensitive laws such as the Law on Gender Equality, was monitored with a new strategy which implied usage of online self-administered questionnaires for respondents and randomly sampled institutions to be visited by MP's. This approach has shown to be more time and cost effective and has enabled the Committee to reach in-depth information and data from a broader number of institutions. Parliamentary Committees will continue to use the drafted monitoring strategy as a sample for all future parliamentary monitoring processes. **Click** [here](#) **to read the full story.**

iKNOW Politics - Spotlight on ICTs and women's political participation

iKNOW Politics organized, April 30, a [webinar](#) with 3 diverse panelists to discuss how ICTs can empower women in politics. Oyungerel Tsedevdamba, Member of Parliament, Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism and President of the Democratic Women's Union of Mongolia, shared her experience on the "Women can" campaign, which resulted in the adoption of quotas and increased women's representation in Mongolia's Parliament. Danya Bashir, a Libyan author, activist and the Executive Director for the Middle East and North Africa of Social Media for Change, shared her experience on how social media platforms are used to create positive democratic change in the MENA region. Susan Kemp, senior program officer at the National Democratic Institute (NDI) spoke about the NDI "Women and Technology" survey. Visit iKNOW Politics' [special feature on ICTs and women's political participation](#). **Read the full story** [here](#).

Also read about....

- ✓ [UNDP Orientation for Bhutan's new Parliament](#)
- ✓ [Parliamentary delegation from Sierra Leone visits the Parliament of Kenya \(South-South Cooperation\)](#)
- ✓ [Parliamentary engagement in the national constitutional review in Sierra Leone](#)
- ✓ [Member States Parliaments of the West African Economic and Monetary Union \(WAEMU\) trained on public finance reforms](#)

AGORA Induction for First-Time Parliamentarians' e-learning course – now also available in French and Arabic

AGORA launched its '[Induction for First-Time Parliamentarians](#)' e-learning course, earlier this year. This course is designed for legislators who are new to parliament, and for parliamentary staff, practitioners, donors, civil society organizations and others. To watch a teaser video of the E-learning course, please [click here](#). The recent political developments in the Arab region highlighted the need of a representative parliament capable of articulating citizens' demands for a democratic and legitimate state; it has also raised the bar for voters' expectations from their representatives and the parliamentary institution. It is within this scope and, with the support of UNDP's project to the Constitutional Assembly in Tunisia, that, this course has been contextualized to reflect the changes, challenges and specificities of the Arab States, and is now available in [French](#) and [Arabic](#).