UNDP Knowledge Resources on Parliamentary Development

UNDP leads the global policy discussions on inclusive political institutions on the basis of in country-work, comparative research and lessons learned. The latest resources listed below can be launched and piloted in country to stimulate a new approach linking more closely development issues and support to political institutions.

Online Tools

AGORA - the portal for parliamentary development.

AGORA is a one-stop reference center and hub for knowledge sharing on parliamentary development available in English, French and Arabic. It has been designed as a flexible tool and learning space for parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, civil society and the wider community of practice to facilitate information exchange.

iKNOW Politics - a portal for the political empowerment of women.

The International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics is an interactive network of women in politics where members share experiences, resources, advice and collaborate on issues of interest.

E-learning Course: Parliaments in Practice

AGORA launched its Parliaments in Practice e-learning course; it is available in English, French, Arabic and Russian. The 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.

E-learning Course: Parliaments, Climate Change & Civil Society

This course explores how parliaments can take more effective and responsive action on climate change by strengthening their engagement with civil society. Building on the many success stories and best practices shared on AGORA's Climate Portal, the course highlights initiatives, strategies and new technologies that help parliamentarians connect with the people they represent. Aimed at parliaments and civil society, this course hopes to inspire stronger and more effective collaboration on climate action.

Climate Portal

UNDP and the World Bank have launched a new Climate Portal on the AGORA Portal for Parliamentary Development. The Climate Portal maps parliamentary activities around the world and provides parliaments, parliamentarians and practitioners with the latest resources, knowledge and best practices in support of their work. The Climate Portal is available in English, French and Arabic and is updated daily.
Climate Change and Energy for Parliamentarians – AGORA Training Toolkit

This toolkit has been developed to facilitate trainings on climate change and energy for parliamentarians. It presents comprehensive introductions to the core issues and offers discussion questions, parliamentary action points and relevant resources. The online training toolkit is available here.

Extractive Industries Portal

The aim of this Portal is to strengthen parliamentary work on extractive industries by informing, engaging and connecting all relevant actors. To do so, the Portal will help identify best practices and parliamentary action points for parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, practitioners, government officials and civil society. The overarching objective is to help bring parliament to the fore of these political processes, and arrive at transparent, responsible and sustainable governance of the natural resource sector. Developed with the support of the **World Bank Group**, the Portal is available in English, French and Arabic and will soon launch in Portuguese.
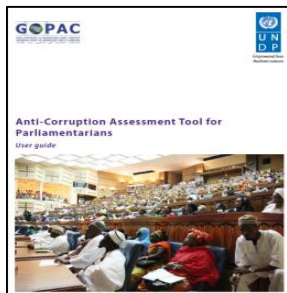
<table>
<tr><td>**Knowledge Products**</td></tr>
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Renewable Energy for Parliamentarians: a How-To Guide

This Guide is a publication by UNDP and the Climate Parliament in the framework of their joint Parliamentary Action on Renewable Energy (PARE) project. 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. Specific attention is paid to regulatory and policy frameworks. The Guide is accessible here.

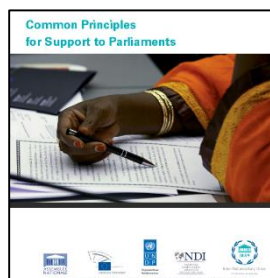## UNDP Toolkit: Anti-Corruption Self- Assessment Tool for Parliamentarians

The tool focuses on the role of parliaments in the fight against corruption and more specifically on the implementation of the provisions of Chapter 2 of the UN Convention against Corruption. It comprises a series of questions and checklists, answers to which will serve to identify gaps in the effectiveness of a parliament's contribution to the implementation of the Convention. The Toolkit is accessible here.

Post-2015 Toolkit for Parliamentarians

The Toolkit was developed by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (UK branch), with support from UNDP. 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.

'Common Principles for Support to Parliaments', produced by the IPU and UNDP as well as other partners – UNDP and the IPU – together with other partners – have developed a set of Common Principles for Support to Parliaments aimed at improving the quality of parliamentary development support made available to parliaments, through better cooperation and coordination. The Common Principles provide a benchmark that can be used in the design, implementation and assessment of parliamentary development activities. By disseminating these principles and good practices, the Common Principles are intended to have a positive impact on the quality of support to parliamentary development, and by extension on the quality of parliaments and democracy. The Common Principles are intended to be universal in scope, relevant to all countries and contexts in which support is made available to help strengthen a parliament, and applicable to all actors involved in parliamentary development. They pull together more than 40 years of experience, and are based on good practices that provide effective results. They underline the political nature of parliament, and the central role parliament must play in defining objectives for its development. The Common Principles provide a strong framework for more effective cooperation between parliaments and their partners, including from the UN system. The document is available here.

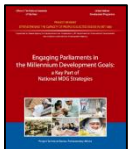## Issue Brief: Parliament's role in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

As we approach the MDG deadline, the Issue Brief looks beyond 2015 and considers the role of parliaments in continuing to promote development objectives. The Issue Brief is available [here](#).

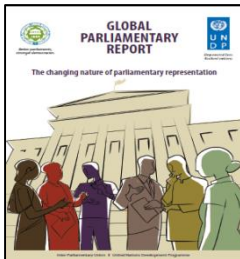## A Manual on Parliamentary Engagement with the Millennium Development Goals

The manual outlines mechanisms that can be used in parliaments to improve MDGs engagement; good practices in how parliaments have made the MDGs a central part of their work; and provides practical advice on how to work on MDGs in parliaments. The Manual is available [here](#).

Engaging parliaments in the millennium development goals

An important resource for parliamentarians who are trying through their daily work to promote the MDGs and give effect to policies and legislation that will help their country to achieve the MDGs. The document is available [here](#).

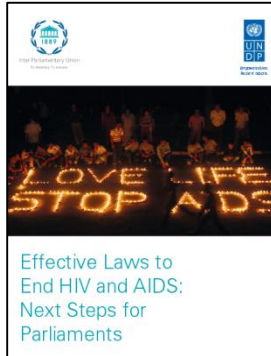## The Global Parliamentary Report

In 2012, UNDP launched the first ever Global Parliamentary Report. The Report is a joint work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UNDP, and draws on input from 73 parliaments. It analyzes changes in relations between parliaments and citizens, and suggests improvements to parliamentary strategies for meeting public expectations.

It illustrates the challenges and the variety of initiatives aimed at enhancing parliamentary representation in different parts of the world.
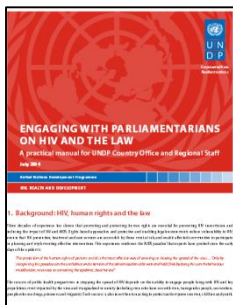
The Report is accessible [here](#).

UNDP/IPU Handbook: Effective laws to end HIV and AIDS: Next steps for parliaments
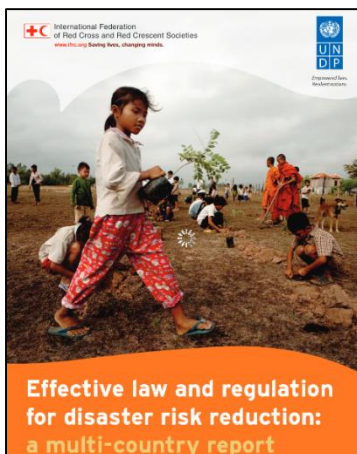
UNDP has supported the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) in the development of a resource, "Effective Laws to End HIV and AIDS: Next Steps for Parliaments". This knowledge product provides examples of selected parliaments that have adopted rights-based laws to support effective HIV responses, particularly in relation to people living with HIV and key populations, including sex workers, transgender people and people who use drugs. By highlighting positive examples of parliamentary processes undertaken to pass rights-based laws that support effective HIV responses, the resource aims to encourage and assist parliamentary scrutiny of legislation that impacts on HIV and provide practical guidance to parliamentarians who are interested in supporting such rights-based law reform efforts to undertake the same, pursuant to global commitments that governments have made to introduce such legislation. The UNDP/IPU Handbook is available here.

Practical Manual for UNDP Country Office and Regional Staff: Engaging Parliamentarians on HIV and the Law

This Manual is primarily intended as a resource for regional and country level UNDP staff, it may also be a useful resource for civil society organizations and other national and international entities advocating for enabling legal environments to improve the national HIV response. It also profiles UNDP's work in the area of HIV/AIDS and the type of support the Organization can provide to parliamentarians, highlighting UNDP's key principles, strategies and activities in support of elected officials in a variety of settings. It is intended as a practical tool and can be presented in conjunction with other resource materials on parliaments and HIV. The manual is available here.

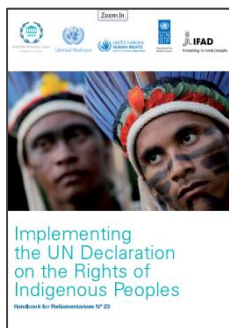**UNDP / IFRC: Effective law and regulation for disaster risk reduction**

While it is generally accepted that laws and legal frameworks are a powerful and necessary aspect of comprehensive disaster risk reduction, there are questions as to what laws are most effective, what is lacking, and how we can improve legislative support for DRR in high-risk countries. In answering these questions, IFRC and UNDP have undertaken a comparative study of DRR Law in 31 countries. This report explores how the laws in 31 countries have taken on this task, analyzing both disaster-specific laws as well as areas of legislation that do not refer directly to disaster risk, but which can play a key role in making communities safer. It is hoped that it will support legislators, public administrators, practitioners and advocates to promote, prepare and implement effective legal frameworks for disaster risk management. Read the full report here. Read the report summary here.

A Global Review: UNDP Support to Institutional and Legislative System for Disaster Risk Management

This analysis of UNDP support to institutional and legislative systems for disaster risk management constitutes a tool for improving governance and institutional frameworks for disaster risk management in support of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework and the ISDR. The report is available here.

Practical Handbook for MPs on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

Partnering with the IPU, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDP launched a Handbook for Parliamentarians - "Implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples today to mark the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples". The Guide advocates for better representation of minorities and Indigenous Peoples in parliaments by increasing knowledge, providing tools for parliaments, and ensuring compliance with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The Guide is available here.

UNDP/IPU Parliaments, Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights knowledge products

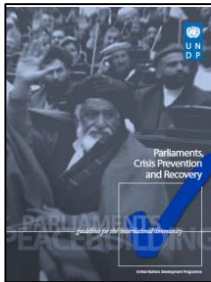|	
The representation of minorities and indigenous peoples in parliament: A global overview	[[English]](English) [[French]](French) [[Spanish]](Spanish)
Interviews with parliamentarians Diversity in parliament: Listening to the voices of minorities and indigenous peoples	[[English]](English) [[French]](French) [[Spanish]](Spanish)
Case studies	
The Hidden Minorities: Representing ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples in Cambodia	[[English]](English) [[French]](French) [[Spanish]](Spanish)
Representation of Minorities in the Romanian Parliament	[[English]](English) [[French]](French) [[Spanish]](Spanish)
The Saami and the National Parliaments - Channels for Political Influence	[[English]](English) [[French]](French) [[Spanish]](Spanish)
Representation from the top: Ethnic Minorities in the National Assembly of Viet Nam	[[English]](English) [[French]](French) [[Spanish]](Spanish)

Strategies for Parliaments to Support Crisis Prevention and Recovery: Country experiences from West Africa
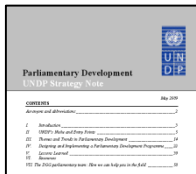
This UNDP Report brings a crisis-sensitive lens to support for parliamentary development. The analysis and conclusions of this Report are based on the findings of the research papers, background studies, and dedicated knowledge products that were prepared on a wide range of thematic issues relating to UNDP's project 'Towards Strengthening the Role of Parliaments in Crisis Prevention and Recovery' (2010-2012) as well as the reports of the regional parliamentary seminar held in Accra on 27-29 June 2010 and the parliamentary working group meeting in Barcelona from November 30 to December 3, 2010. The strategy is available here.

Parliaments, Crisis Prevention and Recovery: Guidelines for the International Community
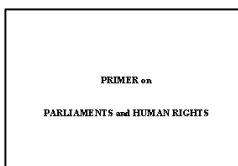
Parliaments are well situated to manage social crisis, prevent violent conflict and bring about lasting peace. These guidelines affirm the commitment of the international community to support democratic governance processes during and after conflict, and more specifically, parliaments. The Guidelines provide recommendations for the international community when designing peacebuilding strategies and promoting democratic governance, emphasizing the role that national parliaments can play in supporting the prevention of conflict and of violence and the restoration of community security. The Guidelines are available here.

Parliamentary Development Strategy Note

The Strategy Note establishes a policy framework for the services that UNDP provides in parliamentary development. It describes the niche of UNDP as a partner in parliamentary development, provides practical advice and guidance for UNDP governance practitioners and sets out key trends and lessons learned from parliamentary development experiences. The Strategy Note is available here.

Parliaments and human rights: A primer

This Primer explores how UNDP can enhance the contribution that legislators, parliaments and parliamentary processes make towards the protection, promotion and realization of human rights. It suggests elements for assessing the human rights capacities of parliaments and examines approaches to enhance parliament's contribution to human rights. The Primer is available here.

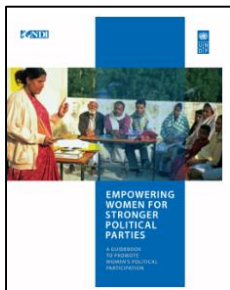## Benchmarking and self-assessment for democratic legislatures

This publication analyzes benchmarks and good practices in democratic legislatures. It also provides tools to inform and improve South-South cooperation as well as UNDP's parliamentary development programming. The document is available here.

A handbook on working with political parties

The handbook is designed to offer both practical advice and intellectual insight on political party programming. The Handbook is available here.

Empowering women for stronger political parties

This publication identifies targeted interventions for promoting the stronger presence and influence of women in political parties as well as advancing gender equality issues in party policies and platforms. The lessons learned and common strategies in this Guide are drawn mainly, but not exclusively, from 20 case studies that were commissioned by UNDP and conducted by NDI during 2009-2010. The entry points identified are designed to provide ideas for action for political parties, development assistance providers, party foundations, and CSOs in their work to support parties. The publication is available here.