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IPU ACTIVITIES TO STRENGTHEN PARLIAMENTS AND DEMOCRACY

(a) REPORT ON ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT UNDER THE PROGRAMME FOR THE PROMOTION OF DEMOCRACY

This document gives an overview of the activities carried out by the IPU in 2009 and early 2010 to promote democracy in the focal areas of the Organization's democracy work: strengthening parliaments, defending and promoting human rights, promoting partnership between men and women in politics, and setting standards on parliaments and democracy. In addition, the IPU's work on protecting children's rights has developed considerably over recent years and is reflected in this report.

The IPU's democracy-related work continues to be guided by the Universal Declaration on Democracy, adopted by the IPU in 1997 and the Guide to good practice published by the Organization in 2006 under the title of Parliaments and Democracy in the Twenty-first Century. Both documents underscore the centrality of parliament in democracy and the need to assist them so that they can fulfil their constitutional mandate both nationally and internationally. In recent years, the IPU has sought to give more coherence to its work and has designed a three-year rolling plan that sets out its priorities and strategies for their implementation in a coordinated and integrated fashion.

Strengthening parliaments

Through its technical cooperation programme, the IPU continues to provide advice, guidance and technical support for parliaments in political transition or in post-conflict situations in order to help them fulfil their constitutional mandates. Given the growing focus on conflict or post-conflict countries, the IPU is increasingly working with the UN Peacebuilding Commission. In 2009, the IPU focused on building parliamentary capacity, promoting dialogue and reconciliation, helping parliaments ensure parliamentary oversight of the security sector and promoting parliamentary contribution to the design, planning and implementation of development agendas that ensure effectiveness in reducing poverty.

Throughout the year, the IPU organized seminars, workshops, training programmes, study visits and advisory missions on topics related to the day-to-day functioning of parliament. It also carried out several assessment missions to assist parliaments in reviewing their functioning, identifying bottlenecks and loopholes and proposing solutions thereto.

The IPU played an active part in strengthening the institutional capacities of parliaments in Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Maldives, Pakistan, Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe. It also provided support to the Secretariat of the Palestinian Legislative Council and the South Sudan Legislative Assembly.

Highlights included the launch of a multi-year project to support the national parliament of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and a major needs assessment mission to the Central African Republic in the context of UN efforts to consolidate peace in that country. The IPU worked with the European Commission and UNDP to develop a broad programme of assistance to the Secretariat of the Palestinian Legislative Council. This programme will come on-stream in 2010. Also, the IPU partnered with the World Bank Institute to develop a distance learning training programme for parliaments especially in conflict-torn environments. The parliaments of Liberia and Sierra Leone and the South Sudan Legislative Assembly were the first to benefit from this programme, which will be expanded in 2010.

In the context of on-going work to strengthen Parliaments' role in national reconciliation, the IPU organized a regional conference in Cambodia in March 2009 on the role of parliaments in promoting peaceful and sustainable societies in South-East Asia. Parliamentarians from South-East Asia reviewed mechanisms for conflict resolution and reconciliation, including transitional justice and institutional reform.

The IPU pursued its support to the parliaments of Sierra Leone, Rwanda and Uganda to enable them to establish focused plans of action for consolidating national reconciliation. Seminars were organized for that purpose in each of these countries. In Sierra Leone, follow-up action was undertaken to assist the parliament in implementing the action plan. Assistance was provided in the preparation of a code for the opposition and a code of ethics. In addition, the IPU assisted with the organization of constituency visits for members of parliament from both the ruling and opposition parties to foster a spirit of working together to consolidate peace in Sierra Leone. Similar follow-up activities are foreseen in Rwanda and Uganda in 2010.

The IPU continued to follow developments in Zimbabwe very closely. In 2009, it fielded two exploratory missions to identify areas in which the IPU could assist the parliament with contributing to the constitution-drafting process and to the process of national healing in the wake of the 2008 elections, which were marred by widespread violence. In Burundi, the IPU continued to encourage the parliamentary leadership to promote dialogue and consensus in decision-making. A retreat, the second of its kind, was organized in September 2009, during which participants reviewed the major challenges facing the parliament in the run-up to presidential and parliamentary elections due to take place in 2010.

The IPU also continued its fruitful partnership with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces. They jointly organized a regional conference in Nairobi for parliaments of the extended Great Lakes Region to examine major challenges to effective implementation of a security agenda in the region and to promote increased parliamentary oversight of the security sector at the domestic level and, regionally, to advance cooperation between parliaments on security issues in the light of ongoing initiatives in the region.

The IPU also continued to engage the United Nations in the promotion of parliamentary involvement in the implementation of the 2001 Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) for the Least Developed Countries. It organized a workshop for Cambodian parliamentarians to familiarize them with this important poverty reduction agenda and to help them devise an action plan for its implementation nationally. It published a handbook for parliamentarians on how to make an effective contribution to the implementation of the BPoA. The IPU also encouraged parliaments to participate effectively in regional reviews of the BPoA and preparations for the 4th LDC Conference due to take place in 2011. The IPU is working on a strong parliamentary input into the conference, including the convening of a parliamentary meeting.

During 2009, cooperation with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation Development (OECD) grew further in the context of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the ensuing Accra Agenda for Action. The IPU participated regularly in the OECD Development Assistance Committee's Working Party on Aid Effectiveness and co-chairs a management group set up to develop tools for promoting domestic accountability in the management of development aid. The IPU commissioned four case studies in Cambodia, Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia to examine to what extent the parliaments in those countries were involved in setting the development agenda and in exercising oversight of development aid. The findings of these studies will serve as a basis for advocacy and for devising practical tools for more effective involvement of parliaments. The IPU was also an active participant in the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, established to enhance the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals. The Forum brings together key stakeholders to promote dialogue on development policy. The IPU has ensured that parliaments are given a voice in those discussions.

Defending and promoting human rights

The IPU's work in the field of human rights consists of defending the human rights of parliamentarians and building awareness and capacity of parliaments to comply with their respective States' human rights obligations.

In 2009, the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians dealt with 77 cases in 34 countries involving 436 parliamentarians (compared to 73 cases involving 305 MPs in 2008). The number and complexity of cases before the Committee continues to account for a heavy workload for the Secretariat. Apart from the four statutory sessions of the Committee to examine these cases, missions were fielded to Burundi, Colombia, Israel and the Arab region for purposes of observing trials and fact-finding.

Following the mission to Colombia, the IPU convened a seminar for members of the Colombian Congress to study fundamental human rights issues with which the Colombian Congress and its members are currently confronted.

2009 saw the conclusion of the project for French-speaking West African parliaments to promote their involvement in the work of human rights treaty bodies. A concluding regional seminar was organized in Libreville, Gabon. Participants exchanged experiences gained at the national level and adopted a regional parliamentary strategy to promote human rights through cooperation mechanisms between national and regional parliaments.

The annual conference for parliamentary human rights committees was given a new format. In October, members of these committees met in Geneva for a one-day briefing on parliamentary involvement in international rights covenants organized jointly with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

In 2009, the IPU produced two handbooks for parliamentarians: one on combating human trafficking (in cooperation with the UN office on Drugs and Crime) and another on missing persons (in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross).

The IPU partnered with the UK Parliament to organize a regional seminar in London for European parliamentarians to acquaint them with the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. A similar seminar was organized in London in February 2010 on parliamentary action to combat human trafficking. In 2009, the IPU also designed a project for West African parliaments to build their capacity to contribute to the fight against child trafficking, especially the use of child labour in cocoa plantations and to devise a regional

parliamentary strategy. The project will be implemented in cooperation with the OECD Sahel and West Africa Club with funding from the Government of Belgium.

During the IPU Assembly in October 2009, the IPU organized a briefing session for members of parliament on the functioning of the new Universal Periodic Review mechanism set up by the UN Human Rights Council. It is following up with a survey of parliaments to determine to what extent parliaments are involved in this new human rights mechanism.

Promoting respect for children's rights

Over the past five years, the IPU has implemented numerous activities in the field of child protection, in close cooperation with UNICEF.

In 2009, the IPU's action focused on helping parliaments to better contribute to the achievement of MDGs 4 and 5 on maternal health and child survival. A panel organized in Addis Ababa on the occasion of the 120th Assembly raised awareness and highlighted initiatives taken by parliaments to implement MDGs 4 and 5. In cooperation with the World Health Organization, the IPU organized a conference in Kampala, Uganda, in November 2009 on ensuring access to health for all women and newborns. The conference looked at how parliaments could contribute to the building of national health systems, especially in rural and underprivileged societies, through funding, legislation and policy, oversight, human resources and women's empowerment.

Preventing violence against children was another area of focus. The IPU convened a regional seminar in San José, Costa Rica, for Latin American parliaments on the subject. The seminar examined ways in which parliaments could contribute effectively to developing a protective framework for children.

The challenges faced by adolescent girls and parliaments' role in addressing those challenges were analysed at a panel discussion organized in the context of the 120th Assembly in Addis Ababa.

Promoting partnership between men and women in politics.

In 2009, the IPU continued to work towards more representative and accountable parliaments through increased and enhanced political participation of women and more gender-sensitive parliaments.

It continued to monitor progress and setbacks of women's participation in parliament, through the publication of monthly statistics on its website and the production of its annual report on the subject. The IPU issued the 2010 edition of its *World Map of Women in Politics* at a special session in New York on the occasion of International Women's Day. It provided statistics and analyses to the UN MDG database and the Human Development Report.

The year saw further consolidation of the Database on Women in Politics, which includes current and historical information on women in parliaments and the executive branch, presiding officers, the granting of political rights to women and parliamentary committees on the status of women. The database will be launched in 2010. In addition, the IPU joined a partnership between International IDEA and Stockholm University on the Global Database of Electoral Quotas for Women (www.quotaproject.org).

The IPU's contribution to the International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics (iKNOWPolitics) was widely acknowledged. It contributed substantially to the regional conference on 'The role of media and information technology in increasing the number and effectiveness of women in politics' in Jordan in October 2009, during which the Arabic version of the website was launched.

The Pacific and Arab regions continue to lag behind the rest of the world in terms of women's political representation. The IPU has therefore continued to focus on them. It organized the fourth regional conference of women members of parliament and women in political decision-making positions in the Gulf Cooperation Council States. The Conference examined national action plans meant to implement constitutional provisions to promote the advancement of women.

Country-level support was provided to women parliamentarians in Burundi, Jordan and Rwanda. In Burundi, the IPU concluded its two-year project of support with several meetings involving parliamentarians, civil society organizations and the media. An action plan for gender mainstreaming in the parliament's work was adopted. In Rwanda, IPU assistance led to the production of a booklet on gender-related legislation which was widely distributed to rural women. In Jordan, the IPU helped forge a coalition between women parliamentarians, ministers and representatives of civil society, provided assistance in skills development and organized training on gender budgeting.

The project to help parliaments combat violence against women got underway. The IPU designed and circulated tools for this purpose, including a booklet on good parliamentary practices, a handbook on putting an end to female genital mutilation, and campaign material such as a poster and dedicated website section. Some 33 parliaments have responded to the IPU's call to mark the 10th anniversary of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. They held over 55 special events to mobilize national efforts to end violence against women. Field-based activities included a regional seminar for European parliament in Paris organized in cooperation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The seminar focused on migrant women's vulnerability to gender-based violence. A panel discussion on the International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation was also organized. It focused on men's role in putting an end to the practice.

The fourth annual conference for parliamentary committees dealing with gender issues and women's rights was convened, and discussed women's political participation 15 years after the Beijing Platform for Action. A publication documenting the main findings and highlights of the meeting was published.

The annual Conference on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women (CEDAW) acquainted participants with opportunities for parliamentary involvement in the CEDAW reporting process. The IPU also organized a regional conference in Togo on CEDAW for French-speaking West African parliaments. A national seminar was organized for Rwanda to review implementation of CEDAW at the national level.

During 2009 and 2010 co-operation continued with the United Nations, especially during the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). As in past, the IPU convened a parliamentary day in cooperation with the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women in March 2010 on the occasion of the 54th session of the CSW to review progress at national level in terms of women's rights, fifteen years after the Fourth World Conference in Beijing. It focused in particular on how parliaments have supported change at the national level and what parliamentary mechanisms have been used and can be used to pursue enforcement of the Beijing commitments.

Advancing knowledge and setting standards on parliaments and democracy

Apart from its regular publications, including the *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections*, the *World Directory of Parliaments* and the *Panorama of Parliamentary Elections* and ongoing updating and improvements to the database on parliaments, PARLINE, the IPU's work in 2009 focused on promoting recognition and implementation of criteria for democratic parliaments.

Evaluating parliament: A self-assessment toolkit for parliaments published in 2008, on the basis of *Parliament and democracy in the twenty-first century*, continued to underpin the IPU's standards-setting work. The IPU promoted the use by parliaments of this tool toolkit, which is intended to help parliaments to identify their strengths and weaknesses, in order to determine priorities for strengthening the parliamentary institution. In 2009, the toolkit was used by the parliaments of Australia, Cambodia, Ireland, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and South Africa. In Rwanda, and Sierra Leone, the IPU facilitated the process with experts.

The IPU remained engaged with the ASGP. The joint annual conference which took place in Geneva in October 2009 focused on the assessment of parliamentary performance. The ASGP is in the process of producing a toolkit designed specifically to assess the performance of parliamentary administration. The IPU was very active in the international working group on methods for evaluating parliamentary performance. It has been able to secure widespread acceptance of the concept of self-assessment as an effective means of helping parliaments improve their performance.

The IPU also pursued implementation of its project on the representation of minorities and indigenous groups as part of its strategy to promote inclusive parliaments. It organized a panel discussion on managing diversity at the IPU Assembly in April 2009 and participated substantively in the UN Forum on Minorities in November 2009. It initiated case studies in Latin America and Asia on how minorities and indigenous groups are represented in parliaments.

The IPU continued to show strong leadership in celebration of the International Day of Democracy, 15 September, proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2007. As in 2008, it encouraged parliaments to be actively engaged in celebrating this Day given the centrality of parliaments to democracy. The IPU produced documents to help parliaments celebrate the Day. Some 50 parliaments have reported having organized some form of activity to commemorate the Day. The IPU commissioned a global poll on public attitudes to democracy, the findings of which were released on the occasion of a regional conference on democracy in Africa which took place in Gaborone (Botswana) in September 2009. The overall theme of the 2009 International Day of Democracy was political tolerance. The Gaborone conference adopted a Declaration calling, among other things, for the speedy ratification and implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

The IPU and the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, a joint initiative with the United Nations, convened the annual World e-Parliament Conference at the US House of Representatives in November 2009. Members of parliaments, secretaries-general, parliamentary staff and officials, experts from international organizations and academics who work and deal with information and communication technologies in legislatures reviewed good practices and exchanged views and experiences on latest trends, institutional developments and experiences in the use of ICT in parliaments.

Conclusion

The annexed table is a compendium of the main activities the IPU implemented in 2009 in the area of democracy. The rolling three-year plan on promoting peace, democracy and development has helped to give more focus to work in this field. It is a useful planning tool, which gives donors a better understanding of the IPU's work and its requirements in terms of extra-budgetary funding.

While the IPU donor base is being consolidated, the IPU continues to be challenged by human resource constraints. The expected expansion of activities in the area of child protection, in particular, will require additional human and financial resources.

The extremely political environment in which the IPU's democracy activities often take place and the need to secure buy-in from stakeholders across the political spectrum in parliament severely constrain speedy project delivery in numerous instances, especially in the field of building parliamentary capacity and fostering dialogue and reconciliation.

The IPU has undoubtedly positioned itself as a leader in standards setting for parliaments. The challenge will be to maintain this standing and encourage parliaments to make use of the IPU's expertise in efforts to improve their performance.

SUMMARY TABLE OF DEMOCRACY-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN 2009/EARLY 2010

AREA OF FOCUS	COUNTRY/ REGION	ACTIVITY	TIMING	PARTNER(S)	BUDGET
<i>I. Strengthening parliaments</i>					
	Burundi	Retreat to promote political dialogue	September 2009	Benin, Cameroon	SIDA
	Cambodia	Training on legislative research	February 2009	Belgium	IPU core budget
		Training on legislative drafting	March 2009	France	IPU core budget
		Workshop to promote parliamentary involvement in the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action (BPOA) for LDCs	February 2009	UNDP	SIDA
		Provision of a parliamentary expert for a Women's leadership retreat	September 2009	UNDP, Philippines, Australia	UNDP
		Provision of a parliamentary expert to deliver presentations on the occasion of the International Day of Democracy 2009	September 2009	UNDP, Philippines	UNDP
		Provision of a parliamentary expert to deliver an ethics and integrity seminar and assist with the development of a code of ethics	November 2009	UNDP, South Africa	UNDP
		Central African Republic	Needs assessment mission	December 2009	Belgium, Cameroon, UNDP, UN Peace Building Commission
	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mission for administrative/organizational audit of parliament	June 2009	UNDP, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, France	UNDP
		Training on legislative research	September 2009	UNDP, Benin, Germany	UNDP
		Training for Committee and plenary advisers	October 2009	UNDP, Gabon, Switzerland	UNDP

AREA OF FOCUS	COUNTRY/ REGION	ACTIVITY	TIMING	PARTNER(S)	BUDGET
		Technical assessment of the activities related to recording of proceedings	November 2009	UNDP, Belgium, Morocco	UNDP
		Training for Communications services	December 2009	UNDP, Burkina Faso	UNDP
		Mission for identification of priority needs of the parliament and preparation of workplan for 2010	December 2009	UNDP	UNDP
		Induction and orientation seminar for newly elected MPs	March 2009	Spain, Equatorial Guinea	EC and the Government of Equatorial Guinea
	Equatorial Guinea	Mission to assess training for verbatim reporters	June 2009		Government of Equatorial Guinea
		Training on maintenance of verbatim reporting equipment	June 2009		Government of Equatorial Guinea
	Maldives	Provision of technical, procedural and documentary assistance to compile a draft code of ethics	August 2009	UNDP, Belgium	UNDP
		Induction/orientation seminar for newly elected members	March 2009	UNDP	UNDP
	Pakistan	Mission to review phase I of project and develop a project document for phase II	February 2009	UNDP, UK	UNDP
	Palestine Legislative Council	Needs assessment/project formulation mission	August 2009	EC, UNDP	IPU core budget
	Republic of the Congo	Mission for technical assessment of recording of proceedings	November 2009	Belgium	IPU/SIDA
	Sierra Leone	Missions on parliament's strategic plan	February and May 2009	UNDP, Zimbabwe	UNDP

AREA OF FOCUS	COUNTRY/ REGION	ACTIVITY	TIMING	PARTNER(S)	BUDGET
	Vietnam	Provision of expert for a women's conference	December 2009	UNDP, Republic of Korea	UNDP
		Facilitation of a study visit in Germany	February 2010	UNDP, Germany	UNDP
	Zimbabwe	Exploratory technical assistance and reconciliation missions	May 2009 September 2009		SIDA
	Africa region	Case studies in Tanzania and Zambia on parliament's role in the development agenda	February-March 2009	UNDP, WHO	SIDA
		Distance learning course for parliaments of Liberia, Sierra Leone and the South Sudan Legislative Assembly	May 2009	World Bank Institute	World Bank Institute, IPU core budget
	Asia region	Two case studies of parliamentary capacities in aid effectiveness in Cambodia and Vietnam	February/March 2010	UNDP, WHO	SIDA
	Europe Region	Regional seminar on Human trafficking	February 2010	Parliament of UK	UK, IPU
<i>2. Promoting and defending human rights</i>					
Major activities of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians					
	Global	Committee sessions	Jan, April, July, Oct 2009, Jan 2010		IPU Core budget
	Burundi	Trial observation mission	February 2009		IPU Core budget
	Arab region	Accompaniment mission (confidential case)	February 2009		IPU Core budget
	Israel	Trial observation mission	June 2009		IPU Core budget
	Colombia	Trial observation missions	June and July 2009		IPU Core budget

AREA OF FOCUS	COUNTRY/ REGION	ACTIVITY	TIMING	PARTNER(S)	BUDGET
	Cambodia	Trial observation mission	July 2009		IPU Core budget
	Colombia	On-site mission to Colombia	August 2009		IPU Core budget
	Colombia	Seminar for members of parliament	November 2009	Parliament of Colombia	IPU Core budget
	Colombia	Legal analysis mission	November 2009		IPU Core budget
Parliaments' contribution to implementation of international human rights treaties					
	Africa	Regional seminar on human rights treaty bodies, Libreville Gabon	March 2009	OHCHR and Parliament of Gabon	UNDEF
	Global	Seminar on parliamentary involvement in international human rights covenants , Geneva	October 2009	OHCHR	SIDA
Parliaments' contribution to national reconciliation					
	South-East Asia	Regional seminar on the role of parliament in promoting peaceful and sustainable societies, Phnom Penh, Cambodia	March 2009	Parliament of Cambodia	SIDA
	Sierra Leone	National seminar on parliament and national reconciliation	April 2009	Parliament of Sierra Leone	CIDA
		Three constituency visits for ruling party and opposition party MPs	Dec 2009/Jan 2010	Parliament of Sierra Leone	CIDA
		Expert mission for drafting of code for opposition and code of ethics	December 2009	Parliaments of S. Leone and Ghana	CIDA
	Africa Great Lakes region	Regional seminar on parliament and reconciliation, Kigali, Rwanda	July 2009	Parliament of Rwanda	CIDA
	Uganda	National seminar on parliament and reconciliation	October 2009	Parliament of Uganda	CIDA

AREA OF FOCUS	COUNTRY/ REGION	ACTIVITY	TIMING	PARTNER(S)	BUDGET
Security oversight	Africa Extended Great Lakes region	Regional seminar on parliament and long-term peace, Nairobi, Kenya	December 2009	Parliament of Kenya	CIDA
Miscellaneous					
	Europe	Regional seminar on the rights of persons with disabilities, London	April 2009	Parliament of UK	UK, IPU core budget
<i>3. Ensuring respect for children's rights</i>					
	Global	Special panel on the International Day of Zero Tolerance to FGM	6 Feb 2009	IOM, CIAF and the Department of Geneva for Human Rights	
	Global	Panel on MDGs 4 and 5, Addis Ababa	April 2009	The Countdown to 2015 partners, Parliament of Ethiopia	
	Global	Panel discussion on Adolescent girls	April 2009	UNICEF, Parliament of Ethiopia	
		3 field visits for MPs to projects for vulnerable children and adolescents in Ethiopia	April 2009	UNICEF, Parliament of Ethiopia	
	Latin America	Regional seminar on parliaments and violence against children, San José, Costa Rica	August 2009	Parliament of Costa Rica, UNICEF	CIDA
	Global	International conference on Ensuring Access to Health for all Women and Newborn and subsequent field visits to concrete initiatives in Uganda	November 2009	Parliament of Uganda, WHO	SIDA
		Ongoing updating of database on legislation on FGM			
		Publication on mechanisms to end FGM		IOM, CIAF and the Department of Geneva for Human Rights	
	Global	Publication of the Handbook for parliamentarians on violence against children in Spanish	March 2009	UNICEF	

AREA OF FOCUS	COUNTRY/ REGION	ACTIVITY	TIMING	PARTNER(S)	BUDGET
4. Promoting partnership between men and women in politics					
	Global	Publication of annual analysis of progress and setbacks of women in Parliament	March 2009	N/A	Core budget
	Global	Parliament meeting on the occasion of the 53 rd annual meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on the role of parliaments in promoting equal sharing of responsibilities between men and women, New York	March 2009	UNDAW	Core budget
	Global	Meeting on Gender Equality and Political Accountability, CSW	March 2009	UNIFEM	Core budget
	Arab region	Regional conference on the role of the media and information in increasing the number and effectiveness of women in politics, Amman, Jordan	October 2009	iKNOW Politics partners (IPU, NDI, UNDP, UNIFEM, International IDEA)	Irish Aid/partners
	Jordan	Training seminar for Women Parliamentarians on Communication and relations with the media, Jordan	October 2009	UNDP and the Parliament of Jordan	Irish Aid
	Burundi	Seminars on women's rights and gender equality involving MPs, NGOs and local councillors	April 2009	Parliament of Burundi	UNDEF
	Burundi	Seminar on gender sensitive legislation: Experience between Burundi and Rwanda	June 2009	Parliament of Burundi	UNDEF
	Rwanda	Training seminar on CEDAW for parliamentarians	November 2009	N/A	Irish Aid

AREA OF FOCUS	COUNTRY/ REGION	ACTIVITY	TIMING	PARTNER(S)	BUDGET
	Arab region	4 th regional conference for women MPs and women in decision-making positions in GCC States, Manama, Bahrain	December 2009	Parliament of Bahrain	CIDA
	Jordan	Meeting on discriminatory legislation	March 2009	UNDP and Parliament of Jordan	CIDA
	Jordan	Seminar on gender budgeting	July 2009	UNDP and Parliament of Jordan	CIDA
	Pacific Islands	Provision of expert to the Pacific sub-regional seminar on women's representation, Cook Islands	May 2009	UNIFEM, PIFS and IDLO	Irish Aid
	Global	4 th parliamentary conference for members of parliamentary committees on the status of women and other committees dealing with gender equality on "Is Parliament open to Women?" Geneva	Sept 2009	N/A	Irish Aid
	Global	7 th annual seminar on Parliaments and CEDAW, Geneva	October 2009	OHCHR	Core Budget
	Global	Campaign for Parliaments to mark the International Day for the elimination day of VAW	November 2009	IPU with parliaments	Irish Aid
	Europe	Regional seminar for Parliaments of the 12+ on migration and violence against women, Paris	December 2009	Parliament of France, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe	Irish Aid
	Global	Conference on "Ensuring Access to health for all women and newborn", Kampala	November 2009	Parliament of Uganda, WHO	Sida
	HQ	Panel discussion on the International Day of Zero Tolerance to FGM: Men taking action to put an end to the practice of FGM	February 2010	International Organization for Migration, IAC and Human Rights Office of Geneva	Norway

AREA OF FOCUS	COUNTRY/ REGION	ACTIVITY	TIMING	PARTNER(S)	BUDGET
	Global	Publication of the Conference report "A Parliamentary Response to Violence against Women"	June 2009		Irish Aid and CIDA
	Global	Publication of the poster and brochure on Parliaments Take Action on Violence against Women	June and October 2009		Irish Aid
	Global	Publication of the World Map on Women in Politics 2010	March 2010	UNDAW	Core budget/UNDAW
	Global	Publication of annual analysis of progress and setbacks of women in Parliament	March 2010	N/A	Core budget
	Global	Publication of the Conference report "Is Parliament Open to Women: An appraisal"	March 2010	N/A	Core budget/Irish Aid
	Global	Parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the annual meeting of the 54 th UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) New York on the theme Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action on its 15 th Anniversary in 2010	March 2010	UNDAW	Core budget
	Global	Side event on parliamentary action to address and end violence against women on the occasion of the CSW	March 2010	N/A	Core Budget
	Global	Side event organized on International Women's Day on 8 March, entitled "Gender Quotas and Democracy: Getting the numbers and balance right" on the occasion of the CSW.	March 2010	International IDEA, Stockholm University, IPU	Irish Aid
<i>5. Promoting knowledge of and setting standards for parliaments and democracy</i>	Global	Publication of the World Directory of Parliaments	January 2009		IPU core budget

AREA OF FOCUS	COUNTRY/ REGION	ACTIVITY	TIMING	PARTNER(S)	BUDGET
	Global	Publication of revised Guidelines for parliamentary websites	March 2009	Global Centre for ICT in Parliament	Global Centre for ICT in Parliament
	Global	Publication of the Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections	April 2009		IPU core budget
	Global	Publication of the Panorama of Parliamentary Elections	April 2009		IPU core budget
	Global	African regional conference on the occasion of the International Day of Democracy	September 2009	Parliament of Botswana	SIDA
	Global	IPU-ASGP conference on Evaluating parliament	October 2009	ASGP	IPU core budget
	Global	World e-Parliament Conference 2009	November 2009	US House of Representatives; United Nations; Global Centre for ICT in Parliament	Global Centre for ICT in Parliament
	Global	International Conference on Benchmarking and self-assessment for democratic parliaments	Mars 2010	WBI, UNDP	
	Rwanda	Facilitation of self-assessment at the Chamber of Deputies	March 2009		IPU core budget
	Global	Distribution of questionnaire on the Representation of minorities and indigenous people in parliament	January 2009		
	Global	Distribution of questionnaire on Parliamentary oversight	July 2009	World Bank Institute	
	Global	Distribution of questionnaire on ICT in parliament	August 2009	Global Centre for ICT in Parliament	
<i>6. Contributing to democracy events</i>					
		Wilton Park conference on promoting political freedom and deepening democracy, Steyning, England	June 2009		

AREA OF FOCUS	COUNTRY/ REGION	ACTIVITY	TIMING	PARTNER(S)	BUDGET
		Seminar on security sector in Central Africa, Yaoundé Cameroon	September 2009		
		Various meetings of the OECD Development Assistance Committee on aid effectiveness, Paris	Feb, March, June, December 2009, Jan, March 2010		
	Global	Donor Coordination Conference on women's empowerment, Vienna	February 2010	UN inter-agency network on women and gender equality and Gender Net	
		International Conference on peace in Kenya	March 2009		
	Global	Fourth meeting on Implementation of Principles for International Election Observation, Warsaw	September 2009	OSCE/ODIHR	
	Europe	Conference on Gender Equality in Europe, Stockholm	November 2009	Parliament of Sweden	
	Africa	Think Tank Meeting on Support for Women Leaders in Eastern and Southern Africa	December 2009	Gender Links, HIVOS and AMwA	
		Various meetings of the Human Rights Council, Geneva	Feb, May, July, Sept 2009	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	
		Planning mission with the Sahel and West Africa Club of the OECD , Paris	March 2010	OECD/SWAC	
		Annual meeting of the IFLA Section on Parliamentary libraries and research services	August 2009		
	N. America	Annual conference of the National Conference of State Legislatures of the US, Philadelphia	August 2009		
		UN Forum on Minority Issues	November 2009		

AREA OF FOCUS	COUNTRY/ REGION	ACTIVITY	TIMING	PARTNER(S)	BUDGET
		Planning meeting for 7 th International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, New York	Jan. 2010		
	Africa	Regional review of implementation of the Brussels Plan of Action for LDCs, Addis Ababa	March 2010		
		Board of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, in Hungary and Washington	March 2009 and November 2009		
	Global	Panel discussion: "The empowerment of women in countries emerging from conflict The role of parliaments" ECOSOC	23 July 2009	ECOSOC	NA
	Global	Statement at the Second Committee of the General Assembly: Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries	20 October 2009	UN General Assembly	NA