

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Promoting peace, democracy
and development



PLANNED ACTIVITIES
AND REQUIREMENTS

2009-2011

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INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

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INTRODUCTION

Over the last twenty years we have witnessed an unprecedented move towards democracy in every corner of the world. One country after another has abandoned monolithic power structures in favor of multi-party democracies with an elected parliament at its centre. This process has generally been accompanied by a complete revamping of legal systems. New constitutions are drawn up and laws are revised and adopted in parliament as countries shift to market economies.

In every one of these countries, parliament is given significantly enhanced responsibilities, often when it has scant capacity, resources and experience to meet the new challenges. Many of these countries lack the resources to develop democratic institutions and the political commitment to the kind of power-sharing that is essential to democratic processes. The end result is that parliament does not always receive the attention and support it needs to fulfill its constitutional responsibilities.

The central focus of the Inter-Parliamentary Union's (IPU) programmes is to redress this situation and to mobilize parliaments, governments and the international community in support of these parliaments.

This Plan outlines the activities that are being developed for implementation during 2009 through 2011 to achieve this overall objective and the accompanying resource requirements. It seeks to assist the parliaments concerned by:

- Setting standards and guidelines for democratic parliaments
- Creating a base of knowledge to support programmes to strengthen parliaments
- Promoting and protecting human rights
- Ensuring respect for children's rights
- Promoting gender equality in politics

- Promoting development
- Contributing to peace-building

In addition, the IPU works to strengthen parliaments as institutions in response to requests from parliaments. Most such projects are implemented in cooperation with, and are fully or partly funded by, UNDP. A short description of such projects is presented in the Annex and may be subject to separate funding appeals should there be need for additional resources.

In all of these activities, the IPU is guided by a vision of what a democratic parliament actually looks like. With a number of similarly-minded organizations, the IPU has taken a lead in developing criteria, based on examples of what parliaments themselves see as good practice, that a parliament must meet in order to be considered truly democratic. According to these criteria which are set out in IPU's 2006 guide on *Parliament and Democracy in the Twenty-first Century*, a democratic parliament is one that is:

- **Representative**, which means that it reflects, as closely as possible, the social and political diversity of the population, encourages the full participation of women, and ensures equal rights and protections for all of its members so that they can freely exercise their mandate
- **Transparent**, which means that it works in a way that the public can see, either directly or through communication media, such as print or electronic news organizations
- **Accessible**, which means that the public, including associations and movements of civil society, can be involved in its work
- **Accountable**, which means that there are opportunities for voters to hold members of parliament to account for their performance in office and integrity of conduct
- **Effective**, which means that parliament's work, which encompasses not only domestic law-making

and oversight but also the increasingly important realm of international relations, must be well organized to ensure that it serves the needs of the whole population

While the IPU enjoys a solid funding base from annual assessed contributions provided by its members and associate members, additional voluntary funds are needed to realize the IPU's full potential and to meet increasing demands for assistance. Requirements from

voluntary sources amount to some CHF 5 million annually and complement the annual core budget of approximately CHF 12 million.

We are very encouraged by and grateful for the confidence and support we are receiving from a core group of donors, whose generous contributions allow us to secure implementation of important programmes in support of parliaments around the world. It is our hope that the Plan for 2009-2011 will attract the attention and support of both current and new donors.

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)

The IPU is a global voice and forum for parliamentarians from 150 parliaments around the world. Founded nearly 120 years ago, the IPU aims to ensure that all national parliaments and their constituent 45,000 parliamentarians can freely, safely, and effectively do the job they were elected to do: express the will of the people, pass laws, and hold governments to account for their actions. The IPU mobilizes parliamentary action on a wide range of issues and implements programmes to strengthen parliaments as democratic institutions.

Members

The IPU is a member-driven organization; members and staff of parliaments take an active part in both designing and implementing its programmes. They are concurrently members, partners and beneficiaries of programme activities. Parliaments second experts to the IPU to assist with its various technical assistance programmes. The IPU also works closely with the Association of Secretaries General of Parliament (ASGP) and collaborates with many regional parliamentary assemblies and organizations. Members participate in the work of the organization through delegations composed of parliamentarians who reflect the prevailing political and gender configuration in multi-party parliaments. The members express the political views of the IPU at bi-annual Assemblies where they debate issues that are high on the international agenda.

Governing bodies

The Governing Council is the IPU's plenary policy-making body. It meets twice a year to adopt the organization's programmes, set its budget, and decide on membership. The 17-member Executive Committee oversees the administration of the organization. The IPU also has a women's caucus, the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, which, among other activities, develops a gender-equality agenda for the IPU.

For specific priority issues, the IPU creates geographically representative advisory groups, composed of parliamentarians, that provide guidance on IPU policy and programmes. They highlight issues of concern, contribute to the debates at the statutory Assemblies and during specialized meetings of the IPU, and make recommendations for action by the IPU and its members.

The Secretariat

The IPU employs 43 staff at its headquarters in Geneva and in its New York office. The New York Office represents the IPU at the United Nations and in Washington, D.C. The Secretariat is structured into four divisions under the overall leadership of the Secretary General. The Division for Assembly Affairs and Member Parliaments facilitates the work of the members and is responsible for organizing the bi-annual IPU Assemblies. The Division for the Promotion of Democracy provides technical assistance and advisory services to parliaments, undertakes research, promotes human rights, including the rights of the child, and gender equality. The Division for External Relations is responsible for relations with international organizations, particularly the United Nations and Bretton Woods institutions, and with the US Congress. It also covers all public-information and public-awareness activities. The Support Services Division administers the material,

financial and human resources of the IPU. A small Executive Office, including the President and the Secretary General, provides leadership and direction to the Union and its Secretariat.

The IPU has concluded a headquarters agreement with the Swiss authorities that grants it benefits and obligations similar to those of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

Partners and beneficiaries

The target groups of the IPU's programmes are mainly parliaments and their members. The ultimate beneficiaries are the citizens of the countries where the IPU intervenes since parliamentarians represent the people, legislate and take policy decisions on their behalf.

The IPU also targets the wider policy-making community and external organizations. These include intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and research institutes. By providing timely and relevant comparative information, the IPU helps the wider policy-making community to develop informed policies and strategies. The IPU has a close working relationship with many multilateral institutions, particularly the United Nations and its agencies and programmes. The IPU also collaborates with many regional parliamentary assemblies and international and local organizations.

The IPU has observer status with the UN General Assembly and cooperation agreements with the United Nations and several of its programmes and agencies, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). The IPU has developed a joint work programme with UNICEF on child-protection issues. In planning and implementing activities, the IPU works in the spirit of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and coordinates with UN organizations in the country concerned, particularly UNDP, and with bilateral donors.

Implementation, monitoring and follow-up

The IPU offers assistance and advisory services with respect to parliament's role, structure, and working methods. It builds institutional capacity in parliament, develops human resources and provides material resources. It conducts training programmes and seminars for members of parliament and parliamentary staff and organizes study trips and in-service capacity-building. These and other assistance activities are part of comprehensive programmes that are developed in close consultation with the parliamentary leadership on the basis of in-depth needs assessments carried out by IPU experts. All activities are designed to respond to the specific needs of each parliament and are therefore sensitive to each parliament's particular history, culture, political environment and constitutional framework. The IPU engages most of its experts, generally current or retired parliamentarians and parliamentary staff, from its member parliaments. The Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments, an organ of the IPU, also provides expertise.

In planning and designing national projects, the IPU keeps itself informed of the activities of other donors and coordinates with them in order to avoid duplication. In some cases, activities may be carried out jointly with other donors and implementing agencies, such as UN agencies, national and international NGOs, and development aid agencies.

Monitoring is a continuing process throughout all project phases. Most technical assistance projects have a steering committee/working group that measures the actual budget and schedule against the original project budget and activity schedules.

Ongoing monitoring of project resources and schedules includes:

- Regular meetings with the various stakeholders/partners, including in the countries concerned
- The publication of quarterly progress reports identifying progress, problems and requested changes
- Identification and recommendation of corrective measures.

Key issues, assumptions and risks

The foremost risk when implementing projects to strengthen parliament is the unpredictability of political developments and the politically charged environment in which such projects are often implemented. Political factors, such as early elections and changes in the leadership and administration of the Assemblies, may affect project implementation and success. Given that parliament is an arena for confrontation among various forces and interests, those divergent agendas may adversely affect projects. In an effort to minimize these risks, the IPU seeks to secure local political and administrative 'buy-in' and ownership of interventions. The IPU has initiated a rapid response mechanism to assist parliaments in creating an inclusive framework for dialogue with all stakeholders during periods of political instability. In addition, through capacity-building activities aimed at creating an institutional memory, the IPU works to mitigate the impact of electoral changes on the administration of parliament.

The lack of information-sharing and coordination among organizations that provide support to national parliaments often leads to duplication of effort and insufficient long-term follow-up. To resolve this problem, the IPU intends to create a global mapping database that would serve as a clearinghouse for all information on parliamentary strengthening. In general, the IPU works on the assumption that participating parliaments have the necessary political will to follow-up on programmes and that they will be fully engaged.

When the IPU undertakes assessments of parliaments in planning assistance programmes, the target parliaments often expect immediate follow-up. However, given its limited financial and human resources, the IPU often cannot meet those high expectations.

Funding and donor support

The IPU is funded by its members and associate members through annual contributions assessed in accordance with a scale approved by the Governing Council. The IPU's core budget, which totals some CHF 12 million annually, pays for programme activities and its Secretariat, bi-annual Assemblies and other regular meetings of parliaments, and documentation. In addition, the IPU receives voluntary funds from several governments, UNDP, UNDEF and the European Commission. An ad hoc approach to resource mobilization has been replaced by a systematic effort to build a stable funding base for the IPU's programmes. Close relations have been established with a supportive core group of donors that provides stable and predictable programme funding. This group, which consists of the Canadian International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDA), Irish Aid and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), is committed to gradually harmonizing arrangements for planning, monitoring and reporting in keeping with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. For more details on funding, please see tables on page 34 ■

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The following sections of this document outline the IPU's planned activities and related requirements for 2009 to 2011. Budgets are presented under "Funding and Budget" on page 34.

Setting standards and guidelines for democratic parliaments

The IPU's 2006 guide on *Parliament and Democracy in the Twenty-first Century* sets out a framework of the core objectives of a democratic parliament – to be representative, transparent, accessible, accountable and effective at the national and international levels – and provides a wealth of examples of how parliaments are putting these values into practice in their daily activities. While each parliament is clearly unique, the existence of standards and criteria provides a vital framework that underpins activities to strengthen parliament, whether they are carried out by parliaments alone or with international assistance.

designed to enhance parliamentary performance by identifying both areas where parliament is performing well and shortcomings that are a priority for improvement. Self-assessment is an important means of ensuring local ownership, and fits with similar processes, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). The challenge is to gain recognition of the criteria for democratic parliaments among parliaments themselves and among the wider governance community, including donors and organizations that implement parliamentary strengthening programmes. The IPU will:

- work towards international agreement on criteria for democratic parliaments
- encourage local ownership of these criteria as a basis of parliaments' efforts to enhance their performance, including through reforms
- promote the use of the criteria for democratic parliaments in parliamentary strengthening programmes

The IPU will establish and train a network of facilitators to assist in the self-assessment exercises and will cooperate closely with other organizations working in the area of benchmarks for democratic parliaments (UNDP, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association [CPA], National Democratic Institute for International Affairs [NDI] and others) in order to maximize coordination, avoid duplication and work towards a common set of criteria.

> Objectives and activities

Objectives include developing internationally recognized standards and guidelines for democratic parliaments based on good practice; promoting awareness and use of these standards and guidelines among parliaments and organizations that work with parliaments; and making these standards and guidelines the reference point for international activities to strengthen the institution of parliament. Activities aim to:

A. PROMOTE RECOGNITION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CRITERIA FOR DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTS

The IPU has developed a self-assessment toolkit to enable parliaments to evaluate themselves against the criteria for democratic parliaments. This toolkit is

B. PROMOTE INCLUSIVE PARLIAMENTS: THE REPRESENTATION OF MINORITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN PARLIAMENT

The IPU has received international recognition for its research on women in politics, particularly on the representation of women in parliaments, which it has conducted for more than 30 years. Building on this experience, in 2008 the IPU and UNDP launched a project on the representation of minorities and indigenous peoples in national parliaments around the world. The project aims to:

- increase knowledge about the representation of minorities and indigenous peoples
- identify and disseminate good practices
- promote advocacy for minority representation

The first stage of the project involves collecting authoritative data to support evidence-based advocacy. Data collected will be made available to parliaments and researchers through an online database, and will be accompanied by a publication that will analyze the state of minority and indigenous representation. Advocacy activities will be organized to raise awareness of the issues and encourage parliamentary action. Analysis of the data collected will enable the production of a toolkit for parliaments, including a handbook for parliamentarians that will identify good practices and make recommendations for parliamentary action to improve the representation of minorities and indigenous peoples.

An expert group, composed of leading academics and parliamentarians, has been established to provide guidance throughout the project. A mid-term evaluation will be carried out in order to identify adjustments to the project methodology that may be required. The project is being jointly implemented with UNDP. Other partners will include the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), experts and national parliaments, which will provide essential data.

C. ORGANIZE STRONG PARLIAMENTARY PARTICIPATION IN THE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

The International Conference of New or Restored Democracies (ICNRD) brings together countries at

different stages of democratization to share experiences and define priorities for the development of democracy. The first conference took place in 1988, and parliaments have been associated with the movement since 2003. The IPU has taken the lead in organizing the parliamentary component at ICNRD, which has evolved into a tripartite structure comprising governments, parliaments and civil society, with the support of the United Nations. The seventh conference (ICNRD-7) is expected to take place in Latin America in 2009. The objectives are to

- ensure strong parliamentary contributions to the preparation and outcomes of ICNRD-7
- develop a shared vision among parliaments on the challenges to democracy and the actions parliaments can take to address these challenges
- stimulate parliamentary action to follow up on the outcomes of ICNRD-7
- strengthen linkages among ICNRD, IPU and the United Nations on democracy issues

Parliamentary meetings, including preparatory events and the meeting on the occasion of ICNRD-7, will be organized in partnership with relevant parliamentary associations. An advisory board will provide guidance on follow-up after ICNRD-7.

D. PROMOTE THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON DEMOCRACY, ELECTIONS AND GOVERNANCE

The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance was adopted by the eighth ordinary session of the African Union Assembly on 30 January 2007 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Charter reflects the commitment of AU Member States to democracy, development and peace and the institutionalization of democratic, social, economic and political governance. Activities aim to promote awareness about the Charter among African parliamentarians, to encourage its ratification, and to support reforms to national legislation to reflect the Charter's principle. To these ends, the IPU will organize a parliamentary conference on the African Charter on Democracy Elections and Governance. This conference follows a first African conference on the Charter that was held in Cairo in December 2007, during which participants discussed the prospects for democracy and human rights in Africa.

The conference will address parliament's specific contribution to the promotion of democracy and respect for human rights. It will examine practices and experiences of parliaments, particularly parliaments' responsibilities and potential in reaching this objective. The conference will allow for an exchange of views among parliamentarians to increase their knowledge about the Charter and its relevance to their daily work.

> Implementing arrangements and coordination

The IPU works closely with partners on all activities. In promoting criteria for parliaments, the IPU will be guided by a network of facilitators and will cooperate closely with organizations that are working in the area of benchmarks for democratic parliaments, such as UNDP, CPA, and NDI.

The project on representation of minorities and indigenous peoples will be jointly implemented with UNDP. Other partners will include OHCHR, experts and national parliaments.

Parliamentary meetings on the occasion of ICNRD-7 will be organized in partnership with relevant parliamentary associations. An advisory board will provide guidance on follow-up after ICNRD-7.

The parliamentary conference on the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance will be co-organized by the IPU and the African Parliamentary Union and hosted by an African parliament. Other potential partners will include the Pan-African Parliament, the African Union, OHCHR, UNESCO and others.

> Beneficiaries

Parliaments, donors and organizations working to strengthen parliaments, minority groups, students and researchers will benefit. Citizens will also benefit indirectly, as parliaments draw on good practices to become more transparent, accessible and accountable to their people and thus better able to articulate their interests.

> ACTIVITY/OUTPUT	> OUTCOME	> INDICATORS
A. PROMOTE RECOGNITION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CRITERIA FOR DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTS		
Raise awareness among parliamentarians about the criteria for democratic parliaments, including through workshops at IPU assemblies	IPU's criteria gain increasing recognition among parliaments and organizations that strengthen parliaments	Number of parliamentary self-assessments (Target: 5 in 2009)
Facilitate self-assessment exercises in national parliaments	Parliaments use the IPU's self-assessment toolkit to enhance their performance	
Publish lessons learned from self-assessment and a revised self-assessment toolkit		
Convene a meeting of stakeholders on criteria for democratic parliaments		
B. PROMOTE INCLUSIVE PARLIAMENTS: THE REPRESENTATION OF MINORITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN PARLIAMENT		
Establish a global database on the representation of minorities and indigenous peoples	Increased knowledge about the state of representation of minorities and indigenous peoples	Number of parliaments for which data is available (Target: 80 by end 2009)
Develop a toolkit to assist parliaments in improving the representation of minorities and indigenous peoples	Increased capacity at the IPU and in parliaments to advocate for more inclusive parliaments	
Organize awareness-raising activities		
C. ORGANIZE STRONG PARLIAMENTARY PARTICIPATION IN THE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES		
Organize preparatory events at global and regional levels, in partnership with regional parliamentary associations	Parliaments contribute to the preparation and outcomes of ICNRD-7	Inclusiveness of preparatory events
Organize a parliamentary meeting on the occasion of ICNRD-7	Strong mandate for parliaments and parliamentarians to contribute to the advancement of the ICNRD	Evaluation of follow-up activities
Establish an advisory board to monitor and report on follow-up to the outcomes of ICNRD-7		Number of parliamentarians participating in the 7 th ICNRD
D. PROMOTE THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON DEMOCRACY, ELECTIONS AND GOVERNANCE		
Organize a conference on the African Charter that will address the specific parliamentary contribution to the promotion of democracy and human rights	Greater awareness among African parliamentarians, leading to reform of national laws to reflect the Charter's principle	Target: 120 participants

Creating a base of knowledge to support parliaments

Information and knowledge underpin all efforts to strengthen parliaments. The information that is required includes in-depth comparative information on the structures and working methods of parliaments, documented examples of good practice in parliaments, and information about the design, content and evaluation of parliamentary strengthening programmes.

Since many organizations are now producing this kind of data, it is becoming increasingly important to manage the rapidly growing stock of information in a rational manner. As the world organization of parliaments, the IPU has both the legitimacy and the expertise to take the lead in establishing a network of partners to build a knowledge base on parliaments and parliamentary strengthening. The knowledge base will serve both parliaments and organizations working with parliaments in order to support programmes to strengthen parliaments. It will also reinforce the linkage between the IPU's work on emerging standards for democratic parliaments and its in-country programmes to strengthen parliaments.

> Objectives and activities

The overall objectives are to create a comprehensive and reliable source of information about parliaments and on programmes that aim to strengthen parliaments. For those purposes, the IPU will:

A. CREATE A GLOBAL DATABASE ON PROJECTS TO STRENGTHEN PARLIAMENTS

To date, few attempts have been made to map programmes that aim to strengthen parliaments. In 2003, the IPU published the results of a joint survey conducted in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), entitled *Ten Years of Strengthening Parliaments in Africa, 1991-2000: Lessons Learnt and the Way Forward.* In 2006, the Speakers of Parliaments of the European Union requested that European parliaments establish mechanisms to collect information on programmes to strengthen parliaments carried out by, and in favour of, other European parliaments. The Speakers suggested

that the IPU consider undertaking a similar exercise at the global level. A reliable, centralized source of information would facilitate more efficient planning, reduce the risk of overlap and duplication, and enhance the sharing of expertise and lessons learned. The IPU will start the process of creating such a database with a feasibility study that will analyze the potential benefits of a Global Mapping Database (GMD) for actors involved in strengthening parliaments and assess the challenges involved in creating a GMD.

In early 2009, pending the results of the study, the IPU will invite donors, practitioners and recipient parliaments to a consultation to discuss modalities for creating a GMD that would serve as a clearinghouse of information on programmes to strengthen legislatures.

B. DEVELOP INFORMATION RESOURCES: PARLINE DATABASE ON NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

PARLINE, the IPU's database on national parliaments, contains authoritative information on the structure and working methods of every national parliament. As of June 2008, it covers 265 parliamentary chambers in all 189 countries where a national parliament exists. All information is collected from and/or cross-checked with parliaments. The data found in PARLINE are used by parliaments and organizations working to strengthen parliaments, as well as by students and researchers.

The IPU will expand the scope of PARLINE in order to build the global stock of information about parliaments. New topics to be covered include the budget of parliament, parliamentary procedures and parliamentary committees. All data will be published in English and French.

C. DOCUMENT GOOD PRACTICES IN PARLIAMENT

In support of its activities to strengthen parliaments, the IPU will publish a variety of documents, including case studies of good practices in parliaments and Issues Briefs, that will provide guidance on emerging issues related to the development of parliament and democracy. The publications will be both analytical and

practical and will provide an incentive to parliaments to examine their own practices and, where appropriate, to adapt and reproduce good practices in their own institutions. Each case study will describe in clear language the challenge that the parliament in question sought to address, the solutions that were found and the lessons learned from the experience. The case studies to be documented will be selected by a panel of experts that will regularly review proposals and draft publications.

The Issues Briefs series will highlight lessons learned, good practices and new thinking in the field of parliamentary development. Papers published by the series are expected to be analytical and policy-oriented with concrete guides to strategies, policies, programmes and tools for strengthening parliaments. Panel discussions focusing on the themes of the publications will be organized annually at the IPU Assembly.

> Implementing arrangements and coordination

To develop the knowledge base, the IPU will establish partnerships with a core group of organizations that

can bring value-added information about parliaments and parliamentary strengthening. The model of partnership is that of similar activities in the areas of elections (ACE Project) and women in politics (iKNOWpolitics). Parliaments themselves will be closely associated as both information providers and beneficiaries of the knowledge base. The study to determine the feasibility of creating a global mapping mechanism and the longer-term project to develop such a mechanism will require close coordination among relevant UN organizations, donors, implementing agencies and recipients. It is envisaged that from 2010 a staff member will be working full-time on the project.

> Beneficiaries

Parliaments will be the principal beneficiaries of the knowledge base and publications, as these sources of information will assist in both their own reform efforts and their interactions with those who conduct programmes to strengthen parliament. The base of knowledge and the global mapping database will also be key tools for use by donors and organizations that implement programmes that strengthen parliaments.

> ACTIVITY/OUTPUT	> OUTCOME	> INDICATORS
A. CREATE A GLOBAL DATABASE ON PROJECTS TO STRENGTHEN PARLIAMENTS		
Launch feasibility study on a global mapping database	Better information about programmes to strengthen parliaments	Number of donors and recipients providing data
Create a global mapping database	Better tools for the coordination of programmes of assistance to parliaments, less overlap and fewer gaps in such programmes	Number of database users Number of requests for information
B. DEVELOP INFORMATION RESOURCES: PARLINE DATABASE ON NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS		
New modules on: The budget of parliament Parliamentary procedure Parliamentary committees	Parliaments, organizations that strengthen parliaments, and students have access to comprehensive and authoritative information about parliaments on a wider range of issues	Number of chambers covered in each new module (Target: 60% in first year; 80% in second year)
C. DOCUMENT GOOD PRACTICES IN PARLIAMENT		
Publish Issues Briefs	Parliaments and other stakeholders have access to guidance on topical issues and examples of good practice that can be replicated elsewhere	Number of proposals for new Issues Briefs (Target: 10 proposals received in 2009)
Publish case studies		

Promoting and protecting human rights

Parliament is uniquely placed to promote human rights. It ratifies human rights treaties and converts their provisions into domestic law. It holds government to account for the implementation of laws and policies in the area of human rights and can ensure that recommendations of UN treaty-monitoring bodies are implemented. Parliament adopts national budgets and can steer funds towards areas that are crucial to the enjoyment of human rights. Members of parliament are opinion leaders who can do much to raise public awareness about democracy and human rights. In many ways, parliament is the guardian of human rights.

The IPU has worked closely with parliaments on human rights issues for many years. Its Human Rights Programme, initially built around the activities of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, which addresses cases of alleged human right abuses of parliamentarians, increasingly works to strengthen the capacity of national parliaments to deal effectively with human rights issues.

> Objectives and activities

The overall objective of the IPU's human rights programme is to strengthen parliament's capacity to address human rights issues. Activities aim to:

A. STRENGTHEN PARLIAMENT'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES

Parliament is essential for ratifying treaties and incorporating their provisions into national legislation. The project aims to ensure that parliaments are aware of the work of the human rights treaty bodies and are involved in the national reporting and follow-up process. Parliamentary involvement is essential to ensure proper follow-up to treaty-body recommendations.

The project started in October 2006 with a regional seminar for parliaments of francophone African countries on international and regional human rights norms, standards and principles. The seminar was

followed by a series of national seminars in four target countries (Togo, Mali, Mauritania and Congo) for parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and other national human rights actors. During these seminars, participants examined the human rights treaties ratified by their countries, whether and how the provisions of those treaties are incorporated into national legislation, and the status of their implementation. Participants also discussed national strategies for parliamentary action, strategies that aim to improve implementation of treaty-body recommendations and encourage timely reporting to these bodies.

Given the interest in this project, activities will be expanded to other French-speaking African parliaments and, in a second phase, to parliaments in English-speaking African countries.

After the initial national-level seminar, during which a strategy is devised, a second seminar will be convened to evaluate the strategy, with the aim of identifying achievements and obstacles and to elaborate a more permanent plan to ensure parliamentary involvement in treaty-body work.

B. STRENGTHEN PARLIAMENT'S CAPACITY TO ACT ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The annual seminar for members of parliamentary human rights committees, the first of which took place in 2004, embodies the IPU's strategy to engage more directly with parliaments at the committee level as a way of strengthening their contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights.

The first seminar addressed the mandate and functioning of parliamentary human rights committees. Subsequent seminars addressed topics identified as priority issues by members of parliamentary human rights committees themselves, namely the right to freedom of expression (2005), the due administration of justice (2006), and the issue of migration from a human rights perspective (2007). The next such

meeting will be held in November 2008 and will address the achievements and challenges that remain 60 years after the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The seminars enable members of parliamentary human rights committees to exchange views, compare the mandates, functioning and working methods of their respective committees, and identify best practices to address current human rights challenges. The meetings also aim to enhance parliamentarians' knowledge about human rights issues and norms and to contribute to the establishment of networks of parliamentarians and others involved in the promotion and protection of human rights at national and international levels.

C. PROVIDE TOOLS ON HUMAN RIGHTS FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

As part of its efforts to familiarize parliamentarians with human rights, in 2005 the IPU and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) published a handbook on human rights for parliamentarians. The handbook provides an overview of human rights, discusses the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and specifies the obligations of States to protect and promote human rights. The handbook also offers suggestions on how parliaments can assist in the realization of human rights. The handbook is published in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. Given the high level of interest in the publication, it will be updated and re-printed in English and French.

At the request of members of parliamentary human rights committees who participated in the annual human rights seminars, the IPU intends to publish two handbooks in 2010 on topics that were addressed at these events, namely the right to freedom of expression and the question of migration and human rights. The handbook on freedom of expression will provide guidelines and best examples concerning legislation on access to information and will encourage parliamentary action to ensure the free flow of information.

The handbook on migration and human rights is intended to increase parliamentarians' understanding of how to apply a rights-based approach to national

migration laws and policies and to secure wider ratification of and respect for ILO Conventions 97 and 143 and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

> Implementing arrangements and coordination

The IPU cooperates closely with OHCHR in all its human rights activities. OHCHR helps to design the seminars on the UN human rights treaty bodies and provides experts to conduct the seminars. Follow-up activities are undertaken jointly by the IPU and OHCHR.

OHCHR also provides expert advice for the seminars for parliamentary human rights committees. Other UN organizations, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and human rights organizations, including Article 19, the International Commission of Jurists, and the Association for the Prevention of Torture, contribute their particular expertise.

OHCHR contributed to the handbook on human rights and will help to update the publication. The handbook on migration will be produced in cooperation with ILO and OHCHR. The handbook on freedom of expression will be produced in cooperation with Article 19 in 2010. The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians will serve as review panel for the handbooks. The IPU will work with a wide range of organizations, including OHCHR, UNICEF, ILO, the International Organization for Migration and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

> Beneficiaries

All activities target members and staff of national parliaments. Beneficiaries of the second phase of the project to strengthen parliament's contribution to the implementation of UN human rights treaties will be the parliaments of Benin, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Senegal, Central African Republic, Niger and Chad. The project will then be extended to parliaments in English-speaking Africa. Apart from parliamentarians and parliamentary staff, representatives of the government,

national commissions for human rights and members of civil society will also benefit from the project.

Parliamentary human rights committees and their members are the immediate beneficiaries of the seminars to strengthen their capacity to promote and protect human rights. Indirectly, the seminars strengthen the institution of parliament and the wider human rights movement by fostering cooperation between parliament and its parliamentary human rights committee on the one hand and other national and international human rights stakeholders on the other.

The IPU will also target the larger community of international and national human rights policy-makers and activists, as well as intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions, ministries and non-governmental organizations, to ensure that there is an effective working relationship among parliaments and these other stakeholders and an understanding of their respective roles in promoting and protecting human rights.

> ACTIVITY/OUTPUT	> OUTCOME	> INDICATORS
A. STRENGTHEN PARLIAMENT’S CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES		
National seminars to examine ratification and implementation of treaty-body recommendations	Improved follow-up to the recommendations of treaty bodies and hence better promotion and protection of human rights in the countries in question	Number of ratifications and number of withdrawals of reservations to human rights treaties
National strategies developed		Timely reporting to treaty bodies
National follow-up seminars to evaluate strategies. Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Madagascar, Senegal, Central African Republic and Chad will be targeted in a first phase; Ghana, Liberia, the Gambia, Nigeria, Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland and Zambia will be targeted in a second phase		Number of recommendations implemented
		Degree of parliamentary involvement in the preparations of national reports and presentations before the treaty bodies
B. STRENGTHEN PARLIAMENT’S CAPACITY TO ACT ON HUMAN RIGHTS		
Annual seminar on a specific human rights topic that will improve the functioning and understanding of parliamentary human rights committees	Increased awareness about the relevant international human rights standards and mechanisms among participants	Participation in annual seminars
	Better functioning of parliamentary human rights committees	Number of committee follow-up debates and proposals regarding topics discussed at the seminars
	Increased and better interaction among all stakeholders involved in human rights	Number of contacts and instances of cooperation among parliamentary human rights committees and other human rights actors
C. PROVIDE TOOLS ON HUMAN RIGHTS FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS		
Production of three high-quality educational and information tools for parliamentarians	Increased awareness among parliamentarians and others about international human rights norms and machinery and about particular human rights topics relevant to their work	Number of handbooks requested
	Increased awareness among other human rights stakeholders about what parliaments can do to promote and protect human rights	Numbers of parliamentary initiatives related to the topics addressed in the handbooks

Ensuring respect for children's rights

The IPU has worked closely with UNICEF to raise awareness about children's rights among parliamentarians and to address such issues as female genital mutilation, trafficking of children and child labour. Over the past five years, three handbooks for parliamentarians—on child protection, on combating trafficking of children and on violence against children—were produced. Panel discussions during the annual IPU Assemblies and regional seminars have addressed topics such as commercial sexual exploitation, HIV/AIDS and children, trafficking of children, and juvenile justice.

In cooperation with UNICEF, the IPU will mobilize parliaments to foster respect for children's rights and well being. Parliaments will be encouraged to raise awareness about children's rights, exercise their power of inquiry, oversee government action, and examine the budget from a child's rights perspective to ensure that it enables each country to meet its obligations under national and international law. Parliaments will also be encouraged to hold meetings with children and youth and to involve them, whenever possible, in parliamentary work on issues that affect them.

> Objectives and activities

The overall goal is to mobilize parliaments to support children's rights and well being. The IPU will continue its work to promote children's rights at the global level, and focus on two priority areas at regional and national levels: violence against children and child survival.

A. SUPPORT PARLIAMENTS TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

The UN Study on Violence against Children, issued in 2006, shows that despite some progress in the legislative field, legal reforms have often focused on individual issues rather than on taking a comprehensive approach to violence against children. Few States have carried out thorough reviews or reforms of their legal frameworks so that they can address violence against children more effectively, and many laws are not implemented. In many States, legislation concentrates

on sexual or physical violence, but does not cover psychological violence. The focus of legal reform tends to be on protection and penalties, while recovery, reintegration and redress receive much less attention. Some States address prevention solely through the protection and penalty aspects of legislation. The recommendations of the study call for stronger national and local commitment and action.

The IPU and UNICEF began mobilizing parliaments at the global level with the publication, in 2007, of a handbook on Eliminating Violence against Children. Planned activities over the coming three years will build on the handbook, focusing on regional and national support projects. Each year, one region will be identified where a specific type of violence against children is prevalent. The process will begin with a regional training session to highlight good practices and aim at building a regional dynamic for and agreement on parliamentary initiatives that can be taken to tackle the specific type of violence against children examined. The regional activity will be followed by one or two national support initiatives. Lessons learned from the activities carried out in the region will be compiled and shared to inform and support similar processes in other regions.

B. ENHANCE PARLIAMENTARY ACTION TO ACHIEVE MDGs 4 AND 5 ON MATERNAL AND CHILD SURVIVAL

In 2008, the IPU and partners of the Countdown to 2015 Conference on Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival joined forces with the aim of enhancing parliamentary efforts to promote maternal, newborn and child health within 68 priority countries. Ninety-seven per cent of all maternal and child deaths in the world occur in these countries. These issues were addressed in special sessions during the Countdown to 2015 conference and the 118th IPU Assembly, both held in Cape Town in April 2008.

Discussions held highlighted the importance of developing/strengthening health policies and systems, and ensuring a continuum of care to reduce maternal and child mortality. These actions require developing

enabling legal frameworks, allocating sufficient funds, and sensitizing and educating populations. The data collected by the Countdown partners provide specific information on strengths and weaknesses at the national level and identify key initiatives that, if taken, could significantly reduce the number of deaths and improve the living conditions for mothers and children. The IPU's efforts, in cooperation with Countdown partners, will aim at ensuring that parliament is made aware of the situation and takes necessary action. Parliaments will be encouraged to allocate sufficient funds towards maternal and child survival programmes, and to monitor their implementation. Up to five national parliaments will be identified each year to benefit from capacity-building activities on these issues.

C. MOBILIZE PARLIAMENTS FOR CHILD RIGHTS AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

It is necessary to complement efforts at national and regional levels with general awareness-raising activities at the global level. Plans include the production of a handbook or training module for MPs on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and on "General Measures of Implementation." It will lay the foundation on which efforts to safeguard children's rights should be built and ensure that work on specific rights are carried out as part of a broad, coherent strategy to ensure that all children enjoy their human rights.

Several IPU resolutions have called for the establishment of a small, geographically representative Advisory

Group, composed of parliamentarians, to provide the impetus for future IPU policy and programmes that address children's issues. The Group's role will be to highlight priority issues of concern, raise awareness, foster debate on child protection topics at the statutory Assemblies and during specialized meetings of the IPU, and make recommendations for action by the IPU and its members.

> Implementation and coordination

The IPU's work on children's rights is spearheaded by the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, pending the creation of a specific body dealing with child-related issues within the IPU. The Committee reports to the IPU Governing Council, which has endorsed the programme on child protection and rights. Activities will be carried out in close cooperation with UNICEF and will benefit from UNICEF's support, expertise and guidance, whether from its headquarters or at regional or country levels.

> Beneficiaries

The target groups are parliaments and their members. By influencing parliaments, the IPU seeks to assist children, particularly marginalized children whose voices are not heard and whose interests are often disregarded, among others. The ultimate target group and beneficiaries of these activities are the children in the countries concerned.

> ACTIVITY/OUTPUT	> OUTCOME	> INDICATORS
A. SUPPORT PARLIAMENTS TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN		
Annual regional, sub-regional and national seminars on violence against children (VAC)	Enhanced access for parliamentarians to regional data, research and examples of best practice to combat VAC	Number of participants in the regional, sub-regional and national seminars
Tools and studies adapted to regional needs on VAC issues	Strengthened and more targeted parliamentary action on VAC	Number of national versions and launches of the IPU/UNICEF handbook on VAC
Translation of and support for events building on the IPU/UNICEF handbook on Eliminating VAC	Greater awareness, information exchange, coordination and action on child protection issues by national parliaments and by regional parliamentary assemblies of the regions concerned	Number of targeted regional and national parliamentary activities carried out
A database on existing legislation on violence against children (including already existing IPU database on FGM)		Parliamentary initiatives on VAC
		Number of users of the database on legislation on VAC

> ACTIVITY/OUTPUT	> OUTCOME	> INDICATORS
B. ENHANCE PARLIAMENTARY ACTION TO ACHIEVE MDGS 4 AND 5 ON MATERNAL AND CHILD SURVIVAL		
Activities in five national parliaments per year (seminars, briefings, provision of expertise, parliamentary exchange visits, etc.)	Enhanced parliamentary action towards the achievement of MDGs 4 and 5 Higher budget allocations in favour of MDGs 4 and 5 and monitoring thereof	Number of activities carried out Number of participants Parliamentary initiatives taken Budgetary allocations made
Identification and dissemination of best practices	Enhanced parliamentary action and awareness	Number of participants in events
Awareness-raising events and meetings to monitor progress on the occasion of IPU Assemblies	Monitoring of progress and challenges faced	Number of case studies produced
Tools for MPs to support their action at national and global levels		
C. MOBILIZE PARLIAMENTS FOR CHILD RIGHTS AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL		
The creation of an Advisory Group on children	Enhanced parliamentary awareness, information exchange, coordination and action on child protection issues	Number of reports produced and quality of recommendations
Biannual meetings to guide overall child rights policies and programmes	Increased priority for child-related issues by parliaments worldwide and accelerated progress in building stronger protective frameworks for children	National parliamentary follow-up debates and actions carried out
Field visits by the Group for specific child issues	Greater momentum, ownership, focus and effectiveness in child-protection activities of the IPU and its members	Number of field visits carried out
		Level of debate on child-protection issues at IPU Assemblies and meetings
A handbook for parliamentarians on the CRC and on legislative, administrative, and other measures needed to ensure firm foundations for implementation	Accelerated development and improved quality of laws, policies and action plans for the promotion and protection of the rights of children	Launch of handbook and numbers of copies distributed
Additional tools presenting and analyzing study findings and recommendation for specific regions	Enhanced parliamentary involvement in monitoring and supporting the effective implementation of the CRC Enhanced parliamentary involvement in the CRC reporting process	Number of national versions produced Number of national launches organized Parliamentary actions to review legislation on child protection Parliamentary debate on the CRC Level of parliamentary involvement in the CRC reporting process
A web portal for parliamentarians on child-related issues to support parliaments in their work	Parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, politicians and policy-makers have easy access to comparative information, data and tools Increased knowledge among parliamentarians and other stakeholders of child-related issues	Statistics on traffic on the website Tracking organizations directly referencing, or linking to, the website database Relevance and usefulness of the data assessed through a qualitative on-line survey
Field visits for MPs in connection with IPU Assemblies	Enhanced awareness among members of parliament Enhanced visibility of child-related issues within IPU structures and members	Number of participants attending

Promoting gender equality in politics

The IPU's work is underpinned by the belief that democracy is based on the participation and perspectives of both men and women in decision-making. The organization therefore aims to achieve a gender partnership in political life by facilitating women's access to, and influence in, parliament.

While it is urgent to increase the number of women in parliament, it is equally important that women, once in parliament, use their positions of influence to contribute substantively to policy-making, particularly concerning respect for women's rights and gender equality. The IPU believes that greater political participation by women will have positive effects on the development of society, in general. Improving women's living conditions and enhancing their contribution to development are central to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and to all efforts aimed at eradicating poverty.

> Objective and activities

The overall goal is to achieve representative and accountable parliaments through increased and enhanced participation of women and more gender-sensitive parliamentary institutions. To this end, the IPU will:

A. PRODUCE COMPARATIVE INFORMATION ON WOMEN IN POLITICS

Research and data on women in politics are crucial, as they form the basis of national, regional, and international policies and strategies designed to promote the balanced participation of men and women in politics. For over 30 years, the IPU has conducted research on women in parliament, including gathering information on the granting of women's political rights, such as the right to vote and to stand for elections, the number of women holding Presiding Officer posts in parliaments, and the number of women in the executive branch of government.

Activities seek to develop comparative information on women's participation in politics, which does not yet exist in any user-friendly format, and to develop practical tools to facilitate parliaments' access to this information. Activities include the development and maintenance of an online database of women in politics, in comparative and historical perspective; the production of a *Global Map of Women in Politics*; development of the International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics (iKNOW Politics) and production of a tool on special measures aimed at promoting women's political participation.

B. SUPPORT WOMEN IN ACCESSING AND TRANSFORMING PARLIAMENT

Research shows that while the pool of women candidates is large, a very small percentage of candidates is female. Furthermore, when women run for parliament, they often must do so in an inhospitable political environment and with a lack of experience, support, and funding. Developing a favourable environment for women ahead of elections involves training the women who are running for office in public speaking, developing political strategies, managing election campaigns, and fundraising, and encouraging debates on mechanisms aimed at promoting women's political participation.

Once women enter parliament, they face a new range of challenges, as the political environment is, again, often inhospitable and male-dominated. Assistance to women *in* parliament can take the form of seminars that introduce women to parliamentary work and workshops for women MPs that address specific gender/women's issues. In some cases, experts are deployed for short periods to assist women parliamentarians in their work.

While these activities will continue in various countries at the request of the parliaments involved, the IPU primarily targets countries in which no or few women have been elected, mainly the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) and the Pacific Island States, and in post-conflict

countries where parliaments are newly established or reconstituted.

Activities will focus on assisting women candidates and women in parliament at the national and regional levels. Each year, one national seminar/training activity and one regional activity will be organized per region identified. The activities will be carried out in cooperation with the parliaments concerned, in response to requests received or interest expressed. The implementation of both regional and national activities in the same region aims to ensure that the benefits of national events are shared with women in neighbouring countries who face similar situations and challenges.

C. ENHANCE GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN PARLIAMENTS

Parliaments are uniquely placed to promote gender equality and ensure respect for women's rights. Through their various structures and procedures they adopt legislation, oversee the executive branch and ratify international instruments. How gender is mainstreamed into these activities is a key concern. The work of the IPU shows that while there are some country-specific examples of gender mainstreaming, there are no global comparative analyses or targeted support programmes available. This provides an important opportunity for the IPU, as it is well placed to provide situation analyses, contribute to global debate and policy development in this field, and directly assist parliaments.

Activities aim to enhance gender mainstreaming in parliaments and enable members to address gender equality issues. Activities will include mapping the current situation and developing a tool that highlights best practices in gender mainstreaming in parliaments. Parliamentary bodies that deal with gender equality and women's issues will be supported. An exchange of good practices on the development of gender-sensitive rules and procedures will help to foster institutional change in parliament.

D. SUPPORT PARLIAMENTS IN ADDRESSING KEY GENDER CONCERNS

One of the key objectives of the IPU is to enhance the capacity of parliaments to address gender issues by enacting laws and supervising the governing process. The IPU organizes training seminars for male and female

parliamentarians and parliamentary staff on specific thematic issues. Activities aim to strengthen the role of parliament as an institution to address gender issues and defend women's rights, with a particular focus on developing a gender-sensitive national budget, combating violence against women, and enforcing the CEDAW.

> Implementing arrangements and coordination

The IPU's work on women in politics is spearheaded by the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, a plenary body of women parliamentarians from over 100 countries, the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, a group of women MPs elected to represent the interests of women at the IPU, and the Gender Partnership Group, a group of men and women parliamentarians and members of the IPU Executive Committee, whose mandate is to ensure that gender is mainstreamed in the IPU's work and policies. These three bodies report to the IPU Governing Council, which adopts the IPU's work plan, budget and work objectives. The IPU's Gender Partnership Programme regularly presents reports and receives feedback from the specialized bodies within the IPU that address gender issues. When relevant, the IPU also works with UN partners and other international organizations specialized in gender issues.

> Beneficiaries

The target groups are parliaments and their members. By influencing parliaments, the IPU seeks to assist women, particularly those who are marginalized, whose voices are not heard and whose interests are often disregarded, among others. The ultimate target group and beneficiaries of these activities are the citizens of the countries concerned, as their representatives will take decisions that will be more inclusive and sensitive to the needs of women.

The IPU also aims to target the wider policy-making community and external organizations that work on women's rights and gender issues. These include intergovernmental organizations, national commissions on women, non-governmental organizations and research institutes.

> ACTIVITY/OUTPUT	> OUTCOME	> INDICATORS
A. PRODUCE COMPARATIVE INFORMATION ON WOMEN IN POLITICS Centralized statistical online database on women in politics is created (<i>Women in Politics in Comparative and Historical Perspective</i>) A global map on women in politics, covering all countries of the world, is published <i>iKNOW Politics</i> website is maintained, updated, and an Arabic version is produced A forum for greater exchange of best practices and resources among women and men from all regions is provided A handbook on special measures is published Wide dissemination of good practices to facilitate women's participation in politics, in hardcopy and web-based formats	Parliamentarians, politicians and policy-makers, researchers and academics use the statistics and data generated Increased knowledge among parliamentarians and other stakeholders about women in politics	Statistics on traffic on the website disaggregated by key variables such as region, domains, pages visited, length of visit, etc. Tracking organizations directly referencing, or linking to, the website database Number of references to IPU statistics on women in politics reported in the media, parliamentary newsletters, research, papers, articles, etc. Relevance and usefulness of the data assessed through a qualitative online survey
	Increased visibility of the status of women in parliament and the executive Members of parliaments, policy-makers, politicians, the media, international and regional organizations and research institutions are provided with a user-friendly tool with information about the status of women in politics	Number of maps distributed by region, organization type, language Number of references to IPU statistics on women in politics reported in the media, parliamentary newsletters, research, papers, articles, used by international organizations, etc.
	Parliamentarians, politicians, party members, candidates, international organizations and civil society use new resources and information to advance efforts to increase women's political participation Increased awareness of the status and importance of women's participation in politics Increased access to information on women in politics in the Arab States, and networking among women aspiring to politics in the region	Statistics on traffic on the website disaggregated by key variables such as region, domains, pages visited, length of visit, and use of Arabic version pages Tracking organizations directly referencing, or linking to, the website database Number of discussion circles and the rate of participation of members over a period of time
	Comparative, accurate and comprehensive data on mechanisms to promote women in politics is produced Policy guidelines are developed to increase women's participation in politics	Number of handbooks distributed disaggregated by region, country, organization type, etc. Increase in the number of parliaments debating special measures in favour of women's political participation, through qualitative survey analysis, parliamentary discussions, etc.

> ACTIVITY/OUTPUT	> OUTCOME	> INDICATORS
B. SUPPORT WOMEN IN ACCESSING AND TRANSFORMING PARLIAMENT		
Training seminars are organized, campaign tools are provided	Women are well informed about the mechanics of electioneering, political responsibilities and roles, and working with political parties, and are equipped with skills to support their candidatures	<p>Number of women attending training activities</p> <p>Participants' rating of the training and materials through qualitative survey and interviews</p> <p>Number of women elected</p>
Regional fora/seminars or other support activities for women parliamentarians in post-conflict States, in the GCC States, in the Pacific Island States and in other regions with low representation of women are implemented	Increased capacity of women parliamentarians to articulate a gender agenda and work to develop parliamentary changes in favour of gender equality	<p>Number of women attending training activities</p> <p>Participants' rating of the training and materials through qualitative survey and interviews</p> <p>Level of activity and participation of women in parliament</p>
C. ENHANCE GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN PARLIAMENTS		
<p>A handbook on gender mainstreaming in parliaments is published</p> <p>Regional seminars for parliaments are convened</p>	<p>Parliamentary responses to gender mainstreaming are strengthened and more targeted</p> <p>Gender-sensitive parliamentary rules and procedures are introduced</p>	<p>Number of handbooks distributed disaggregated by region, country, organization type, etc.</p> <p>Feedback on usefulness of the handbook by parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and other stakeholders</p> <p>Changes in parliamentary practice and procedures to mainstream gender</p> <p>Creation of parliamentary committees on gender issues and/or request for assistance for support</p> <p>Participants' rating of the seminars and materials through qualitative survey and interviews</p>
An annual international conference is convened for parliamentary committees on specific gender issues	Parliamentary structures on gender issues (parliamentary committees) are supported, or new committees established, to address gender issues	<p>Number of participants attending the seminars from different target countries</p> <p>Participants' rating of the seminars and materials through qualitative survey and interviews</p> <p>Level of debate on gender issues in parliamentary committees</p>

> ACTIVITY/OUTPUT	> OUTCOME	> INDICATORS
D. SUPPORT PARLIAMENT IN ADDRESSING KEY GENDER CONCERNS		
<p>Regional seminars on gender budgeting are convened</p> <p>An overview conference on progress and gaps is convened</p> <p>National tools for MPs are developed</p>	<p>Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff gain understanding and practical examples of gender-budgeting practices</p> <p>The capacity of parliament to integrate a gender dimension into the budget process is enhanced</p>	<p>Number of MPs attending the workshops from different target countries</p> <p>Participants' rating of the seminars and materials through qualitative survey and interviews</p> <p>More inclusive and gender-sensitive national budgets in target countries</p>
<p>Regional and national seminars and trainings on combating violence against women (VAW) are organized</p> <p>Legislation on VAW is developed and implemented</p>	<p>Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff gain understanding and practical examples of actions to combat VAW</p> <p>Parliamentary action to combat VAW is strengthened</p>	<p>Number of MPs attending the workshops</p> <p>Participants' rating of the seminars and materials through qualitative survey and interviews</p> <p>Parliamentary mechanisms and initiatives taken to combat VAW</p>
<p>Global, regional and national trainings on implementing CEDAW are organized</p> <p>A revised and updated handbook for parliamentarians on CEDAW is produced</p>	<p>Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff gain understanding and practical tools to work for the implementation of CEDAW</p> <p>Parliaments are more involved in the CEDAW reporting process</p> <p>Parliaments review their country's status of implementation of CEDAW</p>	<p>Number of MPs attending the workshops</p> <p>Participants' rating of the seminars and materials through qualitative survey and interviews</p> <p>Number of handbooks distributed disaggregated by region, country, organization type, etc.</p> <p>Feedback on the usefulness of the handbook by parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and other stakeholders</p> <p>Number of parliamentary debates on CEDAW in parliaments of reporting StatesLevel of parliament's involvement in the reporting process</p>
<p>A parliamentary day on the occasion of the UN Commission on the Status of Women is organized</p>	<p>Enhanced awareness by members of parliament about the work of the United Nations on gender issues</p> <p>Parliamentary input to the work of the United Nations on gender issues</p> <p>Enhanced national follow-up to the resolutions and recommendations of the United Nations</p>	<p>Number of participants attending</p>

Promoting development

Good governance is essential to development and to the realization of poverty-reduction strategies. Countries in which governments respect human rights and are accountable to their citizens are more likely to develop and grow economically and to provide stability and safety for their populations.

In response to demands from both parliaments and the United Nations, the IPU mobilizes parliaments and builds their capacities to work towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Activities to promote parliamentary action in the fight against HIV/AIDS, launched in 2006, will be followed by similar action relating to other MDGs.

Over the coming three years, the IPU will build a comprehensive programme to promote development by raising awareness, developing expertise, facilitating exchanges, and identifying good practices in parliament. Activities will include undertaking field missions, producing information and training tools, such as handbooks, facilitating networking, and holding global and regional conferences. The programme will cover ongoing IPU activities to promote parliamentary action in the fight against HIV/AIDS, recently initiated action on development cooperation issues (ODA and national development strategies), follow-up to the parliamentary campaign on climate change and global warming, which the IPU launched in 2007, and activities on decent work and employment. Parliamentary support for MDGs 4 and 5 relating to maternal and child survival forms part of the programme for ensuring respect for children's rights.

> Objectives and activities

The overall aim is to strengthen parliament's contribution towards development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The IPU aims to:

A. ENCOURAGE PARLIAMENTS TO BE MORE ACTIVE IN THE OVERSIGHT OF DEVELOPMENT AID

Parliaments have a crucial role in planning, implementing and assessing development programmes, including development aid. Parliaments can ensure that the national budget includes sufficient funds for development, that the needs of vulnerable groups are met and that resources are equitably distributed. However parliaments are often weak, especially in poor countries, and may lack the independence, knowledge and resources needed to fulfil their mandates. National development strategies tend to be driven mainly by donor and partner governments and do not always reflect the concerns of the people. The need to engage parliaments and citizens more fully in planning and assessing development policies and programmes is a key recommendation in the 2006 Survey on Monitoring the Paris Declaration. The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, adopted by more than 100 countries in 2005, aims to reform the way in which development aid is delivered and managed.

The IPU is engaged in the issue in a variety of ways. It works with the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in its efforts to improve the coordination, streamlining and effectiveness of development cooperation. The Forum brings together all relevant stakeholders, including parliaments, to engage in a dialogue on key policy issues affecting the quality and impact of development cooperation. The IPU organized the parliamentary contribution to the first meeting of the DCF at a stakeholders' forum, jointly organized with the United Nations, held in Rome in 2008.

Future activities of the IPU will build on a resolution on "Parliamentary Oversight of State Policies of Foreign Aid," adopted at the IPU's Assembly in Cape Town, South Africa, in April 2008. They will be based on the outcome of case studies to be undertaken in various African

countries during the fourth quarter of 2008 that will review the level of parliament's involvement in planning and assessing national development plans and programmes and identify obstacles to parliaments' full engagement. Capacity-building activities for parliaments are likely to include producing information materials and/or a handbook for parliamentarians and formulating guidance for bilateral and multilateral donors and other actors on how to improve national ownership by engaging parliaments in the development process.

B. PROMOTE PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT AGAINST HIV/AIDS

In its efforts to strengthen the work of parliaments on HIV/AIDS, the IPU is guided by an Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and by recommendations made by a first Global Parliamentary Meeting on HIV/AIDS, held in Manila, Philippines, at the end of 2007. The Advisory Group is composed of members of parliament from all regions who have experience working on HIV/AIDS issues. Future activities will be based on a comprehensive reference book for parliamentarians that was produced in 2008, *Taking Action against HIV*, and aim to familiarize parliamentarians with the main HIV/AIDS issues that should be addressed, including any applicable norms and standards that must be upheld. Guidelines and good practices, including model legislation, will be provided whenever possible. Training seminars, field visits for the Advisory Board and a second global conference for parliamentarians on HIV/AIDS are envisaged. The IPU will also develop a parliamentary and political track for the 13th International AIDS Conference that will be convened in Vienna in 2010.

C. IMPROVE GOVERNANCE IN LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs)

The Brussels Declaration and Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for the Decade 2001–2010, adopted in 2001, aims to improve the basic living conditions of people in the Least Developed Countries and provides a framework for partnership among LDCs and their development partners “to accelerate sustained economic growth and sustainable development in LDCs, to end marginalization by eradicating poverty, inequality and deprivation in these countries, and to enable them to integrate beneficially into the global economy.” Parliaments have important responsibilities to ensure

implementation of the Programme, particularly in promoting the rule of law and good governance upon which the Programme is predicated. Twenty-nine of the 49 LDC parliaments are members of the IPU.

This joint initiative between the IPU and the UN High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS) aims to enable LDC parliaments to establish, monitor, assess, and provide follow-up to the Programme.

D. MOBILIZE PARLIAMENTS TO ACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Global warming and climate change were the themes of the political debates that took place at the IPU during much of 2007. Delegates at the Assemblies were briefed on the latest scientific evidence and exchanged views and experiences on the subject in the general debate and during special panel discussions. The IPU issued a political presidential statement that prompted a campaign in parliaments to address the issue and reinforce climate change policy and legislation. The IPU received a progress report from UNEP on the international community's efforts to address climate change. It also took decisive steps towards developing an institutional policy on climate change—after mapping its own carbon footprint for the first time.

The IPU encouraged parliamentary action on climate change issues in 2008 and will develop a more permanent programme of activities based on the model adopted for its HIV/AIDS programme. An advisory committee will be established in 2009 that will design and launch a programme of activities including regional parliamentary meetings, the development of tools for parliamentarians, training activities, and political campaigns to raise awareness in parliament on the need for urgent political action.

E. ENGAGE PARLIAMENTS IN THE DRIVE FOR DECENT WORK AND EMPLOYMENT

Parliaments and their members have key responsibilities in relation to labour, employment and social justice issues. They ratify international labour instruments, translate them into national frameworks by adapting existing laws, oversee government policies, adopt the national budget and scrutinize public accounts. They

can also help to ensure coherence between economic and social policies at the national, regional and international levels. These findings have been supported in successive debates at the IPU, including at the ILO Forum on Decent Work for a Fair Globalization, which took place in Lisbon in late 2007, and are reflected in the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization.

The IPU has agreed to encourage parliaments to act on specific labour and employment issues and to make use of tools to facilitate parliamentary action that are based on the toolkit on employment and decent work that was recently issued by the ILO. The IPU will establish a parliamentary advisory group on employment and decent work that will begin a comprehensive programme of action in 2010.

> Implementing arrangements and coordination

Activities to promote development are coordinated with numerous actors in addition to national parliaments.

These include the UN Development Cooperation Forum, multilateral and bilateral donors, and UN actors in relevant countries. Activities on HIV/AIDS are carried out in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNAIDS and the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The project that focuses on improving governance in the LDCs will be organized jointly by the IPU and the UN-OHRLS. UN Resident Coordinators and national focal points will be invited to provide support to the parliaments in their countries and regularly share information with them.

> Beneficiaries

The target beneficiaries are the members and staff of national parliaments. Given the multiplying effect of these projects, the real beneficiaries are the people of these countries, as their representatives take decisions that have a positive impact on their well being.

The joint IPU-UN-OHRLS project targets parliaments in the first instance, but also multilateral and bilateral donors and other development actors.

> ACTIVITY/OUTPUT	> OUTCOME	> INDICATORS
A. ENCOURAGE PARLIAMENTS TO BE MORE ACTIVE IN THE OVERSIGHT OF DEVELOPMENT AID		
Develop and implement a comprehensive programme and plan of action for the IPU to promote parliamentary action in the field of development	A coherent programme of IPU development activities in the areas of HIV/AIDS, development cooperation and its funding, decent work and employment, and climate change and the environment	Number of practical activities implemented under a single development plan
Organize field visits, document and disseminate good practices, organize workshops and seminars and publish handbooks on overseas development aid and national development policies	More effective parliamentary action to improve overseas development aid and provide national ownership of development policies and programmes	Number of good laws and budgetary allocations adopted in parliament and other parliamentary initiatives
B. PROMOTE PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT AGAINST HIV/AIDS		
Convene one global conference, two regional training seminars, two field missions and two meetings of the Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS each year, and formulate a parliamentary and political track for the 18th International AIDS Conference	More effective parliamentary action to improve universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS, combat discrimination and prevent infection	Number of good laws adopted in parliament as well as other parliamentary initiatives
C. IMPROVE GOVERNANCE IN THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs)		
Increase parliaments' contribution to the implementation of the 2001 Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDC), particularly in the areas of good governance and capacity-building	Integration of parliaments in national efforts to devise, implement and evaluate methods to promote the Brussels Programme of Action	Creation of mechanisms, either through existing structures within LDC parliaments or through the establishment of new mechanisms
		Increased parliamentary debate on the Brussels Programme of Action
D. MOBILIZE PARLIAMENTS TO ACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE		
Disseminate information on climate-change negotiations, document and disseminate good practices, organize workshops, provide technical assistance and capacity-building to parliaments, and convene annual meetings of a high-level advisory group	More effective parliamentary action to ensure that climate change issues remain high on the domestic political agenda and that national policies are adopted and subjected to regular scrutiny by parliament	Number of good laws and budgetary allocations adopted in parliament as well as other parliamentary initiatives
E. ENGAGE PARLIAMENTS IN THE DRIVE FOR DECENT WORK AND EMPLOYMENT		
Document and disseminate good practices, organize workshops and seminars, publish handbooks and convene annual meetings of an advisory group on employment, labour and social development issues	More effective parliamentary action to improve employment, labour and social development laws and policies	Number of good laws and budgetary allocations adopted in parliament as well as other parliamentary initiatives

Contributing to peace-building

The IPU is a political organization that promotes dialogue to resolve conflicts. Over its 120-year history, the IPU has developed considerable experience in encouraging inclusiveness, transparency and accountability in parliament. Much of this work is carried out in close cooperation with the United Nations.

Parliaments provide an arena for a free and often adversarial exchange of views from which societies can forge a national consensus on future government policies. This process is particularly crucial for countries undergoing transition from conflict to peace, and the IPU is devoting an increasing proportion of its resources to promoting reconciliation. The organization has published a handbook, in cooperation with International IDEA, on what parliaments can do to make reconciliation work, and has convened seminars on reconciliation for parliamentarians in Africa and Latin America. The IPU is expanding this activity to other regions while working at the national level to support the work of the United Nations Peace-building Commission.

> Objectives and activities

The overall objective is to foster political dialogue and national reconciliation through increased parliamentary involvement. Activities aim to:

A. PROMOTE DIALOGUE AND INCLUSIVE DECISION-MAKING

Parliaments in countries emerging from conflict or facing serious challenges, such as in developing new legal frameworks, are frequently unable to function effectively. The IPU assists parliaments in overcoming these kinds of short-term difficulties. In Burundi, the IPU has helped parliament to create a framework for dialogue, consensus-building and inclusive decision-making. In the Maldives, the IPU assists the Parliament in its efforts to revise the legal framework to reflect the country's new constitution. The IPU will extend this type of assistance to parliaments in other countries that face similar difficulties.

The main objective is to assist parliaments in addressing urgent problems and create an inclusive framework for decision-making and dialogue. The IPU's involvement will be gradually phased-out once the framework proves to be viable.

In providing this kind of support, the IPU works with the President/Speaker of parliament, bureau members, committee chairs and the leaders of all political parties represented in parliament. Retreats are organized to bring all these actors together to devise a way forward. Resource persons assist participants in examining and proposing mechanisms that promote inclusiveness in the functioning of parliament.

B. REINFORCE THE INVOLVEMENT OF PARLIAMENTS IN NATIONAL RECONCILIATION PROCESSES

A parliament that is fully representative of all components of society and that offers a national platform for a free and open exchange of views can do much to advance reconciliation in society. Parliamentary debate and action can shape the course, meaning, and objectives of reconciliation, particularly regarding transitional justice mechanisms, such as truth and reconciliation commissions, trials, reparation programmes, and reforms of the judiciary.

The main objective is to strengthen the ability of post-conflict parliaments to establish, monitor, assess and provide follow-up to the work of transitional justice mechanisms, and to strengthen inclusive political processes as an essential element of reconciliation.

The IPU will organize a seminar in 2009 for parliaments from Southeast Asia building on similar seminars held previously in Africa and Latin America and on a handbook on *Reconciliation and the Role of Parliament*. Parliaments from countries that have had to address human rights issues and armed conflict and where questions of justice and reconciliation are paramount will be invited to participate in the seminar. These parliaments would include, but not be limited to, those of Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, North Korea, South

Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.

In 2008, the IPU began a project that focuses on a select group of English-speaking African parliaments facing the challenges of reconciliation. Under this project, the IPU organized a first regional seminar in Sierra Leone in June. Follow-up seminars at the national level are proposed. The IPU intends to extend the project to French-speaking, post-conflict countries in Africa. At the request of the parliament of Togo, the IPU will organize a two-day national seminar that will address the specific challenges confronting Togo and adopt an action plan for the National Assembly with concrete recommendations tailored to its needs.

At the end of each activity, the parliaments involved will assess the activity's usefulness. Follow-up visits and regular contacts will allow for continuous assessment and, if need be, adjustments to the activities. An external evaluation will be carried out at the end of the project.

C. IMPROVE OVERSIGHT OF THE SECURITY SECTOR

The IPU has become increasingly involved in strengthening the capacity of parliaments to oversee the security sector. In 2003, the IPU and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) published a handbook for parliamentarians entitled *Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector: Principles, mechanisms and practices*, which provides parliamentarians with a framework for effective parliamentary action in this field. The handbook was officially launched in a number of parliaments and is available in over 30 languages.

The IPU, working with DCAF, has also started to organize annual regional seminars to strengthen parliamentary oversight of the security sector. These have taken place in Latin America, Southeast Asia and Southern Africa. The IPU and DCAF will continue to organize such seminars, albeit in a slightly modified format, bringing together parliamentarians from a limited number of countries that share related security concerns. The seminar in 2009 will target the parliaments of the countries in the Great Lakes region of Africa.

The seminars seek to provide parliamentarians with an opportunity to discuss current security challenges in the region and the role of parliaments in addressing them. The overall aim of the seminars is to encourage greater parliamentary oversight of the security sector at the domestic level, including by drawing inspiration from the parliamentary practices and lessons learned presented in the handbook and in previous regional seminars. The seminars also aim to provide an incentive for further regional cooperation among parliaments on security issues.

The sensitivity of the security issue may make it difficult to build parliamentary capacity to address today's security challenges effectively. The IPU will thus seek to ensure that the seminars take place in a climate of trust and be fully inclusive so that, in addition to parliamentarians from national defence and security committees and their staff, representatives from Ministries of Defence, Interior and Justice, the armed forces and police, and non-governmental organizations and academics working on security issues are also involved.

A second challenge is to ensure that the seminars build on existing peace and security initiatives at the regional level. The seminar for Africa's Great Lakes region will therefore be co-organized with the AMANI Forum, a parliamentary peace initiative in that region.

> Implementing arrangements and coordination

In its work to promote dialogue and inclusive decision-making, the IPU will cooperate on a case-by-case basis with institutional partners involved in peace-building activities, such as the UN Peace-building Commission. Resource persons working as advisers will be high-level and experienced parliamentarians.

Seminars aiming to increase parliamentary involvement in national reconciliation efforts will be conducted in cooperation with UNDP, International IDEA, ICTJ and DCAF, who are actively involved in this field.

Activities undertaken to improve oversight of the security sector will be organized by the IPU and DCAF

and hosted by one of the parliaments involved in the event. For each sub-regional seminar, the organizers will work with their regular international partners, in particular UNDP, and relevant regional organizations, such as the AMANI Forum in the Great Lakes region.

> Beneficiaries

The targeted parliaments are the immediate beneficiaries of all the activities.

> ACTIVITY/OUTPUT	> OUTCOME	> INDICATORS
A. PROMOTE DIALOGUE AND INCLUSIVE DECISION-MAKING Technical assistance and advisory services to create inclusive frameworks for decision-making and dialogue, and to assist requesting parliaments in devising new institutional arrangements for a return to democratic rule	Increased inclusiveness of the parliament, which becomes more representative Better functioning of the institution, including in decision-making processes Increased and better interaction among all stakeholders within the institution	Number of parliaments requesting and receiving assistance Number of parliaments reporting smoother decision-making as a result of IPU assistance
B. REINFORCE THE INVOLVEMENT OF PARLIAMENTS IN NATIONAL RECONCILIATION PROCESSES Organize seminars to strengthen the ability of parliaments in countries emerging from conflict to establish, monitor, assess, and provide follow-up to the work of transitional justice mechanisms, and to strengthen inclusive political processes as an essential element of reconciliation	Increased awareness of what the field of transitional justice has to offer Increased involvement by parliaments in the design, implementation and evaluation of transitional justice mechanisms Knowledge of the possible pitfalls that parliaments may encounter on the road to reconciliation Increased awareness of the requirements for rebuilding viable societies and the role and responsibility of parliament in the reconciliation process	Increased parliamentary debate Legislative action to set up truth and reconciliation commissions or other such bodies Implementation of recommendations of such commissions, particularly in the areas of institutional reform and reparation for victims Participation in regional and national seminars
C. IMPROVE OVERSIGHT OF THE SECURITY SECTOR Organize seminars to help parliaments strengthen their capacity to oversee the security sector	Heightened awareness of parliament's role in oversight of the security sector and in reconciliation	Participation in regional seminars

FUNDING AND BUDGET

The IPU is funded by its members and associate members through annual assessed contributions and through voluntary funds provided by donors. The IPU enjoys a solid funding base and is not dependent on voluntary funds to cover its basic needs. However, to realize its full potential and meet increasing demands for assistance, additional funds are required.

The tables below present a comprehensive picture of income and requirements from both assessed and voluntary funds. Requirements for voluntary funds are presented in more detail and are broken down per area of work and activity. Budgets reflect needs as estimated at the time this Plan was being prepared (August 2008) and will be subject to regular monitoring and updates. Annual requirements amount to CHF 5,251,900 in 2009, CHF 5,128,100 in 2010 and CHF 5,132,400 in 2011. Funds already committed by donors will contribute to meeting these requirements.

As a result of efforts to obtain predictable and stable funding from voluntary resources, the IPU has established multi-year partnerships with the Canadian International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDA), Irish Aid and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), which have all committed

programme funds for 2008-2010. Other government donors, UNDP, UNDEF and the European Commission contribute to specific projects.

Commitments have been made by the following donors:

- Irish Aid: An agreement concluded in 2008 commits Euro 1.1 million for 2008-2010 (Euro 400,000 in 2008, Euro 350,000 in 2009 and Euro 350,000 in 2010) for the IPU's programme on equality in politics.
- SIDA: An agreement concluded in 2008 commits SEK 9 million with no earmarking and SEK 900,000 for case studies on parliamentary oversight of development aid for 2008-2010.
- CIDA: An agreement concluded in 2007 commits CAD 669,600 over three years (April 2007- March 2010) to a project to assist parliaments in reconciliation efforts. A second agreement concluded in 2008 commits CAD 1.2 million over three years (2008-2010) for the IPU's programme on gender equality and for a project on the representation of minorities and indigenous peoples in parliaments.

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Donor	Total commitment	Committed funding by year (CHF)			
		2008	2009	2010	2011
Irish Aid	EUR 1,100,000	652,000	567,200	567,200	0
CIDA (Canada)	CAD 1,869,600	847,900	651,100	476,200	0
SIDA (Sweden)	SEK 9,900,000	654,000	519,100	519,100	0
> Total		2,153,900	1,737,400	1 562,500	0

Assessed, voluntary and other income 2006-2008			
	2006	2007	2008
Assessed contributions	10,623,100	11,060,300	11,354,900
Other income	1,253,400	1,381,900	1,401,500
Voluntary contributions	836,600	1,383,400	2,153,000
> Total	12,713,100	13,825,600	14,910,300

Requirements from voluntary sources 2009-2011

Strengthening the institution of parliament			
Budget in CHF	2009	2010	2011
Assess needs for parliamentary assistance	46,300	46,300	46,300
Provide initial assistance in priority countries	135,100	111,100	111,100
> Sub-total	181,400	157,400	157,400
> Programme support cost (8%)	14,500	12,600	12,600
> Total	195,900	170,000	170,000

Setting standards and guidelines for parliaments			
Budget in CHF	2009	2010	2011
Promote recognition and implementation of criteria for democratic parliaments	57,000	92,000	122,000
Promote inclusive parliaments: The representation of minorities and indigenous peoples in parliament	232,500	219,500	101,500
Organize strong parliamentary participation in the seventh ICNRD	160,000	80,000	80,000
Promote the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance	87,800		
> Staff cost	184,800	190,400	196,200
> Sub-total	722,100	581,900	499,700
> Programme support cost (8%)	57,800	46,500	40,000
> Total	779,900	628,400	539,700

Creating a base of knowledge to support parliaments			
Budget in CH	2009	2010	2011
Create a global database on projects to strengthen parliaments	67,000	272,000	177,000
Develop information resources: PARLINE database on national parliaments	90,000	90,000	90,000
Document good practices in parliament	20,000	72,000	104,000
> Staff cost	184,800	190,400	196,100
> Sub-total	361,800	624,400	567,100
> Programme support cost (8%)	28,900	50,000	45,300
> Total	390,700	674,400	612,400

Protecting and promoting human rights			
Budget in CHF	2009	2010	2011
Strengthen parliaments' contributions to the implementation of UN human rights treaties	179,400	179,400	179,400
Strengthen parliaments' capacities to act on human rights	90,000	90,000	90,000
Provide tools on human rights for MPs	64,000	110,000	110,000
> Staff cost	152,900	157,500	162,200
> Sub-total	486,300	536,900	541,600
> Programme support cost (8%)	38,900	42,900	43,300
> Total	525,200	579,800	584,900

Ensuring respect for children's rights			
Budget in CHF	2009	2010	2011
Support parliaments to address violence against children	118,000	118,000	118,000
Enhance parliamentary action to achieve the MDGs on maternal and child survival	159,000	119,000	159,000
Mobilize parliaments for child rights at the global level	239,000	229,000	184,000
> Staff cost	252,400	259,900	267,700
> Sub-total	768,400	725,900	728,700
> Programme support cost (8%)	61,500	58,100	58,300
> Total	829,900	784,000	787,000

Promoting gender equality in politics			
Budget in CHF	2009	2010	2011
Produce comparative information on women in politics	165,000	180,000	95,000
Support women in accessing and transforming parliament	364,000	364,000	364,000
Enhance gender mainstreaming in parliament	193,000	128,000	128,000
Support parliament in addressing key gender concerns	285,000	180,000	180,000
> Staff cost	337,700	347,800	358,200
> Sub-total	1,344,700	1,199,800	1,125,200
> Programme support cost (8%)	107,600	96,000	90,000
> Total	1,452,300	1,295,800	1,215,200

Promoting development			
Budget in CHF	2009	2010	2011
Encourage parliaments to be more active in the oversight of development aid	120,000	120,000	120,000
Promote parliamentary engagement against HIV/AIDS	190,000	90,000	190,000
Improve governance in the LDCs	73,900		
Mobilize parliaments to act on climate change	80,000	80,000	120,000
Engage parliaments in the drive for decent work and employment		80,000	120,000
> Staff cost	92,500	95,300	98,100
> Sub-total	556,400	465,300	648,100
> Programme support cost (8%)	44,500	37,200	51,800
> Total	600,900	502,500	699,900

Contributing to peace-building			
Budget in CHF	2009	2010	2011
Promote dialogue and inclusive decision-making	74,100	74,100	74,100
Reinforce the involvement of parliaments in national reconciliation processes	211,300	223,500	248,500
Improve oversight of the security sector	64,600	64,600	64,600
> Staff cost	91,800	94,500	97,300
> Sub-total	441,800	456,700	484,500
> Programme support cost (8%)	35,300	36,500	38,800
> Total	477,100	493,200	523,300

Summary budget in CHF required from voluntary sources	2009	2010	2011
Strengthening the institution of parliament	195,900	170,000	170,000
Setting standards and guidelines for parliaments	779,900	628,400	539,700
Creating a base of knowledge about parliaments	390,700	674,400	612,400
Protecting and promoting human rights	525,200	579,800	584,900
Ensuring respect for children's rights	829,900	784,000	787,000
Promoting gender equality in politics	1,452,300	1,295,800	1,215,200
Promoting development	600,900	502,500	699,900
Contributing to peace-building	477,100	493,200	523,300
> Total	5,251,900	5,128,100	5,132,400

Total 2009 budget in CHF	Core	Voluntary	Consolidated
Executive Office	1,429,000		1,429,000
- Promoting development		521,100	521,100
> Sub total	1,429,000	521,100	1,950,100
Assembly Affairs	2,888,900		2,888,900
Division of Democracy			
- Strengthening the institution of parliament	1,272,000	195,900	1,467,900
- Setting standards and Creating a base of knowledge	607,500	1,170,600	1,778,100
- Protecting and promoting human rights	1,176,900	525,200	1,702,100
- Ensuring respect for children's rights	58,000	829,900	887,900
- Promoting gender equality in politics	693,300	1,452,300	2,145,600
- Contributing to peace-building		477,100	477,100
- Promoting governance in LDCs		79,800	79,800
> Sub total	3,807,700	4,730,800	8,538,500
External Relations	2,410,300		2,410,300
Support Services	2,363,200		2,363,200
Other	347,000		347,000
> Total	13,246,100	5,251,900	18,498,000

ANNEX

Ongoing and future projects of assistance to parliaments

At the request of beneficiary parliaments, the IPU offers assistance projects and advisory services with respect to parliament's role, structure, and working methods, mainly to help develop human resources, including parliamentarians and parliamentary staff, and to provide material resources. The overall aim is to help national parliaments become more effective. Most projects are implemented in cooperation with, and are fully or partly funded by, UNDP. However, the IPU will keep donors informed of projects that require funds. Given the evolving nature of these projects, the list below is regularly revised. Updates can be obtained from the IPU.

Ongoing projects include:

Afghanistan: Parliament - Wolesi Jirga (Lower House) and Meshrano Jirga (Upper House)

The project, entitled *Support for the Establishment of an Afghan Legislature (SEAL)*, aims to build the capacity of the country's fledgling parliament. It is implemented in cooperation with UNDP.

Burundi: Senate and National Assembly

A comprehensive assistance project was developed following a needs-assessment mission conducted in February 2006. The project aims to strengthen the capacity of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff, modernize the parliament's procedures and services, provide assistance to parliamentary committees, improve the parliament's communication services, including decentralized services, promote gender activities, and assist in computerization. The project, amounting to CHF 1 million annually over five years, has no funding commitment at the time of writing, except for gender-related activities which are funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) for two years (2007-2009).

Cambodia: Senate and National Assembly

Following a request from the parliament, in December 2007 the IPU implemented a three-week, on-the-job capacity-building activity targeting legislative and research assistants. Funding will be sought for implementation of follow-up activities in 2009.

Equatorial Guinea: Chamber of People's Representatives

A first phase of assistance began in 2003 and ended in July 2007. A second phase, building on progress achieved during the first phase, was developed and will begin in the second half of 2008 and last for two years. Support for parliamentary committees will be provided and information and outreach activities will be strengthened. The €736,000 budget for phase one was funded by the European Commission (EC) and the Government of Equatorial Guinea. The EC has committed €500,000 for the second phase.

Pakistan: Senate and National Assembly

A second phase of this ongoing project is being developed, in cooperation with UNDP, for implementation from 2009. Its areas of focus include improving the human-resource function in the secretariats of the two houses, strengthening legislative functions, developing procedures for more effective oversight and legislative scrutiny, and improving parliamentary information and outreach services. Funding may be sought for implementation of phase II.

Republic of Congo: Senate and National Assembly

Following a needs-assessment mission in April 2006, a project was developed to help MPs and parliamentary staff to develop the skills they need to carry out the parliament's legislative, oversight and representative functions more efficiently. In 2008, the IPU funded the implementation of initial priority activities. Further funding may be sought to continue the project.

Thailand: National Legislative Assembly

During 2007, the IPU carried out three exploratory missions. The outcome of the missions was a proposal for the IPU to support the establishment of public accounts committees and to help the parliament strengthen its capacity to monitor international treaties to which the State is committed. Funding may be sought to implement these activities in 2009.

Timor-Leste: National Assembly

A four-phase orientation programme for newly elected members and parliamentary staff was launched in August 2007. The IPU will continue to support the project through the end of 2009. The US\$1 million programme is fully funded by UNDP and forms part of a larger UNDP Parliament Project.

United Arab Emirates: Federal National Council

Following a needs-assessment mission in June 2007, a project proposal to strengthen the functioning of parliament was designed in cooperation with the Federal National Council. Activities began in 2008.

Future projects include:

Algeria: Council of the Nation (upper house)

An audit of the administration of the Council of the Nation is planned for the second half of 2008. Following the audit mission, a project proposal will be developed and implemented with parliamentary authorities.

Democratic Republic of the Congo: Senate, National Assembly, and provincial parliaments

Following needs-assessment missions in December 2006 and February 2007, a proposal to strengthen the functioning of the national parliament and provincial assemblies was developed in cooperation with UNDP. The programme will be fully funded by UNDP and is part of a larger good governance project that targets all institutions. Implementation will begin in the second half of 2008.

Laos: National Assembly

Following a needs-assessment mission in September 2007 and a further formulation mission in March 2008, a project aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the National Assembly, specifically its legislative and oversight functions, representation, and administration, was developed in cooperation with UNDP, other UN organizations and partners. Implementation is scheduled to begin in September 2008.

Maldives: Parliament

Following a needs-assessment mission in October 2007, a project proposal to strengthen the functioning of parliament is being developed in cooperation with parliamentary authorities. A preliminary advisory activity to assist the parliament in reviewing rules of procedure in light of the newly approved constitution is planned for the second half of 2008. Funding may be sought to begin implementation of the larger project in 2009.

Sierra Leone: Parliament

The IPU, in cooperation with UNDP, undertook a comprehensive needs-assessment mission to the parliament in Freetown in October-November 2007. A project proposal to strengthen the functioning of parliament, particularly as Sierra Leone is emerging from conflict, is being developed in full cooperation with parliamentary authorities, UNDP and other national and international organizations in the country.

Togo: National Assembly

A joint IPU-UNDP needs-assessment mission took place in June 2008. A project proposal is being developed following a validation seminar. Seed funding will be provided by UNDP by 2009; however additional funding may be sought for complete implementation of the project.

Sudan: National Assembly, Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly and State Assemblies

Following a mission to Sudan by the Secretary General of the IPU in June 2008, the IPU will develop an extensive programme of support to the parliaments in Sudan and, by extension, to the peace process. Funding is sought to implement these activities from the second half of 2008 onwards. The support will focus on the following five areas:

- Documentation, library and research services, including modern information and communication technology;
- Legislative training and capacity-building for the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly and State Assemblies;
- Support to the women caucuses in Khartoum and Juba that, in its initial phase, will focus on the election period;
- Support to peace and reconciliation processes; and
- Child protection issues and child, infant and maternal health.

Somalia has also requested assistance.