



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY

15 SEPTEMBER 2012

‘Dialogue and Inclusiveness – Central to Democracy’

Suggestions for activities by parliamentarians

16 August 2012

Since 2008, more than 70 parliaments around the world have organized activities to mark the International Day of Democracy on 15 September.

For the first time, the IPU is inviting individual parliamentarians to use this opportunity to reach out to citizens and engage them in strengthening parliament and democracy. This document contains some suggestions for activities. The activities could take place on or around Saturday 15 September.

The theme that has been adopted by the IPU in 2012 is ‘Dialogue and Inclusiveness – Central to Democracy’. Let’s hear the voice of the 46,000 parliamentarians in the world make a call for greater dialogue and tolerance.

For more information on the International Day of Democracy, please see www.ipu.org/idd or use the hashtag #idd2012 on www.twitter.com

1. Meet with citizens

On or around 15 September, invite people to a meeting at your office or in a symbolic place related to democracy. The theme of the meeting could be, for example:

- A briefing on the most important issues/bills that are being addressed in parliament at the moment, or by the parliamentary committees in which you take part
- A debate on how to enhance dialogue between yourself and the citizens you represent
- Citizens’ proposals for the medium-long term priorities of their constituency
- A discussion on the state of democracy in your country, and how to strengthen it

2. Put forward a motion in parliament

Table a parliamentary motion, question or other parliamentary procedure about the International Day of Democracy. Ask the executive to explain how it intends to celebrate this day, or to deepen the culture of dialogue and inclusiveness in your country.

3. Talk with young people

Visit local schools to discuss the meaning and practice of democracy, and how young people can get involved. Take part in an online discussion about the work of a parliamentarian and why it is important

for young people to participate in politics. Invite schools to organize activities such as exhibitions, contests, special lessons on democracy.

4. Be an example of dialogue and inclusiveness

Take the International Day as an opportunity to do something that you might not normally do. Organize a joint activity with your political opponents to educate people about the role of a parliamentarian. Meet with civil society groups that are critical of your action as a parliamentarian. Hold a meeting with members of the most politically-marginalized groups in society.

5. Be accountable to your constituents

Publish a special brochure or newsletter with a summary of your work as a parliamentarian during the first half of 2012, and make it available in print and online. Distribute a record of how you voted on key bills in 2012, and an explanation of the reasons for your decisions.

6. Contact the media

Issue a press release expressing support for the International Day of Democracy. Talk with journalists from television, radio, print and online media. Invite journalists to follow you for a day as you meet with the citizens you represent.

7. Tell people about the International Day of Democracy

Use your web site, social media, face-to-face meetings and any other channels of communication to let people know about the International Day of Democracy, and how you intend to celebrate it. Don't forget to provide a link to www.ipu.org/idd

8. Mobilize your political party

Contact the party leadership and/or communications team, and propose that the political party issue a statement, organizes an activity, or celebrates the Day in some other way.

Inform the IPU about your actions

The IPU will include the name of all parliamentarians who take part in the International Day on its web site at www.ipu.org/idd, with a link to your web site or other information about your activity. Please send us a short description (no more than 5 lines) and photos from your activities. Be sure to tell us your name, your function in parliament, and the place and date of the activity.

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www.ipu.org/idd

or use the hashtag #idd2012 on www.twitter.com