



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
116th Assembly and related meetings
Nusa Dua, Bali (Indonesia), 29 April to 4 May 2007



Executive Committee
Item 6
Governing Council
Item 10

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14 March 2007

FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR 2006

**Financial Report
and
Audited Financial Statements**

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Introduction

For the fifth consecutive year the Union is reporting an operating surplus. In 2006, operating revenues exceeded expenditures by CHF 429,782. Furthermore, the Working Capital Fund grew by an additional CHF 150,427 as a result of contributions from new and re-affiliated members and interest payments.

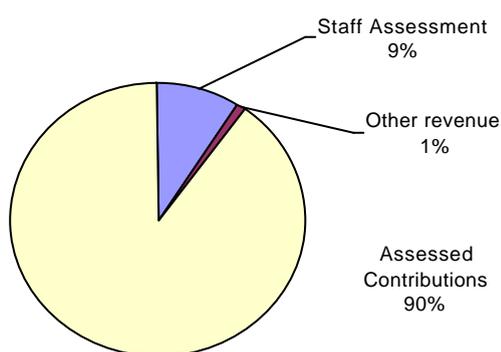
The following pages explain in detail the revenues and expenses of the Union during 2006, in particular where these amounts have varied from the budget.

Table 1 - Revenue and Expenses versus Budget for 2006 (in CHF)

Item	Revised Budget	Actual	%	Over/ (Under)
Revenues				
1 Assessed Contributions	10,544,590	10,544,590	100%	0
2 Staff Assessment	1,133,600	1,081,801	95%	(51,799)
3 Sales of Publications	15,000	9,230	62%	5,770
4 Administrative Fees	30,000	57,882	193%	27,882
5 Other Income	5,000	32,520	650%	27,520
Total Revenues	11,728,190	11,726,023	100%	(2,167)
Expenses				
1 Executive Office	1,061,500	1,124,755	106%	63,255
2 Assembly Affairs and Member Relations	2,837,200	2,657,588	94%	(179,612)
3 Promotion of Democracy	3,060,100	2,996,355	98%	(63,745)
4 External Relations	2,152,800	2,011,712	93%	(141,088)
5 Support Services	2,302,500	2,331,332	101%	28,832
6 Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	115,000	119,306	104%	4,306
7 Grants	150,000	55,193	37%	(94,808)
Total Operating Expenses	11,679,100	11,296,241	97%	(382,859)
Operating Surplus	49,090	429,782		380,692

Revenue in 2006

Revenue increased marginally in 2006 by 1.4 % to CHF 11,726,023. The primary sources of revenue are the assessed contributions of members and the staff assessment. Smaller amounts come from administration fees for extra-budgetary projects, sales of publications, and other miscellaneous sources.



Extra-Budgetary Funding, represented to scale by the circle below, is not included in these figures.



The total extra budgetary funding in 2006 was CHF 836,624 which is equal to about 8 per cent of the regular IPU budget.

1. Contributions from Member Parliaments

In 2006, 150 Members and Associate Members were assessed CHF 10,544,590. By the end of 2006, all but CHF 744,683 of the current year assessment had been collected. On a percentage basis, 7.1 per cent of the current year assessment was outstanding, which is consistent with previous years.

At the end of the year, there were 41 Members and Associate Members with contributions outstanding. Of the Members in arrears, eleven would be deprived of voting rights under Article 5.2 of the Statutes, if a vote were held, and four were liable for suspension under Article 4.2. This is worse than the situation at the end of 2005, but similar to 2004.

In addition to the assessed contributions included in the budget, the Union invoiced CHF 184,336 to the Parliaments of the Gambia, Montenegro, Palau, Paraguay, Qatar and Somalia, which affiliated or re-affiliated to the Union during the year. In accordance with the Financial Regulations, these contributions and special debt went directly to the Working Capital Fund. The Governing Council also forgave the outstanding special debts of Dominican Republic, Georgia and Madagascar in the total amount of CHF 105,859. The net contribution to the Working Capital Fund from new members was CHF 78,477.

2. Staff Assessment

Nine per cent of revenue came from the internal taxation of staff salaries. The rates of staff assessment, which are set by the International Civil Service Commission, are based upon the average tax rates in Geneva, London, Montreal, New York, Paris, Rome and Vienna. The effective tax rate for IPU staff varies from 22 per cent for the lowest paid staff member to 32 per cent for the highest paid staff member.

The Union is contractually obliged to reimburse staff members for any national income taxes which are imposed on their IPU incomes. In 2006, CHF 85,560 was reimbursed to staff members who paid taxes to France and the United States, and as a result the net revenue from staff assessment was 5 per cent less than budgeted.

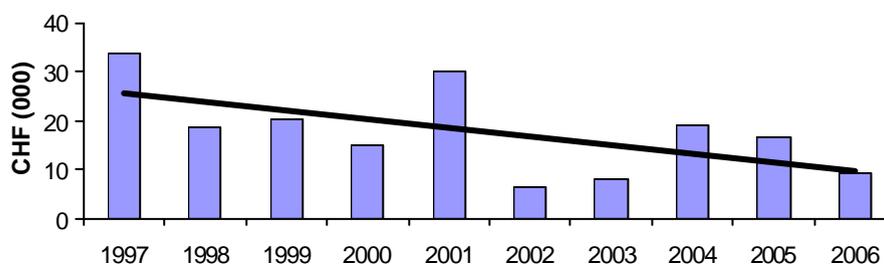
3. Administration Fees

In 2006, the Union collected administration fees of CHF 57,882. This amount was more than budgeted but less than the prior year, a result of the reduction in the volume of technical cooperation projects receiving extra budgetary funding from external sources. The single largest fee for services came from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean.

4. Publications

Revenue from publications, which had recovered in 2004 and 2005 as a result of better billing processes, dwindled in 2006 to CHF 9,230 as the number of paid subscribers to flagship publications dropped. Most IPU publications are now available on line or are distributed without charge.

Sales of Publications

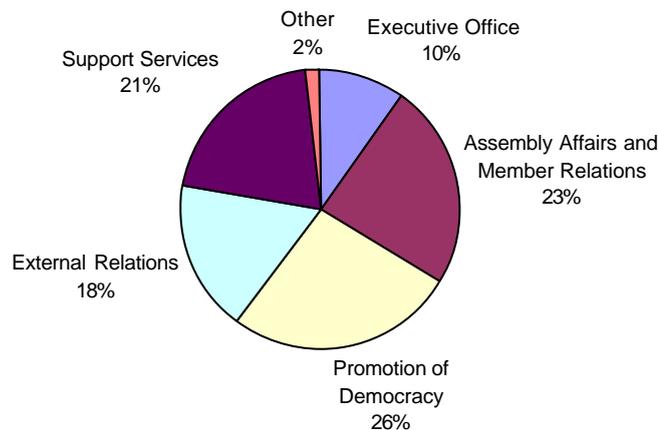


Expenses in 2006

In Geneva in 2005, the Governing Council approved appropriations of CHF 10,545,500 for 2006 operating budget. With the addition of staff assessment, this amount was revised upwards to CHF 11,679,100. Actual expenditures for the year were CHF 11,296,241, which were CHF 382,859 under the budget. The operating surplus resulted primarily from savings in the cost of staff benefits, specifically insurance and dependents' benefits, and from reduced grant payments.

- Insurance -- The Union received a rebate on insurance premiums against accidents on account of the good and safe history in recent prior years. With respect to loss-of-gains insurance, benefits paid out greatly exceeded the cost of premiums in 2006. Both of these insurance receipts were windfalls.
- The number of claims for dependency benefits was less than had been projected because of changes in staff and changes in their circumstances.
- Only half of the appropriation for the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP) and none of the appropriation for the legacy Pension Fund were utilized.

Most of the expenditures are directed towards three divisions managing the substantive programmes of the Union: a) Assembly Affairs and Relations with Member Parliaments, b) Promotion of Democracy, and 3) External Relations. The Executive Office and Support Services, including office accommodation and supplies for the Secretariat, use 31 per cent of the resources.



1. Executive Office

The operating costs of the Executive Office were CHF 1,124,755 which was 6 per cent over budget due to salary costs, travel and two meetings of the President's Working Group which were not foreseen when the budget was prepared.

2. Assembly Affairs and Member Relations

The total expenditure on the Assemblies and other meetings of the Union, and for the staff assigned to their organization, was CHF 2,657,588 which was both less than budgeted and less than the previous year. A significant saving was realized from the reorganization of language services which resulted in a staff vacancy for part of the year and a downwards reclassification of a post.

Some of the specialized meetings held by the Union are included in the division totals. In 2006, they included a parliamentary meeting on HIV/AIDS, the annual parliamentary conference on the WTO, two

meetings of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO and the annual information seminar.

The following tables provide comparative costs for the last six assemblies. Nairobi was an economical venue for the first Assembly of the year because of the relatively short travel time from Geneva resulting in lower travel costs and lower staff costs. The second Assembly in Geneva cost more than the previous year primarily because of an increase in the cost of conference facilities. On the other hand, the Union saved CHF 4,000 under the same rubric by fabricating badges in house.

Table 2 - Comparative Costs of the First Assembly (in CHF)

Item	Nairobi 2006	Manila 2005	Mexico 2004
Permanent staff overtime	27,309	36,524	16,968
Temp. staff/contractual services	450,249	548,857	428,628
Travel & related expenses	160,164	203,387	139,491
Freight/communication	19,464	31,803	42,712
Supplies/equipment/services	1,161	2,668	3,008
Publications	56,382	48,659	69,010
Gifts/hospitality	1,412	1,588	5,852
Total Expense	716,141	873,486	705,669

Table 3 - Comparative Costs of the Second Assembly (in CHF)

Item	Geneva 2006 (3 days)	Geneva 2005 (3 days)	Geneva 2004 (4 days)
Permanent staff overtime	25,413	24,891	20,776
Temp. staff/contractual services	275,474	279,500	275,203
Travel & related expenses	9,691	18,742	17,376
Supplies/equipment/services	70,123	56,672	49,955
Publications	29,834	29,684	43,122
Gifts/hospitality	13,031	6,486	1,679
Total Expense	423,566	415,975	408,111

3. Promotion of Democracy

The Division for the Promotion of Democracy had total expenditures of CHF 2,996,355. The expenditures of the Division were under budget, but still significantly higher than the previous year because of the cost of resource mobilization.

The Promotion of Democracy encompasses four programme units: Technical Cooperation, the Resource Centre, Human Rights and Partnership between Men and Women.

Expenditures of CHF 1,283,712 on technical cooperation and the Director's office were over budget because of the staff commitment made to resource mobilization and the cost of winding up a project in Nigeria.

Spending of CHF 96,291 by the Resource Centre was less than budgeted because the publication of *Tools for Parliamentary Oversight* was delayed and because translation requirements for *PARLINE* were less than expected.

The expenditures of the Human Rights Programme were CHF 985,520 which were 7 per cent under budget. Savings were realized because an annual report was not produced, transportation costs for meetings and missions were less than expected, and translation costs were down -- bucking the trend of recent years.

The Programme for Partnership between Men and Women had expenditures of CHF 630,832 which was a 47 per cent increase over the prior year because the programme was fully staffed, but still within budget.

4. External Relations

The cost of the Division for External Relations was CHF 2,011,712, which was a four per cent increase over the prior year though less than budgeted. The expenditures of this Division include the cost of information and communications emanating from Geneva, as well as the cost of operating the Office of the Permanent Observer in New York and the annual parliamentary hearing at the United Nations.

The expenditures in New York of CHF 986,639 include the full year effect of the decision to lease a larger office space there. Overall, the operations in New York cost less than budgeted because of the devaluation of the US Dollar against the Swiss Franc and because of a much reduced volume of translation.

The cost of information services including the IPU website was CHF 1,025,073, which was a significant increase over the prior year but also less than was budgeted. The expenditures include the cost of the enhanced *Annual Report of the Secretary General* and the new IPU information brochure and the cost of a meeting on parliamentary broadcasting, but not all of the resources appropriated for the implementation of a communications strategy were utilized.

5. Support Services

The expenditures on support services, including finance, administration and accommodation, were CHF 2,331,332 in 2006, which was the same as the prior year and just 1 per cent over budget. The slight over expenditure was due to unexpected losses on USD receivables occasioned by the devaluation of the USD over the year.

6. Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

For 2006, CHF 119,306 was contributed to the allowance for doubtful accounts versus a budget of CHF 115,000.

The allowance for doubtful accounts is an amount set aside to cover the write-off of outstanding contributions when a membership is suspended. The required amount of the reserve is calculated based upon the age of the outstanding contributions at the end of the year because the longer that an account has been outstanding, the more probable is the eventual write-off. An annual contribution to the allowance ensures that the reserve is fully funded to cover the probable default of some Members. At the end of 2005 the reserve was CHF 197,221. With the addition of the 2006 contribution and the write-off of the debt of Djibouti, which was suspended by the Governing Council for non-payment of contributions, the reserve is now CHF 222,935, which is 17 per cent of the total amount receivable from Members.

7. Grants

The annual grant to the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments was CHF 55,193 as compared to a budget of CHF 100,000. The Union benefited from operational cost savings made by the ASGP.

The 2006 budget also provided for a grant of CHF 50,000 to the legacy Pension Fund for former staff of the IPU, but because of a positive estimate of the actuarial situation of the Fund at the end of the year, no contribution was required.

Gender analysis of expenditures

Women are involved in all of the activities of the Union. However some of the annual operating expenditures are directed specifically towards raising the profile of women in politics and promoting gender partnership. The following tables provide an indication of the representation of women in the Secretariat and of the gender specific programme expenditures in absolute, relative and comparative terms. The results section of the Financial Report (p. 21) provides guidance on how mainstream activities have affected gender equality.

As a result of promotions and recruitments, women well outnumber men in the Secretariat except in the highest professional grades. Expenditures targeted for women have increased in both absolute and relative terms as compared to prior years.

Representation in the Secretariat	2006		2005	
	No.	%	No.	per cent
Women on Staff - General Services	13	87%	13	87%
Women on Staff - Professional	13	56%	10	48%
Women on Staff - Total	26	68%	23	64%
Women recruited during year	3.5*	100%	2	67%
Women promoted during year	3.5*	100%	5	83%

Gender Specific Allocations	2006		2005	
	CHF	%	CHF	per cent
Personnel	534,632	6%	448,930	4%
Goods and Services	96,200	4%	78,034	3%
Extra-budgetary funds	170,079	20%	93,491	4%

* includes part time positions

Capital Expenditures

In 2006, CHF 44,366 was spent on furniture and equipment, including the routine replacement of information technology.

Extra-budgetary Items

During 2006, the Union implemented several projects with extra-budgetary funding. These projects included the provision of technical assistance in developing countries and the production of parliamentary handbooks. Total extra-budgetary expenditures in 2006 were the equivalent of CHF 836,624 -- a substantial decrease from the previous year.

The Union received new funding commitments for technical cooperation totalling CHF 1.3 million, each of which is subject to a grant agreement with the funder. The largest new commitments came from the United Nations Democracy Fund and from the Swedish International Development Agency.

A detailed list of extra-budgetary expenditures and commitments is provided in the notes to the financial statements (Note 6).

Staff Pension Fund

There remains a legacy fund to cover the pension commitments made to former employees of the Union who have already retired. The legacy Pension Fund of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, guaranteed by the

Inter-Parliamentary Union, is committed to pay a specified pension to each retiree or their survivors based on various factors, including the number of years of service and salary at retirement. There is also a commitment to some active staff members to pay a pension for up to two years from the age of retirement until the commencement of a pension from the UNJSPF.

Because of good investment returns and low domestic inflation, the past year was good for the Pension Fund. At 31 December 2006, the assets of the Pension Fund at market value were CHF 14.5 million. The assets of the Pension Fund will be applied towards two sets of liabilities:

(1) Current Pensioners

There are twelve current pensioners of the Pension Fund, ranging in age from 59 to 85 years. The annual cost of their pensions is CHF 1.0 million and the youngest pensioner has 26 years of life expectancy. Based upon 2003 life tables, and a 3 per cent discount rate, the total present value of the pensions of the current pensioners and their survivors is CHF 13.2 million.

(2) Acquired Rights

Ten active staff members have a normal retirement age of 60 but will not receive a pension from the UNJSPF until the age of 62. The present value of the partial pensions payable to these staff members from the age of 60 until the age of 62 is CHF 0.9 million.

The current reserves of the Pension Fund are sufficient to meet the estimated future liabilities. Whereas these estimates are sensitive to the longevity of retirees, returns on investments of the Fund, the rate of inflation, and individual retirement plans, it will be necessary to review the estimates annually.

Recommendations

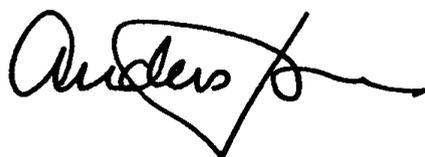
- 1) Under Rule 4.5 of the Financial Regulations, any balance of the budgetary appropriations at the close of the financial year shall be submitted by the Secretary General, through the Executive Committee, to the Governing Council for decision concerning its use. The Secretary General recommends that the balance of the operating surplus from 2006 be transferred to the Working Capital Fund.
- 2) At the 179th session held in Geneva in 2006, the Governing Council suspended the affiliation of Djibouti in accordance with Article 4.2 of the Statutes. The Financial regulations state that a Member of the Union whose affiliation was suspended for failure to meet its financial obligations towards the Union shall remain accountable for these arrears. However, general accounting practice is to write off accounts receivable after every reasonable attempt at recovery has been made. In this way, the accounts accurately reflect the financial position of the Union. The Secretary General recommends that the accounts receivable from Djibouti be written off in the amount of CHF 93,592. The record of these amounts owing will be kept off book.
- 3) In accordance with Rule 13.3, it is recommended that the Governing Council approve the financial administration of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the financial results for 2006.

Management's Responsibility for Financial Reporting

The management of the Inter-Parliamentary Union is responsible for the reliability, integrity and objectivity of the accompanying financial statements and annual financial report. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards. Where necessary, the statements include amounts that are based on judgements and estimates by management. To assist management in fulfilling its responsibilities, a system of internal accounting controls has been established to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements are accurate and reliable and that assets are safeguarded.

The Governing Council is responsible for approving the Annual Financial Statements. The Governing Council has delegated certain responsibilities to the Internal Auditors, including the responsibility for reviewing the annual financial statements and meeting with management and the external auditor, as necessary, on matters relating to the financial reporting process.

These financial statements have been audited by the external auditor appointed by the Executive Committee.



Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General



John Piper
Director of the Division
of Support Services

External Auditor's Opinion

In execution of the mandate granted to me, I have audited the accounts of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for the year ending 31 December 2006.

The book-keeping was duly made available to me at the Union's headquarters. The audit consisted of verifying the income and expenditure operations of the financial year and the content of the balance sheet. My examination included a general review of the accounting records by spot checks and other supporting evidence as I considered necessary in the circumstances. Furthermore, the audit consisted of checking administrative practices and procedures where they could have economic implications.

I certify that the accounts and financial statement present fairly the financial operations of the Organization during 2006 and its financial situation at the end of 2006.



Lars Christian Møller
Deputy Director General
Riksrevisjonen, Norway

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
Statement of Financial Position

at 31 December 2006

In CHF (Swiss francs)

	2006	2005
ASSETS		
Cash on Hand	47,483	32,274
Cash on Deposit (Note 3)	1,965,644	1,464,485
Term Deposits	3,432,618	3,658,822
Investments	1,509,588	
	<u>6,955,333</u>	<u>5,155,581</u>
Accounts Receivable		
from Members (Notes 4 & 5)	1,104,704	1,339,368
from Staff	14,408	76,927
from Funders (Note 6)	56,693	1,254,133
from Tax Reimbursements	23,863	19,084
Others	100,429	36,003
	<u>1,300,097</u>	<u>2,725,515</u>
Prepaid Expenses (Note 7)	45,044	159,739
Inventories of Official Gifts	21,899	16,570
Fixed Assets (Note 8)		
Building and Grounds	9,356,495	9,356,495
Furnishings	749,407	738,030
IT Equipment	204,014	287,504
Vehicles	42,053	42,053
less Accumulated Depreciation	(1,336,769)	(1,077,694)
	<u>9,015,200</u>	<u>9,346,388</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>17,337,573</u></u>	<u><u>17,403,793</u></u>
LIABILITIES AND RESERVES		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Payables	588,920	538,661
Advances for Technical Cooperation (Note 6)	825,377	1,294,929
Advances from Members	64,854	155,466
	<u>1,479,151</u>	<u>1,989,056</u>
Trust Funds (Note 9)	35,609	18,270
Loans (Note 10)		
Current Portion	189,600	189,600
Long Term	8,532,000	8,721,600
Deferred Liabilities (Note 11)	<u>1,474,050</u>	<u>1,438,313</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>11,710,410</u>	<u>12,356,839</u>
Working Capital Fund (after contribution)	<u>5,627,163</u>	<u>5,046,954</u>
Total Liabilities and Reserves	<u><u>17,337,573</u></u>	<u><u>17,403,793</u></u>

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
Statement of Financial Performance
for the year ended 31 December 2006
In CHF (Swiss francs)

	2006	2005
Operating Income		
1 Assessed Contributions	10,544,590	10,156,910
2 Staff Assessment (Notes 2(e), 14)	1,081,801	1,243,291
3 Sales of Publications	9,230	16,567
4 Administrative Fees (Note 15)	57,882	135,949
5 Other income (Note 16)	32,520	6,504
Total Operating Income	<u>11,726,023</u>	<u>11,559,221</u>
Operating Expenses		
1 Executive Office	1,124,755	1,079,661
2 Assembly Affairs and Relations with Member Parliaments	2,657,588	3,073,318
3 Promotion of Democracy	2,996,355	2,835,927
4 External Relations	2,011,712	1,935,562
5 Support Services	2,331,332	2,331,322
6 Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	119,306	27,518
7 Grants	55,193	57,068
Total Operating Expenses	<u>11,296,241</u>	<u>11,340,376</u>
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>429,782</u>	<u>218,845</u>
Working Capital Fund, Beginning of Year	5,046,954	4,552,895
Operating Surplus	429,782	218,845
Interest earned (Note 17)	71,950	39,341
Other Contributions (Note 17)	78,477	235,873
Working Capital Fund, End of Year	<u>5,627,163</u>	<u>5,046,954</u>

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Statement of Cashflows

for the year ended 31 December 2006

In CHF (Swiss francs)

	2006	2005
Opening Cash Balance	5,155,581	5,755,418
Cash provided by (used in) Operations		
Operating Surplus	429,782	218,845
plus non-cash expenditures	411,291	393,040
Changes in Receivables	1,425,418	(1,466,749)
Changes in inventories and prepaid expenses	109,366	(91,667)
Changes in Payables	(509,905)	333,188
Total cash from operations	<u>1,865,952</u>	<u>(613,343)</u>
Cash provided by the Working Capital Fund		
Other Contributions	78,477	235,873
Interest	71,950	39,341
Total cash from Working Capital Fund	<u>150,427</u>	<u>275,214</u>
Cash used in Financing Activities		
Loan from (Repayment to) Swiss Federal Government	(189,600)	(188,800)
Change in Trust Fund Balance (Note 9)	17,339	18,270
Total cash from Financing	<u>(172,339)</u>	<u>(170,530)</u>
Cash used in Investing Activities		
Other Assets	(44,366)	(91,178)
Total cash used in investments	<u>(44,366)</u>	<u>(91,178)</u>
Closing Cash Balance	<u>6,955,333</u>	<u>5,155,581</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Nature of Organization

The Inter-Parliamentary Union is the international organization of the Parliaments of sovereign states and has a unique inter-state character. It is the focal point for world-wide parliamentary dialogue. Since 1889, the IPU has worked for peace and cooperation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative institutions. The Union shares the objectives of, and works in close cooperation with, the United Nations where it is an official observer. It also cooperates with regional inter-parliamentary organizations, as well as with international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations which are motivated by the same ideals.

The IPU is an international parliamentary political organization and possesses international legal personality. The IPU is representative in character and organization, subject to the rule of law, and governed by its constitution. States and international organizations dealing with the IPU have recognized its standing, authority and capacity to act on the international plane, within the area of its functional responsibilities, as the international organization of parliaments.

Since 1 January 2005, the IPU is affiliated with the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund.

The "Financial Regulations of the Inter-Parliamentary Union" is the overall governing instrument of the Union's financial administration.

2. Accounting Policies and Basis of Presentation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of International Public Sector Accounting Standards applicable to a going-concern, which assume that the organization will continue in operation for the foreseeable future and will be able to realize its assets and discharge its liabilities in the normal course of operations.

(a) Revenue Recognition

Assessed contributions are recognized as revenue when they come due. Other revenues are recognized when services are performed or when products are shipped. Reimbursements for disbursements made under grant agreements are not recognized as revenue.

(b) Inventories

Stocks of publications for future distribution are written down to a net realizable value of nil in each reporting period. Official gifts are valued at cost.

(c) Property, Plant, Equipment and Depreciation

The value of the headquarters building and office equipment are recorded at cost, which includes interest costs and project management costs incurred during the construction or acquisition. Capital costs are reduced by the amounts of any capital grants received. The Union reviews the value of its property, plant and equipment at the end of each reporting period to determine whether carrying values are recoverable with any resulting write-downs charged as an expense.

Buildings and each class of equipment are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their useful estimated lives which are as follows:

Category	Useful Life
Buildings	50 years
Furnishings	6 years
Vehicles	5 years
IT hardware and software	3 years

(d) Taxes

The IPU has been expressly recognized by the two countries in which it is physically located, Switzerland and the USA, as an international organization entitled to the appropriate privileges and immunities. It enjoys a special international organization tax-exempt status in both countries. In Switzerland, under the terms of a 1971 Accord, the IPU is exempt from direct and indirect federal, cantonal, and community taxes and is subject to the same duties as other international organizations. In the United States, the IPU is exempted from direct federal taxes and duties

under the terms of the International Organizations Immunities Act and is exempted from the payment of New York State and local sales and use taxes.

Any recoverable taxes paid in either jurisdiction are recorded as Accounts Receivable.

(e) Staff Assessment

Staff salaries are taxed internally for the benefit of all member parliaments. The gross amount of staff salaries has been reported as an expense, while the internal staff assessment has been reported as revenue. The amount of staff assessment is determined in accordance with the United Nations common system of salaries, allowances and benefits based upon the average tax rates of Geneva, London, Montreal, New York, Paris, Rome and Vienna.

(f) Pension and Retirement Allowance Expenses

The Union has a pension fund for past retirees which is operated as a separate entity and which is governed by its own Pension Board. The Union's representative on the Pension Board provides an oral report to the Executive Committee each year on the activities of the pension fund.

Active employees participate in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund. The liability of the Union in respect to the pensions of active employees is limited to the annual contributions and any deficiency payment determined by the Fund.

Other retirement allowances earned by employees are reported as expenses in the year they are earned (Note 11).

(g) Foreign Currency Translations

The Union uses Swiss Francs as its functional currency. Revenue and expense items arising from transactions in US Dollars are converted into Swiss Francs at the UN exchange rate for the month. Transactions in Euros are converted into Swiss Francs at the rate posted by the European Central Bank. Transactions in other currencies are converted into Swiss Francs at the spot rate quoted on the internet at the time of posting. Monetary assets and liabilities are translated into Swiss Francs at the exchange rate in effect at the balance sheet date. Exchange gains or losses from translations of monetary items are recognized as expenses.

(h) Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFAC International Public Sector Accounting Standards requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. These estimates are based on management's best knowledge of current events and actions that the Union may undertake in the future. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

(i) Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Union and the accounts of technical cooperation projects carried out with third party funding. All inter-company transactions and balances are eliminated on consolidation.

(j) Changes in accounting policies

Investments in mutual funds are reported at lesser of market value or book value.

3. Cash on Deposit

Cash on deposit includes the equivalent of CHF 831,098 in Naira on deposit in Nigeria at the mid exchange rate on 31 December 2006. The value of the deposit when the funds are reconverted to Swiss Francs is not certain.

5. Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

The Union has established an allowance for doubtful accounts. This allowance is the best estimate of the member contributions that have been recorded as income and set up as an account receivable, but which may never be received.

At the beginning of 2006, the estimate of doubtful accounts was CHF 197,221. Following contributions and write-offs, the balance of the fund was CHF 222,935, which is 17 per cent of the arrears outstanding at year end.

	2006	2005
Opening Balance	197,221	235,803
Provision	119,306	27,518
Statutory Write-Offs	-	(66,100)
Write-Off uncollectible debt	(93,592)	-
Closing Balance	222,935	197,221

6. Receivables for Technical Cooperation

The Inter-Parliamentary Union has grant commitments from numerous funding agencies in order to implement programmes of technical cooperation. Total disbursements under the grant commitments in 2006 were CHF 836,624. At 31 December 2006 the net advance held for technical cooperation projects was CHF 719,570.

Project	Funder	Unexpended Balance of Prior Commitments	New/(Rescinded) Commitment in 2006	Funds used in 2006	Balance of Commitment	(Advances)/Receivables	
Equatorial Guinea	European Commission	€ 623,784	€ 0	€ 79,862	€ 543,921	(€ 271,322)	
Nigeria		€ -	€ 712	€ 712	€ -	€ 65,845	
Subtotal	EUROS	€623,784	€ 712	€ 80,574	€ 543,921	(€ 205,477)	
Refugee Handbook	UNHCR	20,933	-	-	20,933	(20,933)	
Handbook on Statelessness		30,117	-	14,523	15,594	(13,409)	
Global Programme Support	SIDA	392,684	494,572	619,525	267,731	(268,146)	
Pakistan	UNDP	65,500	-	17,685	47,815	(47,815)	
Sri Lanka		-	12,442	12,442	0	-	
Egypt		-	18,293	-	18,293	(3,629)	
Reconciliation Handbook	IDEA	-	625	625	-	-	
Female Genital Mutilation	Norway	30,716	-	1,092	29,624	(29,624)	
Child Protection Handbook	UNICEF	-	26,179	26,179	-	-	
Budget Seminar	UNIFEM/ACIC	18,413	-	18,413	-	-	
Human Rights Manual	UNHCHR	5,833	-	-	5,833	(5,833)	
Burundi	UNDEF	-	(3,334)	(3,334)	-	-	
Human Rights		-	406,034	-	406,034	-	
		-	416,014	-	416,014	-	
Subtotal	CHF	564,196	1,370,825	707,150	1,227,871	(389,389)	
Grand Total	CHF	1,566,554	1,371,969	836,624	2,101,898	(719,570)	
						plus advances from Funders	825,377
						less Doubtful Accounts	(49,114)
						Accounts Receivable from Funders	56,693

7. Prepaid Expenses

The Union has already paid some expenses that relate to 2007 such as postage meter deposits. These disbursements have been reported as current assets.

8. Property, Plant and Equipment

- (a) The Union owns a headquarters building and annex in Grand-Saconnex, Switzerland. The building is located on land owned by the Canton of Geneva, which has been set aside for the use of the Union for the next 46 years. The Union has agreed to purchase the existing building and annex on the site for CHF 1'205'000. Including registration fees, the purchase will cost CHF 1,253,450.
- (b) The Union invested CHF 9,356,495 on new construction and renovations of the property, not counting grants received.
- (c) Depreciation is recorded in accordance with the policy described in note 2(c). A detailed inventory is kept for all computer related hardware and software as this is routinely replaced and upgraded and represents a significant investment.

Year	Buildings and Grounds		Furnishings		Information, Technology and Communications Equipment		Vehicles	
	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005
Opening Balance	8,795,105	8,982,235	434,404	494,044	92,848	139,530	24,031	32,442
Additions	0	0	11,377	54,313	32,989	36,865	0	0
Depreciation	(187,130)	(187,130)	(123,005)	(113,953)	(57,008)	(83,546)	(8,410)	(8,411)
Closing Balance	8,607,975	8,795,105	322,776	434,404	68,828	92,848	15,621	24,031
Gross Carrying Amount	9,356,495	9,356,495	749,407	738,030	204,014	287,504	42,053	42,053
Accumulated Depreciation	(748,520)	(561,390)	(426,631)	(303,626)	(135,186)	(194,656)	(26,432)	(18,022)
Net Carrying Amount	8,607,975	8,795,105	322,776	434,404	68,828	92,848	15,621	24,031

9. Trust Funds

The Inter-Parliamentary Union is holding funds in trust for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean. Eight member parliaments made contributions during 2006. After disbursements, the balance held in trust was CHF 35,609.

Opening Balance	18,270
Receipts	
- Voluntary Contributions	
Total Receipts	103,600
Disbursements	
- Transportation	8,488
- Interpreters	26,535
- Other meeting costs	1,238
- Staff support	50,000
Total	86,261
Balance of Trust Fund	35,609

10. Long term debt

The Inter-Parliamentary Union has a CHF 9,480,000 loan from the Federal Government of Switzerland for the construction and renovation of the headquarters premises, of which CHF 8,721,600 is outstanding. The loan has a fifty-year term maturing in 2052 and is interest free.

The principal amounts payable in each of the next five years are:

Year	CHF
2007	189,600
2008	189,600
2009	189,600
2010	189,600
2011	189,600

11. Other long term liabilities

The Union has contracts with employees that require the payment of certain benefits upon retirement or separation. These benefits include grants for removal expenses and a reinstatement premium as well as allowing employees to carry forward and eventually cash out up to 60 days of annual leave credits. At 31 December 2006, the total liability of benefits payable to staff was:

Amount in CHF	2006	2005
Reinstallation Premiums	490,843	466,745
Encashment of unused leave	623,207	571,927
Grants for Removal Expenses	360,000	360,000
Provision for Unforeseen	-	39,641
Total	1,474,050	1'438,313

12. Commitments and Contingencies

- (a) The Union has undertaken to purchase the building that houses the new headquarters from the Canton of Geneva for an amount of CHF 1'205'000. The vendor has offered to take back a 100 per cent mortgage on the property repayable over 25 years with no interest. The principal amounts payable in each of the next five years will be:

Year	CHF
2007	48,200
2008	48,200
2009	48,200
2010	48,200
2011	48,200

- (b) The Union has a nine-year lease expiring in 2012 for office accommodation at 220 East 42nd Street in New York, USA. Projected future lease payments are as follows:

Year	Agreement amount	Equivalent
2007	USD 115,342	CHF 139,564
2008	USD 120,444	CHF 145,737
2009	USD 124,968	CHF 151,211
2010	USD 127,852	CHF 154,701
2011	USD 130,803	CHF 158,272

13. Contingent Liabilities

- (a) Several staff members have received notices of tax assessment from the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industry of France relating to income earned from the Union between 2001 and 2005. The Union is contractually obligated to reimburse to staff members any national taxes paid in respect to income earned from the Union. Discussions between the Swiss and French authorities may result in a satisfactory resolution of the taxation issue, which is also being contested before the Administrative Tribunal in Lyon, France.
- (b) The National Authorising Officer of the Economic Development Fund of the European Commission is disputing claims for reimbursement submitted by the Union in respect to the technical cooperation project carried out in Nigeria. The Union has given notice that it will request conciliation, if an amicable settlement is not achieved.

14. Staff Assessment

The total amount of staff assessment on staff salaries was CHF 1,167,361. In accordance with contractual obligations, an amount of CHF 85,560 was rebated to cover national income taxes that were imposed on staff members who were deemed fiscal residents of France and the United States.

	2006	2005
Gross Staff Assessment	1,167,361	1,243,291
Reimbursements		
- France	85,245	-
- United States of America	315	-
Total	85,560	-
Net Staff Assessment	1,081,801	1,243,291

15. Administrative Fees

The Union charges administrative fees for the projects it implements with funding from other agencies. In 2006, the Union collected fees in the amount of CHF 57,882.

16. Other Income

Other income of CHF 32,520 includes a grant from DCAF, speakers' fees, license fees for written work, and room rentals.

17. Other contributions

According to the financial regulations, the Working Capital Fund receives:

- (a) Corresponding appropriations included in the annual budget as its replenishment and/or its increase;
- (b) Contributions from newly affiliated or re-affiliated Parliaments for the current year;
- (c) Income derived from its investments;
- (d) Any other amount as decided by the Council.

During 2006, the Union assessed contributions to the Working Capital Fund of CHF 184,336 for the affiliation of the Gambia, Montenegro, Palau and Qatar and for the re-affiliations of Somalia and Paraguay. The Governing Council also approved the write-off of outstanding special debts of the Dominican Republic, Georgia and Madagascar in the amount of CHF 105,859. Interest earnings on the Working Capital Fund were CHF 71,950.

18. Comparative amounts

Certain comparative amounts have been reclassified to conform with the financial statement presentation adopted in the current year.

Schedule 1 - Expenditure by Programme and Category of Expense

	Programme	Permanent Staff	Temporary Staff	Travel Costs	Supplies and Services	Grants ¹ and Honorariums	Other ²	Total
1	Executive Office	848,848	23,697	202,841	19,369	30,000	-	1,124,755
2	Assembly Affairs and Relations with Member Parliaments	1,362,084	844,480	187,755	263,269	-	-	2,657,588
3	Promotion of Democracy	2,530,244	45,741	194,784	225,086	500	-	2,996,355
4	External Relations	1,491,001	50,249	54,080	413,882	2,500	-	2,011,712
5	Support Services	1,238,964	8,136	105	687,221	-	396,906	2,331,332
6	Transfer of Funds	-	-	-	-	55,193	119,306	174,499
	TOTAL	7,471,141	972,303	639,565	1,608,827	88,193	516,212	11,296,241

¹ Grants include ASGP.

² Other includes depreciation, allowance for doubtful accounts.

Schedule 2 - Programme Results for 2006

Executive Office

Objective 1: *Develop the IPU as the world organization of national parliaments, a unique political organization that promotes peace, democracy and international cooperation through parliamentary action. Assume a central role in bridging the democracy gap in international relations by providing a parliamentary dimension to multilateral cooperation..*

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
Grow to become a truly universal organization of parliaments;	The number of parliaments that are members of the organization;	Six parliaments were affiliated in the course of the year.
Mobilise parliamentary action on issues of international interest and concern;	The number of instances in which work at the IPU has been translated into follow-up action in parliaments;	Although this is not statistically verifiable, numerous parliaments informed the IPU about action taken to follow up on IPU initiatives.
Facilitate parliamentary scrutiny of international organizations;	The number of instances of concrete interaction between multilateral institutions and parliaments working with, and through, the IPU;	Concrete interaction with multilateral institutions has followed the traditional intensive programme of work. A wide range of activities was conducted in conjunction with the United Nations and its specialized agencies and subsidiary organs, the World Trade Organization and various democracy-related institutions. The IPU also held a parliamentary hearing with the President of the World Bank.
Good political direction and representation of the IPU;	The level of satisfaction of the organization's governing bodies and Members;	The work of the IPU has earned increased recognition during the year under the political leadership of the IPU President who represented the Organization in various countries and at a number of official events.
Good management of the IPU and implementation of its programmes;	The level of satisfaction of the organization's governing bodies and Members;	Under the day-to-day supervision of the Secretary General, the IPU has implemented its programme of work for 2006 to the satisfaction of the governing bodies.
Efficient governing bodies;	Level of satisfaction of their members; Provision of supporting documents in a timely fashion; Circulation of reports and summary records within the stipulated deadlines.	In so far as the Secretariat is able, it has provided the Union's governing bodies with supporting documents in a timely fashion. Efforts will continue to ensure that documents are despatched to the membership to allow for adequate preparation of meetings.

Assembly Affairs and Relations with Member Parliaments

Objective 1: *Develop the IPU as the focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue that considers questions of international interest and expresses its views on such issues with the aim of bringing about action by parliaments and their members. Foster contacts, coordination and exchange of experience among members of parliament and offers them opportunities to engage in parliamentary diplomacy.*

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
<p>Hold its 114th Assembly in Nairobi and the 115th Assembly in Geneva, each with debates in three Standing Committees, panel discussions and several other parallel events;</p>	<p>The number of parliaments attending the assemblies and the overall number of delegates;</p> <p>The level of satisfaction of the participants;</p> <p>Provision of supporting documents in a timely fashion;</p> <p>Circulation of reports and summary records within the stipulated deadlines.</p>	<p>At the 114th Assembly of the IPU (Nairobi - May), 128 Member Parliaments were in attendance and 485 MPs. At the 115th Assembly (Geneva - October), 118 Member Parliaments were present with a total of 602 MPs.</p> <p>The usual services available for delegates at IPU Assemblies were provided at the two Assemblies in 2006 to the satisfaction of all participants.</p> <p>All statutory deadlines, such as the date by which the Assembly Convocation and related documents should be sent to IPU Member Parliaments, were respected.</p> <p>The Results brochures of the two Assemblies were circulated within two weeks after the close of the events. The summary records of the 2006 Assemblies were sent to all IPU Member Parliaments within the statutory deadlines.</p>
<p>More balanced participation of men and women and mainstreaming of gender in all IPU activities;</p>	<p>Total number of women parliamentarians attending IPU Assemblies and other meetings;</p> <p>Elected positions held by women.</p>	<p>170 women MPs attended the 114th Assembly in Nairobi, being 28.4% of all delegates. 148 women MPs attended the 115th Assembly in Geneva, or 30.5% of all delegates.</p> <p>Women were elected or appointed to 15 offices, not including the Coordinating Committee of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.</p>
<p>Substantive input by women parliamentarians in the work of the IPU.</p>	<p>Participation in the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians and the Gender Partnership Group at IPU Assemblies.</p>	<p>All meetings took place and were reported in the results of the Assembly.</p>

Objective 2: Promote peace and security in several ways, including the convening of special mechanisms for dialogue on security and cooperation.

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
Review existing mechanisms for dialogue on security and cooperation and give priority to those where the Organization has a comparative advantage;	Criteria for establishing such mechanisms; Level of satisfaction of participants.	Establishment of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, as a forum for building confidence and security, towards the peaceful settlement of disputes and an enhanced dialogue among peoples, cultures and religions. Continue reform process under the guidance of the IPU President; progress made towards the establishment of an IPU Committee for United Nations affairs.
Extend political and technical support to the United Nations in post-conflict situations;	Number of concrete instances of co-operation between the UN and the IPU.	Continued cooperation with UNDP, UNDEF, UNICEF and other United Nations bodies in technical assistance projects for countries in post-conflict situations; Establishment of working modalities for cooperation with the United Nations Peace-Building Commission, in the cases of Burundi (under way) and Sierra Leone (tentative); Official visit to the Middle East; continued dialogue and cooperation with the UN Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.
One meeting of the Middle East Committee;	The number of Israeli and Palestinian parliamentarians who attend and the level of their satisfaction.	The IPU Committee on Middle East Questions brought together the representatives of the Israeli and Palestinian parties for dialogue, along with some of the neighbouring States. The meeting in Nairobi was attended by 1 Israeli and 2 Palestinian MPs.
One meeting of the Group of Facilitators for Cyprus.	The number of participants from both parties.	The Group of Facilitators did not meet on account of elections in Cyprus.

Objective 3: Mobilise the expertise that is available in parliamentary standing and select committees when addressing specific issues requiring international cooperation.

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
Evaluate structures and working methods and introduce such modifications as may be necessary to be able to call systematically on the expertise that is available in parliamentary standing and select committees when addressing issues requiring international cooperation;	Report with proposals for modifications; Approval by IPU Governing bodies.	This is part of a long-term reform process, the latest stage of which is pending approval by the governing bodies.
Organize meetings which bring together specialists who deal with specific issues in parliament that require international cooperation, in the area of international trade and possibly other areas as well.	The number of parliaments attending these events, the overall number of delegates and the level of their expertise; The level of satisfaction of the participants.	This objective has already been achieved in the area of international trade, in the form of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO. Action is being pursued in other areas.

Promotion of Democracy

Objective 1(a): *Strengthen the capacity of parliaments to perform their constitutional functions by providing technical assistance.*

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
<p>Carry out needs assessment missions to three parliaments;</p> <p>Design new projects involving advisory services, capacity-building seminars and basic equipment and including elements to enhance the role of women and to protect and defend human rights;</p> <p>Identify funding for these projects;</p> <p>Provide specific support, on a case-by-case basis, to parliaments.</p>	<p>Number of agreements concluded to provide the required development assistance;</p> <p>Agreements concluded with donors to fund 5 projects for democracy.</p>	<p>Needs assessment missions were carried out to the Parliaments of Burundi, Republic of Congo, Ecuador and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Project documents are being finalized with the individual parliaments.</p> <p>Funding was obtained for three projects: An MoU was signed with UNDP Egypt for specific activities to pioneer a model of parliamentary engagement on economic policy and trade commitments. UNDEF awarded grants for a projects to assist women parliamentarians in Burundi and to promote the implementation of UN human rights treaties in Francophone Africa.</p> <p>Additionally, the UNDP funded consultants recruited by the IPU who went to Afghanistan.</p> <p>The IPU worked with UNDP on a project proposal for assistance to the Iraqi Council of Representatives.</p> <p>The IPU assisted UNDP and the Algerian Parliament in drafting TORs and identifying experts for a budget seminar. IPU also provided a resource person.</p> <p>IPU also assisted UNDP and the Parliament of Niger in drafting TORs and identifying experts for a seminar on Parliamentary groups.</p>

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
<p>Provide technical assistance to parliaments in Afghanistan, Albania, Equatorial Guinea, and Uruguay. In 2006 new projects may become operational in Bahrain, the Congo, Iraq, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Syrian Arab Republic;</p> <p>Recruit and field consultants to provide advisory services;</p> <p>Organize capacity-building seminars for staff and members of parliament;</p> <p>Provide technical and documentary assistance to other partners with whom the projects are being implemented.</p>	<p>Projects, including consultancy missions, training seminars, staff attachments, study tours, etc., carried out in 6 countries.</p>	<p>The IPU implemented or assisted projects in the following Parliaments: Afghanistan, Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, Iraq, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Consultancy and advisory services were provided in all cases.</p> <p>The IPU organised training seminars in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Attachments or study visits were organised for senior staff and members of the parliament of Afghanistan.</p> <p>A mission to Equatorial Guinea prepared for the last year of the programme of support to the parliament of that country.</p> <p>The IPU organised a one-day training programme for Iraqi MPs on human rights with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and organised a one-day information session for senior officials of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in co-operation with the Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiations.</p> <p>Documentary resources were provided in all the projects and to the Parliaments of Bahrain, Ecuador, Monaco, Nigeria, Philippines, Qatar, Suriname and Uruguay.</p>
<p>Expand the roster of experts who can be called upon to undertake technical cooperation missions.</p>	<p>The number of experts willing to undertake technical cooperation missions</p>	<p>New experts (mainly retired parliamentary civil servants) have joined the roster in 2006. An intern assisted in refining the database and inputting the data. There was also an increase in the number of first time experts undertaking short-term missions</p>

Objective 1(b): Strengthen the capacity of parliaments to perform their constitutional functions through regional capacity-building seminars and represent the IPU at meetings dealing with legislative strengthening and promotion of democracy.

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
Organize one regional seminar on parliaments and environmental management and sustainable development, in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR);	Number of participants and their level of satisfaction.	Regional seminar for African parliaments on sustainable development - Yaoundé, Cameroon, 26-28 June 2006 attended by more than 100 MPs from 20 countries.
Organize one seminar in Asia or Africa on parliamentary oversight of the security sector in partnership with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces.	Number of participants and their level of satisfaction.	Regional seminar on parliamentary oversight of the security sector in Asia - Thailand - 1-2 September 2006- attended by over 70 parliamentarians from 14 national and regional parliaments.
Organize one seminar in Latin America on parliament's role in national reconciliation in partnership with the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA).	Number of participants and their level of satisfaction.	Deferred. The seminar did not take place in 2006 because a host parliament could not be found on time.
Organize a parliamentary event on the occasion of the sixth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, in partnership with the Parliament of Mongolia, the host to the Parliamentary Forum held on the occasion of the fifth Conference.	Number of participants and their level of satisfaction.	The Parliamentary Meeting, jointly organized by the IPU, the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Advisory Council of Qatar, was attended by 185 delegates representing 70 parliaments. The delegates adopted a Parliamentary Declaration and Plan of Action which called upon the IPU to play a leading role in driving parliamentary follow-up.
More awareness of the role of the IPU in promoting-democracy and strengthening parliaments.	IPU representation in at least 2 democracy related meetings.	IPU participated in the Colloquium on Political Rights of the Persons Displaced by Conflict organized by the International Organization for Migration in June 2006.

Objective 2(a): Promote better understanding of parliaments through research and publishing.

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
Research, prepare and publish the 2005 Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections;	Publication by 30 June 2006. Increased distribution.	The Chronicle was published in June 2006 but the number of paid subscriptions decreased slightly.
Collect data and expand the PARLINE database covering the role, structure and functioning of the national parliaments; Carry out a full review and overhaul of the electoral system module of PARLINE to update data and fill in gaps; Make historical elections data available on line.	Up-to-date information in the electoral systems module of PARLINE. Number of hits on PARLINE database. Historical data back to 1965 on line.	The General Information, Last Elections and Electoral Systems modules of PARLINE were maintained with authoritative, up-to-date information. Summaries and statistics from parliamentary elections for 52 chambers from 44 countries were published. Data was gathered on the organization of parliamentary sessions, with a view to future publication. Reports on parliamentary elections back to the very first edition of the Chronicle (1967) were made available in electronic format through the IPU web site. This unique collection now contains more than 1500 reports in both English and French.
Compile and publish the 2006 World Directory of Parliaments.	Date of release.	The 2006 World Directory was published on schedule in February 2006.
Produce one research brochure Panorama of Elections, and another on a topical issue relevant to parliamentary trends.	Publication of two research brochures.	A new serial publication, the Panorama of parliamentary elections, was published in an accessible, easy-to-read format. An evaluation of readers among the IPU membership indicated a largely positive response.
Publish one-page introductions in question and answer format on the IPU website on the role, structure and functioning of parliaments, topical issues related to parliaments, etc.	New web-based produces available on IPU website (FAQs on parliaments and updates on parliaments).	Data was collected in mini-surveys, with a view to publication, on parliamentary topics such as the organization of public hearings, the role of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, laws on the rights and responsibilities of the opposition etc. Review of a very extensive draft FAQ on parliaments is underway with publication foreseen in 2007.
Initiate and conduct a comparative study on a topical aspect of the work of parliaments.		Two comparative studies were initiated around the theme of representation: A joint research project with UNDP will examine the representation of minorities and indigenous peoples in parliament. A joint research project with the Governance Research Unit of Monash University, Australia, will investigate the professional development of parliamentarians, including induction and orientation programmes.

Objective 2(b): Support the information needs of parliaments.

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
Finalise and publish the study on executive-legislative relations.	Publication date.	The study was drafted and circulated for review. Feedback from reviewers indicated additional areas of focus, requiring further drafting.
Finalise a manual of parliamentary good practice in the promotion of democracy, initiated in 2004; Develop a web-based product to accompany the manual of parliamentary good practice as a learning tool for parliaments.	Release in English and French in Nairobi in May 2006; Release in Spanish for distribution in the second part of the year.*	Parliament and democracy in the twenty-first century: A guide to good practice was published in English and French in Nairobi. A Spanish translation was presented to the 115 th Assembly in Geneva, while an Arabic translation was produced by UNDP. The print publication was accompanied by an online version and an extensive selection of web references for further reading. Copies of the guide were requested by the Parliaments in Bahrain, Ecuador, Monaco, Philippines, Qatar, Suriname and Uruguay.
Produce a Spanish version of the updated IPU study on Free and Fair Elections: International Law and Practice.	Publication date.	The English and French versions of Free and Fair Elections were published in March 2006. The Spanish translation was published in January 2007.
Acquire and process parliament-related documentation in various formats; Develop proposals for upgrading the PARLIT database.	Plan and Budget.	Work on upgrading databases focused on PARLINE rather than PARLIT, which is no longer being actively maintained. Engineering work began to create a more user-friendly interface for PARLINE, including tools for viewing recent additions and election reports, and exporting data from the database.
Conduct a feasibility study on profiling parliamentarians and develop a project proposal for possible donor support.		Deferred.
Produce an on-line directory of web links on parliaments as a gateway to Internet resources on parliaments and democracy.	Number of links contained in the directory of web resources.	Work is underway.
Provide information related to parliaments on request.	Number of requests filled for parliament-related information.	Approximately 200 requests for information were answered. Of these, one-quarter came from parliaments, one-third from universities, and the remainder from other sources including governments, United Nations and the public.

Objective 3(a): Provide effective support and manage the case load of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
<p>Research the human rights cases that are brought to the attention of the IPU and prepare reports;</p> <p>Draft the Committee's decisions;</p> <p>Organize four sessions of the Committee - two held in conjunction with the Assembly and two held separately at IPU Headquarters;</p> <p>Encourage Members to take follow-up action.</p>	<p>Effective functioning of the Committee;</p> <p>Reports and decisions adopted by Committee and Governing Council;</p> <p>Number of cases which are closed due to satisfactory settlement;</p> <p>Number of follow-up actions reported on by Members.</p>	<p>The Committee held four sessions (each of either four or five days), which took place in January, May, July and October 2006. The reports allowed the Committee members to deliberate on the basis of all relevant information and take well-informed decisions. Progress was made in discussing the strengthening of the Committee's procedure.</p> <p>In 2006, the Committee adopted reports and decisions on 76 cases (as compared to 62 cases in 2005) concerning 280 parliamentarians. It examined 19 cases for the first time and declared three of them inadmissible. 34 cases were the subject of a public report and resolution by the Governing Council. The Committee closed 8 cases owing to their satisfactory settlement.</p> <p>Five to six individualised follow-up letters were sent on average per case after each Committee session.</p> <p>Letters inviting member parliaments to carry out follow-up action were sent to all member parliaments and all chairpersons of parliamentary human rights committees after each Assembly. The Parliaments of the UK and Germany kept the Committee informed of follow up activities. The British IPU Group invited the Committee Secretary for a briefing on the Committee.</p>
<p>Conduct two missions to investigate specific alleged human rights abuses and gather first-hand information on the situation of the parliamentarians concerned, and observe two trials of parliamentarians;</p>	<p>Mission reports;</p> <p>Trial reports.</p>	<p>Two missions were planned, but could not be carried out due to circumstances beyond the Committee's control.</p>
<p>Publish an annual report on the work and decisions of the committee in a reader-friendly format for distribution to Members and the public.</p>	<p>Release in Nairobi in May 2006.</p>	<p>An inter-active panel discussion was held in Geneva during the 115th IPU Assembly (October 2006) to celebrate the Committee's 30-year existence. The event, which was attended by some 60 parliamentarians, called on all parliamentarians to help the Committee implement the Council's resolutions.</p>

Objective 3(b): *Raise awareness within parliaments, and to build the capacity of parliaments, as guardians of human rights.*

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
Seminar for parliamentary human rights bodies.	Successful seminars/satisfied participants.	A seminar on "Law and Justice: The case for parliamentary scrutiny" was held. In evaluation forms, participants expressed their satisfaction at the seminar which they considered to have been of high relevance for them.
Activities to enhance parliaments' role in human rights.	More parliamentary human rights bodies established and more human rights activities in parliaments.	In cooperation with the OHCHR, a human rights workshop was held for members of the Iraqi's Parliament's Human Rights Committee. The IPU learned about the establishment of a parliamentary human rights committee in Iraq and in Costa Rica.
Maintain and update the database on parliamentary human rights bodies and publish a hard copy of the data.	Number of new entries in the database.	Requests for updated information were made to those parliamentarians attending the seminar on "Law and Justice." New information has been inserted in the online-data base. Issuing a hard copy was not required.

Objective 3(c): *Raise awareness outside parliaments of their importance as guardians of human rights and to raise awareness also of the human rights activities of the IPU*

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
<p>Cooperate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and Amnesty International, as well as other human rights bodies in the pursuit of common interests.</p>	<p>Reference to parliaments and the IPU in relevant United Nations documents and documents of other organizations;</p> <p>Involvement of parliaments and the IPU in international/regional human rights events.</p>	<p>The number of occurrences of the term "parliament" (and its derivatives "parliaments", "parliamentary" and "parliamentarian") in United Nations documents on the subject of human rights rose from 212 in 2005 to 218 in 2006 (Source: United Nations Official Document System). The increase confirms the trend observed since 1999.</p> <p>The IPU/OHCHR "Human Rights: Handbook for Parliaments" was translated into Spanish for release in 2007.</p> <p>The IPU regularly speaks about the role of parliaments at the workshops organized by the OHCHR on the UN human rights treaty body system. This year participants came from Georgia, Mexico and Morocco. The IPU also participated in a seminar on recommendations of UN Expert Bodies and the IPU Secretary General addressed the High Level Segment of the UN Human Rights Council.</p> <p>The IPU prepared and distributed a study on the issue of parliamentary immunity at the International Conference on Parliaments, Crisis Prevention and Recovery held in Brussels (Belgium) by UNDP and the Government and the Chamber of Representatives of Belgium, in association with the IPU.</p> <p>The IPU made a presentation on the same topic (and circulated copies of the study) at the 2nd Global Conference of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC), held in Arusha (United Republic of Tanzania).</p>
<p>Seek observer status at the Inter-American Commission and Court of Human Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.</p>	<p>Resolutions to Governing Council</p>	<p>Not achieved.</p>
<p>Participate in the annual assembly of the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) and meet with the London based human rights organizations.</p>		<p>Not achieved.</p>

Objective 4(a): *Coordinate the exchange of views of women parliamentarians at IPU Assemblies, to discuss women parliamentarians' input to Assembly resolutions and to promote dialogue between men and women parliamentarians on societal issues.*

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
<p>Organize the sessions of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians and the Gender Partnership Group.</p>	<p>Effective participation of delegates.</p>	<p>105 women parliamentarians took part in the meeting of Women Parliamentarians in Nairobi. They proposed amendments to the draft resolution on the environment to ensure that gender issues were mainstreamed and discussed special temporary measures to promote women's political participation.</p> <p>The Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians met at both Assemblies. In Geneva it submitted amendments to the draft resolution on the Millennium Development Goals to add gender issues and concerns to the final text.</p> <p>The Gender Partnership Group met at both Assemblies and had a hearing with the delegation of Qatar.</p>

Objective 4(b): *Raise the profile of women in politics and document the status of women in national parliaments*

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
<p>Organize a parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the 50th session of the Commission on the Status of Women to bring together chairpersons of parliamentary committee's on gender issues as well as men and women MPs.</p>	<p>Number of participants and level of satisfaction.</p>	<p>A one day session on <i>Gender Equality: Making a Difference through Parliament</i> held during the CSW brought together 160 participants from 64 countries to discuss the role of parliamentary mechanisms, including committees, in promoting gender equality.</p> <p>A complementary half day meeting of women Speakers of Parliament organised at the UN highlighted the specific role and contribution of women presiding officers of parliament in transforming politics and parliament into a more gender sensitive institution.</p> <p>A three day seminar for chairs and members of parliamentary committees on gender issues on <i>The role of parliamentary committees in mainstreaming gender and promoting the status of women</i> at IPU Headquarters brought together more than 100 members of parliament and parliamentary staff from 38 countries. The seminar identified ways in which such parliamentary committees can be enhanced and policy and legislative outcomes bolstered to promote gender equality. An evaluation of the seminar by the participants was positive and a request for a similar event in 2007 was made.</p>
<p>Update and develop the bibliographic database on women in politics.</p>	<p>Number of bibliographic references; Number of hits on the web site.</p>	<p>There are now more than 2500 references (an increase of 13%) in the database. Contacts with libraries and universities have been made in order to give wider visibility to this research tool. The bibliographic database on women in politics is one of the most visited pages on the IPU website.</p>
<p>Update the statistical data on women in national parliaments; Public access to current data on the presence of women in national parliaments.</p>	<p>Accuracy of information on the web site; Number of hits on the web site.</p>	<p>The statistical information on women in parliament was updated each month. Text was added on recent developments, results of seminars and projects, and other information. A general review of the women's web pages was carried out. The pages on women in parliament and on women's suffrage are some of the most visited pages on the IPU website.</p>

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
<p>Research and publish a survey on women in politics with a specific focus on men's contribution to the promotion of women in politics and the development of gender-sensitive Parliaments;</p> <p>Produce an on-line database on parliamentary committees on gender issues/on the status of women;</p> <p>Publish the yearly analysis on the results of elections held in 2005 with regard to women.</p> <p>Develop new indicators on women in politics and contribute to the Millennium Development Goals process;</p> <p>Other reports and analyses</p>	<p>Number of requests for publications.</p>	<p>The Programme for Partnership between Men and Women received 150 requests for publications and responded to 180 requests for information and data on women in politics.</p> <p>A survey questionnaire on Equality in Politics was distributed to members of parliament. An online database was created to facilitate responses on the web. Publication of the results was deferred to 2007.</p> <p>An online database on parliamentary committees on gender issues and on the status of women was launched containing information on more than 80 parliamentary committees from 70 countries. A hard copy directory was produced and distributed.</p> <p><i>Women in Parliament in 2005</i> was published for International Women's Day and a press conference was organised to present the findings of this annual analysis of results of elections with regard to women. The analysis received extensive media coverage.</p> <p>An information kit on "Women in politics: 1945- 2006", composed of six data sheets on women's participation in politics, was produced on the occasion of the 50th session of the CSW. It contains updated information on women in Parliament and on women in the Executive.</p> <p>The IPU contributed data to the Millennium Development Goals Process and took part in the discussions on the development of new indicators. In addition, the IPU has been the main source of data on women in politics for the United Nations Human Development Report.</p> <p>Reports on the various meetings held throughout the year were published on the website and distributed to Members.</p> <p>The IPU began work on an online database on women in politics from 1945 until today. Historical data available at the IPU was checked and completed.</p>

Objective 4(c): Support women's participation in elections, promote gender partnership in national parliaments, sensitise parliamentarians to gender issues and strengthen the capacity of women parliamentarians to influence parliamentary outcomes

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement	Results achieved
<p>Organize a regional conference of women parliamentarians in the arab world;</p> <p>Provide support for women's participation in the upcoming elections in Bahrain and Kuwait, where women have recently acquired the right to vote and stand as candidates;</p> <p>Organize support to women parliamentarians and candidates in post-conflict countries.</p>	<p>Number of women elected.</p>	<p>A regional seminar in Bahrain brought together women members of parliament, ministers, members of local councils and women working in Parliament, from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. The seminar provided a forum for women politicians of the region to debate the development of political and parliamentary working skills. This seminar was also attended by women running for election in Bahrain and enabled them to exchange with women who had experience in the parliament.</p> <p>A needs assessment mission was carried out in December 2006 in Kuwait, Qatar and Oman with a view to developing a series of activities at national and regional levels to support women's political participation. A three year strategy is being developed with the countries concerned.</p> <p>A regional conference of women parliamentarians on Women's participation in politics was held in Algiers on 25 and 26 June 2006. The event, organized by the Algerian Parliament in collaboration with the UNDP and the IPU, brought together women parliamentarians from Algeria, Egypt, France, Jordan, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia and aimed at bringing to the forefront measures for women to access decision-making positions in public and political life in Algeria.</p> <p>The IPU worked on the creation of the iKNOWpolitics network, with its partners from IDEA, NDI, UNDP and UNIFEM. This electronic network aims at facilitating exchange of experience and support between women in the political world.</p>
<p>Organize a regional seminar on Parliament, Budget and Gender for European Parliaments.</p>	<p>Number of participants and level of satisfaction.</p>	<p>The seminar was postponed to 2007.</p>
<p>Organize a one-day technical seminar in Geneva for parliamentarians on the reporting mechanisms and implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol.</p>	<p>Number of participants and level of satisfaction.</p>	<p>The fourth annual technical seminar, organised by IPU and UNDAW, brought together more than 100 participants (the highest number ever) for a lively debate on the role of parliament in implementing the CEDAW and combating violence against women.</p>

Objective 5: *Promote respect for international humanitarian law and promote volunteer work*

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
Organize meetings during IPU assemblies of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law.	Participation of Members.	The Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law met at the 114 th Assembly with half of its members present. It reviewed activities related to missing persons and statelessness issues and discussed parliamentary action with regard to the elimination of anti personnel mines.
Organize national and regional activities to address statelessness, using the IPU/UNHCR Handbook on Statelessness as a base.	Requests for handbook on Statelessness.	The Handbook on Statelessness was distributed to all IPU Members. Individual requests were received throughout the year. All in all more than 750 copies were distributed. Three new language versions of the Handbook were produced in 2006. Two additional ones will be ready for 2007.
Development of an enabling legal framework for volunteers based upon the IPU/UNV/IFRC Guidance note on Volunteerism and Legislation.		No activities were carried out in 2006.
Raise awareness on anti-personnel mines and missing persons.		The IHL committee issued a short report on parliamentary action to put an end to anti-personnel mines with specific recommendations for parliaments.

Objective 6: Disseminate information to Parliamentarians about child rights and the obstacles to their enjoyment and to encourage action by parliaments to promote and respect child rights

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
<p>Organize a panel discussion at the 114th Assembly to discuss HIV/AIDS and children;</p> <p>Organize a regional seminar for parliamentarians on child protection;</p> <p>Organize national follow up activities to the African regional conference on female genital mutilation held in 2005 and provide legal/advisory support for the development of adequate legislation to combat FGM;</p> <p>Cooperate with the network of women parliamentarians for the protection of children and young persons.</p>	<p>Requests for the Handbook for Parliamentarians on Child Protection.</p>	<p>The IPU and UNICEF organised a regional seminar on "Developing a protective framework for children" at the invitation of the National Assembly of Viet Nam. The regional seminar brought together members of parliament and parliamentary staff from 13 countries of the region.</p> <p>A panel discussion on HIV/AIDS and children was organised on the occasion of the 114th IPU Assembly, with Stephen Lewis, UN Special representative on HIV/AIDS in Africa and Hon. Charity Ngilu, the Minister of Health of Kenya.</p> <p>An awareness raising press event was held on the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM.</p> <p>400 copies of the handbook on Child Protection and Child Trafficking were distributed.</p> <p>The network of women parliamentarians for the protection of children and young persons held a conference on child protection in Bulgaria. The IPU facilitated preparatory meetings for the event.</p>
<p>Update the IPU database on Female Genital Mutilation Laws;</p> <p>Develop web pages on child protection and the role of MPs.</p>		<p>The database on Female Genital Mutilation Laws was updated in 2006.</p> <p>WebPages on child protection will be published in 2007.</p>

External Relations

Objective 1: *Building the relationship with the United Nations and expanding cooperation opportunities*

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
Identify new areas of cooperation and define projects accordingly. Assist in developing a regular pattern of consultation and coordination between the IPU and the United Nations	High level coordination meeting with UN officials to review the programme of work of the two organizations and identify common approaches and goals.	Substantive cooperation developed with new UN bodies, particularly the UN Democracy Fund (IPU projects approved for UNDEF funding) and the Peace-Building Commission (IPU invited to participate as one of the members of the PBC Organizational Committee) IPU invited to address a meeting of the UN High Level Committee on Programmes and initiate discussions on a more structured mechanism of consultation and coordination between the IPU and the UN system.
Hold its annual Parliamentary Hearing during the United Nations General Assembly	Good participation and outcome of the 2006 Parliamentary Hearing and distribution of a summary report to all UN missions.	Good participation from both parliaments and the UN system (high officials and permanent representatives) at an inter-active debate in mid-November on conflict prevention, peace-building, good governance and the fight against corruption. Parliamentary Hearing Report has been circulated as an official document of the United Nations.

Objective 2: *Enhancing the voice and overall political profile of the IPU at the United Nations*

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
<p>Hold specialized panel discussions in New York aimed at bringing parliamentary expertise to select issues that are high on the UN agenda.</p>	<p>Two specialized parliamentary panel discussions organized in cooperation with UN departments.</p>	<p>Parliamentary meetings held in New York on Combating HIV-AIDS (June 2006, which in turn led to the establishment of an IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS) and on Good Governance in the LDCs (September 2006, which led to a joint UN-IPU initiative to assist in developing parliamentary support groups in the LDCs)</p>
<p>Participate in United Nations meetings - identify issues where the IPU has a comparative advantage and expertise and facilitate appropriate IPU representation at United Nations meetings where such issues are discussed;</p> <p>Regular participation of IPU rapporteurs in UN meetings and processes to familiarize the UN with the work of IPU committees and create opportunities for targeted information exchanges;</p> <p>Develop and update the IPU web site section on Cooperation with the UN.</p>	<p>At least 10 interventions at United Nations meetings by representatives of the IPU presenting the views of the organization on the issues under consideration;</p> <p>Number of IPU positions reflected in official United Nations resolutions and reports, especially those relating to UN reform and the new relationship with parliaments and their members.</p>	<p>15 IPU statements were made in the General Assembly and other UN meetings on democracy and human rights, administration of justice, sustainable development, finance and trade, combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, information technology for development, the advancement of women, strengthening the UN system and revitalization of the General Assembly.</p> <p>IPU positions reflected in a number of official UN resolutions and reports, including those relating to revitalization of the General Assembly, new and restored democracies, violence against women, and cooperation with regional and other organizations. General Assembly Resolution A/RES/61/9 on Cooperation between the United Nation and IPU called for even closer cooperation between the two organizations, strengthened contribution by the IPU to the UN General Assembly, its Economic and Social Council and the newly established bodies such as the Human Rights Council and the Peace-Building Commission, the further development of the annual parliamentary hearing and similar meetings as joint UN/IPU events, and closer involvement of the IPU in the elaboration of UN system-wide strategies.</p>

Objective 3: Enhance the visibility of the IPU in parliaments, governments and the public at large. Disseminate accurate and topical information about parliaments and parliamentary processes

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement	Results achieved
Develop and initiate implementation of IPU communication strategy.	Specific set of objectives and indicators; Multi-year programme and budget.	An IPU-EBU-ASGP Conference on parliaments, parliamentary channels and public broadcasters engaged 200 participants from 80 countries (MPs, parliamentary staff, information officers and specialists, as well as Heads of parliamentary channels and public broadcasters. Questionnaire sent to IPU Members on broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings. Preparation of publication entitled <i>The challenge of broadcasting parliamentary proceedings</i> , in English and French. Preparation of IPU B-roll broadcast by EBU to their 74 TVs and radio members. Before the conference, meetings with the Heads of C-SPAN (Washington), CPAC (Ottawa), Public Sénat and La Chaîne parlementaire de l'Assemblée nationale française (Paris), and Canale Satellitare (Rome). Exhibition of IPU didactic posters during Nairobi and Geneva Assemblies.
Review and evaluate all existing public information products.	Recommendations to streamline and improve existing publications.	We do not have the results of the evaluation of all information products. New Information Brochure and Report of IPU Secretary General well received by MPs during IPU Assemblies.
Launching of regular bilingual electronic news letter to IPU Members and the broader international/public audience.	Number of issues and circulation.	5 issues of the IPU e-Bulletin produced and circulated in the course of 2006. Mailing list has increased by 50%, from 900 subscribers in March to 1450 subscribers in December.
Produce new information brochure on the IPU.	Level of distribution achieved; Views of the membership.	Prepared In cooperation with Saatchi & Saatchi Simko team. 19'000 copies (in English, French, Spanish and Arabic) printed, 80% distributed during IPU assemblies, seminars, and meetings.
Preparation of Information kits (speaker modules, IPU positions, key messages and parliamentary perspectives on global issues, etc) to be shared with national parliaments, particularly in the context "The International Day of Parliaments".	Number of kits prepared; Number of users.	The International Day of Parliaments has not been decided yet.

<p>Ensure media coverage of IPU events and activities;</p>	<p>Number of press releases, press conferences, and interviews;</p> <p>Number of references to the IPU in leading newspapers, radio and television channels.</p>	<p>51 press releases were published.</p> <p>Press conferences were given at the UN in Geneva and New York, at the Conference on WTO., and daily during the IPU Assembly in Nairobi.</p> <p>Two major press events organized on International Women's Day and International Day of Zero Tolerance of FGM. International Women's Day: Press Conference at UN Headquarters; press releases and analysis; B-Roll broadcasted by EBU to their Members in 55 countries; Stories and IPU mentioned by TVs, radios, newspapers and international agencies (ANSA, AAP, Associated Press, BBC, EFE, IPS, IRIN, Reuters and UPI). ABC interviewed Speaker of National Assembly of Lesotho and IPU Secretary General. Radio interviews broadcasted by BBC French Service, Radio Nostalgie (France) and La Tercera (Chile), Swiss TV-TSR, Léman Bleu (Geneva TV) and Euronews.</p> <p>A press event with IPU President Casini was held for the inauguration of the Centre for Information and Communication Technologies in Parliament.</p> <p>Phone interviews with IPU personalities and MPs were lined up for Swiss and international press correspondents on the occasion of seminars, meeting of IPU Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians, etc.</p>
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Objective 4: Provide overall direction of development of IPU web site

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
<p>Practical implementation of the democracy "branding" concept proposed in the Saatchi & Saatchi report through website-specific means.</p>	<p>Integration of relevant graphical and textual elements outlined in the branding concept into the various sections of the site, starting with the home page.</p>	<p>Work is underway.</p>
<p>Making the workings of the IPU understandable to broader public.</p>	<p>Addition of "frequently asked questions" pages to all substantive sections of the site.</p>	<p>Work is underway</p>

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
Complete coverage of all traditional fields of IPU activities.	Creation of separate sections dealing with promotion of democracy (including technical assistance to parliaments), human rights, development, international trade.	Partially completed.
Facilitation of information search on the site.	Addition of advanced navigation tools, including site map and contextual menus; Optimization of on-line databases' interfaces.	Work is underway.
Improvement of the general usability parameters with a view to making it more user-friendly.	Wider utilization of such technological tools as cascading style sheets and fall-down menus.	Done.
Improvement of the site's graphical design.	Total redesign of the older sections of the site; Harmonization of graphical design of the various sections throughout the site.	Work is underway.
Enhancing the efficiency of the web site's design team.	Phased introduction of a distributed multi-user content-management system.	Work is underway.

Objective 5: *Establish active linkages with foundations and think -tanks with a view to supporting and setting up extrabudgetary projects*

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
Identify cooperation opportunities with outside partners to support new IPU activities.	Develop specific project proposals in cooperation with outside partners in various areas, including sustainable development, migration and the fight against pandemics.	New projects developed in cooperation with the UN Democracy Fund, UNIFEM, and the National Democratic Institute (NDI). Initial consultations under way with a view to ensuring funding in support of national parliamentary institutions from the newly-established Peace-Building Fund.

Objective 6: *Create new and steady channels of communication with members of the United States Congress*

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
Bring about renewed interest and participation of the United States Congress in the work of the IPU.	Increasing the number of United States senators and representatives who have a direct knowledge and understanding of the IPU.	IPU contacts in the US Congress have increased by 25% in the course of 2006. Work continued to build bi-partisan support for the US return to the IPU.
Two events organized by the IPU at the United States Capitol in Washington DC highlighting the work of the IPU.	Involvement and contribution by United States Congress members in IPU events or publications.	June 2006 event in Capitol Hill, organized jointly by the IPU and the House Democracy Assistance Commission, focused on the question of "Post-conflict institution-building" and was received by much interest by the US Congress. Over a dozen leading members of Congress joined the IPU President for this event. In the context of negotiations under way in New York in the Fall of 2006 on the UN General Assembly Resolution (cooperation with IPU), a letter of support was issued by several leading members of Congress helping an ambitious and substantive Resolution to be adopted by consensus.
Publication and distribution of 5 issues of IPU News (electronic information bulletin) to enhance direct communication with members of Congress and their staff.	Measurable progress in maintaining the question of US membership in the IPU on the agenda of the Congressional committees on appropriations and international relations.	The electronic information bulletin initially developed in early 2005 for distribution in Washington DC was redesigned for a broader parliamentary audience around the world. Subsequently, 5 issues of the IPU e-Bulletin were produced and circulated in the course of 2006.

Common Services

Objective 1: *Ensure effective human resource management policies to secure the highest standards of efficiency, competency and integrity in the Secretariat, increase employee productivity and contribute to the long-term career development of Union employees, especially women.*

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
Develop and administer personnel policy; Oversee the recruitment of staff by other divisions in accordance with the Staff Rules; Effective reporting relations established.	All staff positions filled with competent staff members; Annual work planning process introduced; Performance appraisals for all staff.	Four staff members were recruited, as well as temporary staff. There were no vacant staff positions at the end of the year. Seven staff members participated in work planning and performance appraisal processes.
Training for staff to develop specific workplace skills and to ensure career development. In particular, recognising the underrepresentation of women in senior management positions, a priority will be given to management and supervisory training for younger women professionals and general services staff.	Training plans to give staff appropriate education and skills development; Number of staff participating in job or career-related training, and women participating in supervisory and management training.	Training continued on an ad hoc basis. Eight staff members received support from the Union for job- or career-related training. Two staff members obtained language proficiency.

Objective 2: *Facilitate deliberations and decision-making on financial issues and ensure effective financial management including planning, reporting and internal control for the Union, the Staff Pension Fund and third party funding agencies.*

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
Increased understanding of budgetary processes; Clear, concise, and accurate budget document and financial statements; Gender mainstreaming reflected in the budget document.	Greater involvement by other divisions in the planning and execution of the budget; Positive feedback from Members on the presentation of budget and financial statements; Number of references to women.	The 2007 budget included funding from all sources and gave a medium term expenditure forecast. Preparation of the budget required significant additional input from all programme managers. The incorporation of "extra-budgetary" funding into the main estimates was commended by the Executive Committee. There were 80 references to "women" and "gender" in the 2007 budget.

<p>Effective budget execution, with receivables collected and invested, and bills paid on time.</p>	<p>No significant unexplained variances in expenditures from budget estimates.</p>	<p>All significant variances were examined by the auditor and explained. Major variances are described in the text of the financial report.</p>
<p>Accurate and timely financial reporting and full compliance with financial regulations.</p>	<p>Positive audit opinion from the internal and external auditors.</p>	<p>The auditor's opinion on the 2005 accounts was unreserved.</p>
<p>Efficient and cost-effective operations.</p>	<p>Savings opportunities identified Alternatives for printing operations evaluated, including outsourcing, and cost effective solution implemented. Alternatives for health insurance evaluated.</p>	<p>Significant opportunities for savings in respect to printing and reproduction equipment were identified. An invitation for sealed bids for printer-copiers was completed in 2006. The Union entered a pooled health insurance system to smooth out premium adjustments over time.</p>
<p>Procure goods and services for the Union through a fair and competitive process that will result in best value for money.</p>	<p>Proportion of contracts awarded through competitive bidding; Satisfaction of purchasers and vendors Reduced cost of goods and services.</p>	<p>A significant portion of contracts were awarded through a competitive process, including the largest single multi-year contract for copier-printers. Quantifiable savings will be realized on copier-printer rentals in 2007.</p>
<p>Financial administration services for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean and for projects with extra budgetary resources.</p>	<p>Transactions carried out within 14 days of request. Accurate reporting within set timeframes.</p>	<p>We provided financial services on a timely basis and a statement of expenditures is included in the audited financial statements.</p>
<p>Resolution of taxation issues.</p>	<p>Tax treaty with USA; Recommendation to Governing Council on tax equalization.</p>	<p>Negotiation for a US tax treaty was deferred, but discussions with the tax authorities in France continued on legal and diplomatic fronts.. A recommendation on tax equalization was deferred pending a resolution of the tax issue in France.</p>

Objective 3: Provide fully functional office accommodation for the Union with appropriate furniture, office equipment and supplies and with up -to-date communications facilities and information technology.

<i>Expected accomplishments</i>	<i>Indicators of achievement</i>	<i>Results achieved</i>
Operate and maintain the Headquarters building and grounds and manage the use of the conference facility, including renting the facility to third parties on a full cost-recovery basis.	50 per cent utilization of conference facility Revenues of CHF 10,000 from rentals High community standing as property manager.	26 events were held in the conference rooms, representing a 20 per cent occupancy rate. Rentals generated revenues of CHF 3,500. The IPU building is recognized as a premier building among the international organizations based in Geneva.
Collect and distribute incoming and outgoing mail and keep a chronological file of all correspondence. Reception services provided at the Headquarters in Geneva.		Complete and accurate records were kept of all correspondence. Reception services were provided during core business hours and for meetings.
Reproduction and distribution of documents at Assemblies and throughout the year.	All documents distributed on time.	Documents were distributed effectively and on time.