

Inter-Parliamentary Union



United Nations Development Programme



Promoting inclusive parliaments:

The representation of minorities and indigenous peoples in parliament

Questionnaire

Part A: Questionnaire for parliaments

Information Note

Overview

This questionnaire forms part of a survey on the representation of minorities and indigenous peoples in parliament that is being conducted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Development Programme.

The purpose of this survey is to gather quantitative and qualitative information on the ways in which members of minorities and indigenous groups become parliamentarians and how parliaments include these groups in their work. The information gathered will be analysed to provide insights into parliament as an institution that is inclusive of the social diversity of the population. Responses will be entered into a publicly available online database.

You are invited to complete this questionnaire on behalf of the parliament. Separate questionnaires are being addressed to parliamentary groups (Part B) and individual parliamentarians (Part C).

In bicameral parliaments, separate questionnaires should be completed for each chamber.

Options for completing the survey

1. Electronic format (preferred option)

- Download the questionnaire from <http://www.ipu.org/minorities-e>. The questionnaire is available as a PDF file in English, French and Spanish. You can save your responses in the PDF file and return to complete the questionnaire later. When you have finished, click the 'Send the questionnaire to IPU' button at the end of the questionnaire. This generates an e-mail with an attached data file that contains your responses. Alternatively, you can send the PDF file by e-mail to postbox@mail.ipu.org.
- You will need Adobe Reader (formerly called Acrobat Reader) to view and complete the questionnaire. Adobe Reader is already installed on millions of computers around the world. If you do not have Adobe Reader, you can download it free of charge from the Adobe web at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>. If you have an old version of Adobe Reader, you may need to upgrade your software.

2. Hard copy

- If you are unable to complete the questionnaire electronically, kindly complete it in hard copy, and fax, post or scan and e-mail your response to IPU.

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Web: <http://www.ipu.org>

Deadline

Completed questionnaires should be returned to IPU by **30 April 2009**.

Definitions: ‘Minorities’ and ‘indigenous peoples’

The term ‘minority’ as used in the United Nations human rights system refers to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities as laid out in the United Nations Declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities (General Assembly resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992) and in Article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights .

This Declaration also applies to **indigenous peoples**, in addition to the United Nations Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples (General Assembly resolution A/61/L.67 of 13 September 2007) which articulates its provisions around **specific characteristics that indigenous peoples share around the world**:

- a special relationship to lands and the environment;
- distinct political and social institutions, including customary legal systems and laws, cultural traditions and customs, health practices;
- own understanding/perspective of development priorities, and traditional management of resources and other knowledge.

Neither of the Declarations defines who minorities or indigenous peoples are, as no single definition could encapsulate the realities of all the diverse groups and communities concerned. Instead the United Nations takes into account **the principle of self-identification** when working with indigenous peoples and minorities.

It is now commonly accepted that recognition of minority status should be based on:

- **objective criteria** (such as non-dominance in terms of numbers and/or political power and possessing distinct ethnic, cultural, religious or linguistic characteristics) as well as on
- **subjective criteria of self-definition** (i.e. a will on the part of the members of the group in question to preserve these distinct characteristics).

It is suggested that the same principle should be used for the purposes of this questionnaire.

Any questions?

For further information and advice on completing this questionnaire, please contact:

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Diane Sheinberg (e-mail: diane.sheinberg@undp.org; telephone: +1.212.906.5075)

To contact IPU, please use the following postal address, phone, fax or e-mail:

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Questionnaire

Country:

Parliament/Chamber:

Completed by:

Title:

Contact e-mail:

Date:

Parliamentarians from Minority/Indigenous Groups

1. Please provide the number of parliamentarians after the most recent election who self-identify as being from minority/indigenous groups.

Please include the breakdown by gender (M: Male, F: Female)

Name of minority/indigenous group	M	F	Total
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
Please see Appendix A if additional space is required			

- 1.1 Please provide data on the mode of designation of these parliamentarians

Name of minority/indigenous group	Directly elected			Indirectly elected			Appointed			Reserved seats			Other		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1.															
2.															
3.															
4.															
Please see Appendix A if additional space is required															

- 1.2 Please provide data on the political party affiliation of these parliamentarians

Name of minority/indigenous group 1

Name of Party	M	F	Total
A.			
B.			
C.			
D.			

Name of minority/indigenous group 2

Name of Party	M	F	Total
A.			
B.			
C.			
D.			

Name of minority/indigenous group 3

Name of Party	M	F	Total
A.			
B.			
C.			
D.			

1.2 Please provide data on the political party affiliation of these parliamentarians (continued)

Name of minority/indigenous group 4

Name of Party	M	F	Total
A.			
B.			
C.			
D.			

Please see Appendix A if additional space is required

1.3 Please provide data on the type of voting system by which these parliamentarians were elected

Name of minority/indigenous group	Plurality / Majority			Proportional			Other		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1.									
2.									
3.									
4.									

Please see Appendix A if additional space is required

Electoral Rules and Procedures

2. Are any special measures instituted by law to ensure or facilitate the presence of parliamentarians from minority/indigenous groups in parliament?
(for example, reserved seats, quotas, appointments, exemption from electoral thresholds, demarcation of constituency boundaries etc.)

Yes No

If yes: What special measures are in use?

(check all that apply)

Special measure	Details including number of seats	When was the measure introduced?	Source (constitution, electoral law, etc.)
Reserved Seats			
Quotas			
Appointments			
Exemption from electoral thresholds			
Demarcation of constituency boundaries			
Other, please specify			

Please describe the special measures

2.1 Have the special measures ever been modified?

Yes No

If yes: Please describe when last modified and why

2.2 Has an evaluation of the special measures ever been carried out?

Yes No

If yes: Please provide details (findings, conclusions and decisions).

3. Are there any measures to encourage political parties to promote candidates from minority/indigenous groups?

(for example, measures instituted by law or other forms of guidance)

Yes No

If yes: Source (constitution, electoral law etc.)

Please describe the special measures

4. Are there any legal restrictions to the formation of political parties on the basis of ethnic, cultural, religious or linguistic identity?

Yes No

If yes: Source (constitution, electoral law etc.)

Please describe these restrictions

5. Are there any language requirements which limit candidature for elections?

Yes No

If yes: Source (constitution, electoral law etc.)

Please describe these requirements

6. Please provide any other information about electoral rules and procedures designed to ensure or facilitate the presence of parliamentarians from minority/indigenous groups

Parliamentary Rules and Procedures

7. Do parliamentary rules and procedures explicitly contain any provisions regarding the participation of parliamentarians from minority/indigenous groups?

Yes No

If yes: What types of provision
(check all that apply)

<i>Provision</i>	<i>Date adopted</i>
Lower threshold for legislative initiatives concerning minority/indigenous issues	
Veto on certain types of bills	
Qualified majority vote	
Specific allocation from the parliamentary budget	
Other, please specify	

Source (Rules of procedure, etc.)

Please describe these provisions

8. Do parliamentary rules and procedures contain any provisions that explicitly reflect respect for minority/indigenous rights and customs?

(for example, timing of sessions; language/behaviour/symbols; official holidays; acceptance of traditional customs and dress)

Yes No

If yes: Source (Rules of procedure, etc.)

Please describe these requirements

9. Is more than one language used in parliamentary proceedings?

Yes No

If yes: Please indicate which languages and when they can be used

<i>Language</i>	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Written records</i>	<i>Other (please specify)</i>
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				

Please see [Appendix A](#) if additional space is required

Please provide any further information about the use of languages in your parliament, including in parliamentary broadcasting and on the parliamentary web site

10. Has parliament implemented any of the following activities?

<i>(check all that apply)</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Specialized training on inclusiveness for parliamentarians
<input type="checkbox"/>	Specialized training on inclusiveness for parliamentary staff
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disseminated information on minority/indigenous issues
<input type="checkbox"/>	Celebrated the International Day of the World's Indigenous People (9 August)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Equipped its library with relevant and timely information on minority/indigenous issues
<input type="checkbox"/>	Developed a media or outreach strategy for communicating and discussing minority/indigenous issues?
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, please specify

Please provide more information about these activities

11. Has your parliament implemented any of the following to promote inclusiveness among parliamentary staff?

<i>(check all that apply)</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	A written equal opportunities policy
<input type="checkbox"/>	A written statement on non-discrimination in the recruitment process
<input type="checkbox"/>	Affirmative action/positive measures policy for staff from minority/indigenous groups
<input type="checkbox"/>	Any other administrative processes to promote the inclusiveness of minorities and indigenous people (for example, diversity committee, hiring practices)?

Please provide more information about these activities

12. Please provide any other information about parliamentary rules and procedures designed to facilitate the participation of parliamentarians from minority/indigenous groups

Participation of Minority/Indigenous Groups in the Work of Parliament

13. Is there a parliamentary body that deals specifically with minority/indigenous issues?
(Note: 'Parliamentary body' includes commissions, committees, sub-commissions, sub-committees etc.)

Yes No

If yes: Name of this body:

Please describe the main functions of this body

14. Does parliament have an obligation to consult with minority/indigenous groups in certain circumstances?

Yes No

If yes: Source (Rules of procedure, etc.)

Please describe the circumstances and the nature of the obligation

15. Please describe how parliament consults with minority/indigenous groups outside parliament (for example, engagement with civil society organizations; requests for submissions from key groups)

16. How regularly does parliament hold plenary debates on minority/indigenous issues?

On a regular basis Only when an issue arises Never Other

