GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARY REPORT

The changing nature of parliamentary representation
An ‘average’ MP?
Women and men in parliament

Global average:
• Women: 19.7%
• Men: 80.3%
Age

Global average:
- Women: 50 years
- Men: 53 years

Sub-Saharan Africa
- 49 years

Upper chambers
- 59 years
Profession

Main categories

– Liberal professions: 28%
– Private sector: 19%
– Politics and public sector: 18%
– Education: 12%
Perceptions

MPs’ most important role?

- For MPs:
  - law-making (52%)

- For citizens:
  - solving constituents’ problems (37%)
1. Accountability
Elections are no longer sufficient

- Expectations of greater transparency
- Limits on the parliamentary mandate
Parliamentary monitoring organizations

- 190 organizations in 80 countries
- Parliamentary scorecards
2. Constituency service
Reconciling local and national roles

- Volume of work
- Perceived electoral benefits
- Public expectations
Resources for constituency work

- Staff; office space; travel allowances
- Constituency Development Funds
3. Engaging citizens
Information

- Radio; TV; Internet;
- Visiting parliament, Open Days
- Taking parliament to the people
Consultation

- Public hearings; local meetings
- Contributions to parliamentary committees
Parliaments are resilient!
Continual evolution

- A strategic approach to reform
- Understanding changing expectations
- Enhancing the role of MPs
Resilience and renewal

- Modernizing parliament
- Building new relationships with citizens
- Fit for the twenty-first century?
More information:
www.ipu.org/gpr
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