



QUESTIONNAIRE REGARDING PARLIAMENTARY HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES

The last edition of the **World Directory of Parliamentary Human Rights Bodies** was published by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in 1998. In response to numerous requests from parliaments, governments, NGOs, researchers, journalists and human rights activists from all over the world, the IPU has decided to prepare an updated edition of the Directory. The new Directory will be published as a hard-cover booklet and be accessible on-line via the Union's Web site.

The purpose of the enclosed questionnaire is to collect information about all existing parliamentary human rights bodies for subsequent processing and publishing by the IPU Secretariat in Geneva. Electronic copies of the questionnaire can be downloaded from the Union's Web site at <http://www.ipu.org/iss-e/hr-cases.htm> in MS Word and PDF formats.

Please note the following points when completing the questionnaire:

- A **separate** set of answers should be provided for **each parliamentary body** (commission / committee, sub-commission / sub-committee) dealing in your parliament with human rights in general or with a particular aspect of them, such as gender equality or minorities. Respondents are therefore requested to fill in as many questionnaires as there are bodies in their parliament dealing with human rights or a particular aspect of them;
- In exceptional cases, when there are no bodies dealing with human rights issues in your parliament, a **written notification** to the IPU will suffice;
- For the sake of terminological consistency and to ensure responses are complete, please read attentively the **annotations** provided *in italics* with some of the questions;
- In case of multiple-choice questions, please be sure to check only **one box** for each question.

The completed questionnaire should be returned **not later than 15 October 2002** preferably via e-mail or by post or fax to:

Inter-Parliamentary Union
Place du Petit-Saconnex, P.O. Box 438
1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland
Fax: +4122 919 41 60
E-mail: postbox@mail.ipu.org

Thank you for your cooperation!

QUESTIONNAIRE REGARDING PARLIAMENTARY HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES

Country:

Name and title of the person completing the questionnaire:

1. Name of the parliamentary body

2. To which Chamber does the body relate?

Please specify from which Chamber the parliamentary body draws its members.

Single Chamber or lower Chamber Upper Chamber Both

3. Type

If the body was established by a formal decision of Parliament, please specify whether it deals with human rights or a particular aspect of human rights as its exclusive subject (check "Specialised"), covers human rights or a particular aspect thereof among other issues (check "Multifunctional") or as part of an ad-hoc arrangement (check "Ad-hoc"). Alternatively, if no formal decision has been taken by the Parliament concerning the structure and functioning of this particular body, check "Informal".

Specialised Multifunctional Ad-hoc Informal

4. Nature

Permanent Temporary Other (please specify)

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5. Date of creation

6. Mandate

Please describe the body's field of competence with regard to human rights and its specific mandate, such as examination of individual complaints, advice to government programmes, preparation of legislative proposals, dissemination of information, supervision of compliance with relevant national and international standards, discussion of human rights situation at home and abroad, etc.

7. Composition

Please provide information on the number of members of the body, how they are selected (election or nomination), and for what term.

8. Working methods

Please describe briefly how items are selected and placed on the agenda, how proceedings are organised, especially whether they are public or not and whether the body has the power to organise on-site inquiries, hearings or to summon government officials, how decisions are taken and their implementation is ensured and followed-up. Please specify also whether the body issues any public reports or other documents.

9. Relationship with other parliamentary bodies

Please describe briefly the way in which the parliamentary body interacts with other parliamentary bodies or with the committee of which it is a sub-committee, in particular as regards reporting and information-sharing.

10. Relationship with external bodies

Please describe briefly the body's relationship with the government, the Ombudsman, the National Human Rights Commission (if such institutions exist), non-governmental organisations etc.

11. Topical issues

Please provide examples of issues that have been dealt with most frequently in recent practice.

12. Presiding Officer(s)

Please provide contact information for each Presiding Officer individually. Please specify if there are additional addresses, fax numbers etc. for any given person.

Name

Address 1.....	Address 2
Phone 1.....	Phone 2
Fax 1.....	Fax 2
E-mail 1.....	E-mail 2
Web site 1.....	Web site 2

Name

Address 1.....	Address 2
Phone 1.....	Phone 2
Fax 1.....	Fax 2
E-mail 1.....	E-mail 2
Web site 1.....	Web site 2

13. Other Contact person(s)

Contact information about executive officers of the parliamentary body, such as secretary or clerk. Please provide contact information for each person individually. Please specify if there are additional addresses, fax numbers etc. for any given person.

Name

Title

Address 1.....	Address 2
Phone 1.....	Phone 2
Fax 1.....	Fax 2
E-mail 1.....	E-mail 2
Web site 1.....	Web site 2

Name

Title

Address 1.....	Address 2
Phone 1.....	Phone 2
Fax 1.....	Fax 2
E-mail 1.....	E-mail 2
Web site 1.....	Web site 2

Date on which this questionnaire was completed: