

Inter-Parliamentary Union



United Nations Development Programme



## **Promoting inclusive parliaments:**

### **The representation of minorities and indigenous peoples in parliament**

#### **Questionnaire**

#### **Part B: Questionnaire for parliamentary groups**

# 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 your parliamentary group. Separate questionnaires are being addressed to parliaments (Part A) and individual parliamentarians (Part C).

## Definition of 'Parliamentary groups'

For the purposes of this questionnaire, 'Parliamentary group' (also known as 'Parliamentary party'; 'Parliamentary faction') refers to the representation of a political party or a coalition of parties or independent members in a parliament for particular purposes such as voting together. In many countries, the only way that parties and parliamentarians can receive financial and personal support and can join parliamentary committees is by organizing themselves in parliamentary groups.

## 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](mailto: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

Inter-Parliamentary Union  
5 chemin du Pommier  
1218 Grand-Saconnex  
Geneva  
Switzerland

Telephone: +41 22 919 41 50

Fax: +41 22 919 41 60

E-mail: [postbox@mail.ipu.org](mailto:postbox@mail.ipu.org)

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  
Andy Richardson (e-mail: [andy.richardson@mail.ipu.org](mailto:andy.richardson@mail.ipu.org); telephone: +41 22 919 4135)  
Diane Sheinberg (e-mail: [diane.sheinberg@undp.org](mailto:diane.sheinberg@undp.org); telephone: +1.212.906.5075)

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

Inter-Parliamentary Union	Telephone: +41 22 919 41 50
5 chemin du Pommier	Fax: +41 22 919 41 60
1218 Grand-Saconnex	E-mail: <a href="mailto:postbox@mail.ipu.org">postbox@mail.ipu.org</a>
Geneva	Web: <a href="http://www.ipu.org">http://www.ipu.org</a>
Switzerland	

## Questionnaire

Country:

Parliament/chamber:

Completed by:

Title:

Contact e-mail:

Date:

## Parliamentary Groups

1. Name of parliamentary group
  
2. Is your parliamentary group a coalition of multiple groups?  
 Yes                      No  
 If yes: Please list the groups and/or individuals

3. Does your parliamentary group identify with any of the following party international groups?  
*(check all that apply)*

	Centrist Democrat International
	International Democrat Union
	Liberal International
	Socialist International
	Other (explain)

4. Current number of members of the parliamentary group  
 Total                      Men                      Women
  
5. How often does your parliamentary group meet on average?  
 More than once a month  
 Once a month  
 Less than once a month  
 As needed  
 Other (explain)
  
6. Has your parliamentary group adopted special measures to promote the presence of minority/indigenous groups in parliament?  
 Yes                      No                      Don't know  
 If yes: Please describe

7. Please provide the total number of members of the parliamentary group after the most recent election who self-identify as being from minority/indigenous groups

<i>Name of minority/indigenous group</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
Please see <a href="#">Appendix B</a> if additional space is required			

8. Please list the main organ(s) responsible for the development of policy/legislation in your parliamentary group:

<i>Name of organ(s) (list all)</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
Please see <a href="#">Appendix B</a> if additional space is required			

9. How well are people from minority/indigenous groups represented in the policy-making structures of your parliamentary group?

Very                  Fairly                          Not very                          Not at all                          Don't know  
Please describe

10. Does your parliamentary group have an official position, manifesto or policy on minority/indigenous issues?

Yes                          No  
If yes: Please describe

11. Has your parliamentary group adopted mechanisms to promote the participation of people from minority/indigenous groups in the policy-making process?

Yes                          No  
If yes: Please describe

12. Does your parliamentary group have its own processes for consultation with minority/indigenous groups?

This includes both formal and informal processes  
Yes                          No  
If yes: Please describe

13. Please describe the major challenges faced by your parliamentary group in including minority/indigenous groups in its work
14. Please describe any good practices from your parliamentary group about ensuring that it is inclusive of minority/indigenous groups.
15. Please include here any other information that you would like to provide

## APPENDIX B - Additional Space for Answers

7. Please provide the total number of members of the parliamentary group after the most recent election who self-identify as being from minority/indigenous groups (continued)

	<i>Name of minority/indigenous group</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Total</i>
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
16.				
17.				
18.				
19.				
20.				

8. Please list the main organ(s) responsible for the development of policy/legislation in your parliamentary group: (continued)

	<i>Name of organ(s) (list all)</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Total</i>
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
16.				
17.				
18.				
19.				
20.				