



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

135th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 23 – 27.10.2016

Panel discussion: *How parliaments change: Developing recommendations for strengthening parliamentary oversight*

Thursday, 27 October (10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.)
Rooms 3 & 4, level 0, CIGG

Jointly organized by the IPU and the ASGP

Concept note

All parliaments have to adapt to evolutions in society and citizens' expectations of their representatives. Reform is constantly taking place in order to improve the way parliament does its work and to strengthen its capacity to fulfill its core functions of representation, law-making and oversight.

This joint IPU-ASGP session will investigate the political and institutional dynamics that inform efforts to strengthen parliament. How do parliaments reform? How does change actually happen? What can be the obstacles to reform, and how can they be overcome?

All delegates to the IPU Assembly are deeply knowledgeable about their own national context, as well as being potential agents of change. This session provides the opportunity to compare and contrast their experience with that of their peers in other parliaments. Are the experiences similar or different? Are there common lessons that can be learned from attempts to bring about parliamentary reform, whether they were successes or failures?

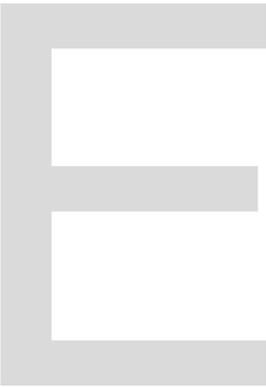
The session will create a space for parliamentarians and Secretaries General to share their perspectives and draw lessons from their collective experience. The discussion will consider how politicians and administrators can work together to strengthen the institution of parliament.

The session will begin with testimonies from participants, under the heading *One thing I learned about trying to reform parliament*. In interventions of no more than two minutes, participants are invited to share what they have learned about why and how reform happened, or did not happen, in their country.

This will be followed by a moderated discussion with all participants to draw out the common features of how change happens, the strategies that have been adopted, as well as the obstacles to reform and how they can be addressed.

Lastly, participants will review a selection of draft recommendations for strengthening parliamentary oversight, to be included in the next edition of the Global Parliamentary Report. In light of the discussion that has just taken place, participants will assess whether the draft recommendations can help strengthen oversight in their parliament, and how the draft recommendations could be made more relevant and useful to parliaments and parliamentarians.

This session will extend the discussion that took place during the joint IPU-ASGP session in October 2015 on *Powerful parliaments: Building capacity for effective parliamentary oversight*. The second edition of the Global Parliamentary Report is scheduled for publication in early 2017.



#IPU135