



# Inter-Parliamentary Union

## Technical Cooperation Programme

### ACTIVITY PROFILE: MOZAMBIQUE



Created 30/08/2006

#### Project details

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Support to the Parliament of Mozambique</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Duration:</b>	<b>5 months (March to July 1995)</b>
<b>Budget:</b>	<b>US\$ 20'800</b>
<b>Donor partner:</b>	<b>French National Assembly, Assembly of the Republic of Portugal</b>

#### Background

In 1992 a peace treaty was signed between the government of Mozambique and the biggest opposition party (RENAMO) to end the civil war that had been going on since 1976.

In 1994 the first free elections since the country's independence, to the Assembly of the Republic, resulted in a very close victory for the governing party (FRELIMO). The IPU had sent observers for this election and the result was widely regarded as fair and correct.

In February 1995 an IPU needs assessment mission took place to elicit, in cooperation with the authorities, the modalities of an eventual assistance for the Assembly. The conclusion of the mission was that the most urgent problems faced by the Assembly was the need to revise the standing orders which dated back to the time when Mozambique was a one-party state and to restructure the Assembly's centre for documentation and information.

#### Areas of activity

As a result of the needs identified during the February mission two additional missions were conducted:

- The first mission had the objective to assist an ad-hoc committee of the Assembly of the Republic to revise the Standing orders in order to make them more equitable and suitable for good governance in a multi-party Assembly. Another objective of this mission was to provide advice to members of the Assembly and other politicians on topical issues of pluralist parliaments.
- The second mission was implemented to obtain a detailed evaluation of the structure and functions of the service of documentation and information and of the library in view of adapting them to the actual needs of the Parliament.

#### Target beneficiaries

The beneficiaries included members and staff of the parliament of Mozambique, in particular members of minority and opposition parties.

A strengthened parliament and, more important still, a political climate marked by stable peace meant a gain for the Mozambican society as a whole.



Elections in Mozambique in 1994

#### Results

Owing to the two missions the Assembly's effectiveness was increased and the environment for a consensus-based debate was improved to make transparent, democratic plenary-sessions more feasible. In particular the following was achieved:

- Adoption of the revised Standing Orders.
- Improvement of the competence and knowledge of parliamentarians concerning various topics of interest in relation to the legislative process.
- The parliament received a detailed guide for the restructuring of the centre of documentation and information.

#### Experts providing advice to the project included:

- Mr. Yves Michel, Deputy Director for plenary issues, French National Assembly
- M.Xavier Roque, Advisor, Service for International Relations, French National Assembly
- Mme Maria José Silva Santos, Head of the publications department, Assembly of the Portuguese Republic