IPU in 2012





INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

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Photo cover: Pro-democracy protesters in Egypt advocate tolerance and inclusion. © Reuters 2012

What is IPU?

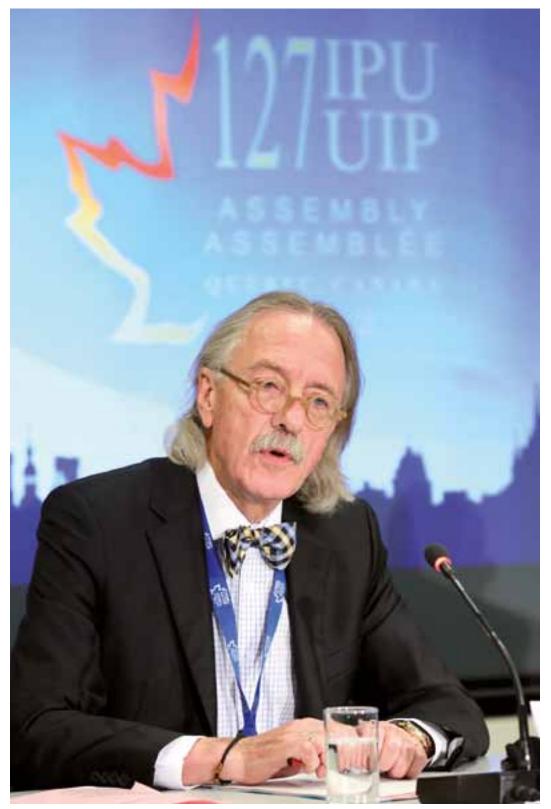
Almost every issue facing legislators today extends well beyond national borders. IPU is the forum where parliamentary minds meet on issues of international concern.

IPU facilitates inter-parliamentary debate, dialogue and cooperation. It promotes and defends democracy. It assists parliaments and parliamentarians in fulfilling their mandates.

IPU is an independent, self-governing body currently funded by 162 national parliaments.

IPU offers the world's community of parliamentarians a collective voice in international affairs. It is the only organization of its kind with the global legitimacy to provide a bridge between parliaments and international decisionmaking.

In a world in which democracy sometimes seems to be in retreat, IPU works continually behind the scenes to protect and consolidate parliaments, the engine room of democracy.



IPU Secretary General Anders B. Johnsson at the 127th IPU Assembly in Quebec City. © Canadian Parliament 2012

2012 – PARTICIPATION, INCLUSIVENESS AND DIALOGUE: THE BASIC TENETS OF DEMOCRACY

Time and again, 2012 underscored the importance of the core values of IPU. Every conflict that made the headlines during the year served to remind us that participation, inclusiveness and dialogue must be at the heart of nation-building.

All people have an equal right to participate in public affairs – men and women, young and old, rich and poor, minorities and indigenous peoples, left, right and centre of the political divide. There can be no democracy if we do not include all voices in decision-making.

The debate at the 126th IPU Assembly in Kampala on the situation in Syria underscored this precept. People have not taken up arms and paid with their lives to replace one form of dictatorship with another. What they are demanding and what has to be delivered is an inclusive system of government; one that upholds the right of all to participate and which practises dialogue.

This was IPU's message on International Day of Democracy. The principle and practice of solving differences first and foremost through dialogue is what sets democracy apart. Our ability to listen and understand is, therefore, as important if not more so than our ability to express our opinion.

It was a message at the heart of the first *Global Parliamentary Report* which was launched in Kampala and later presented to the global parliamentary community in workshops, seminars and other events around the world. The Report analyses changes in citizens' expectations of parliament and offers examples of how parliaments are responding by being more transparent, more inclusive, better able to listen to people and to meet their expectations.

The 127th IPU Assembly in Quebec was a celebration of diversity. The debates highlighted the importance of respecting each other and safeguarding the diversity of ideas, values, beliefs, languages and cultural expressions that constitute our common heritage as we build more inclusive and tolerant societies.

Participation, inclusiveness and dialogue form the backbone of IPU's activities. 2012 only served to confirm that these values are worth fighting for and that they must continue to be central to what IPU is and does - the world organization of parliaments that espouses participation, integration and inclusiveness.

Democracy depends on it!

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Anders B. Johnsson Secretary General

FOSTERING POLITICAL DIALOGUE THROUGH IPU ASSEMBLIES



Speaker of the Ugandan parliament and President of the 126th Assembly in Kampala, Rebecca Kadaga, and Philippines Senator Frank Drilon present the Gender-Sensitive Plan of Action at the 127th Assembly in Quebec City. © Canadian Parliament 2012

IPU Assemblies offer a unique opportunity for parliamentarians from all over the world to get together, confer with each other and express their views on major questions of international concern. The year 2012 saw them doing just that in two very different corners of the world, Kampala and Quebec City.

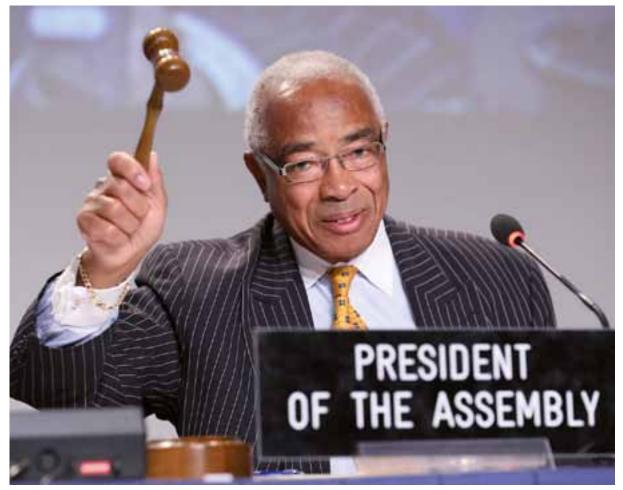
In both host locations, the common denominator was *people*. In Kampala, the debate was all about people and parliaments. In Quebec City, it was about citizenship and diversity.

The Spring Assembly in Kampala covered a whole gamut of issues ranging from good governance for peace and security to the redistribution of power and access to health as a basic right. The parliamentarians present in Kampala also took the opportunity to express their solidarity with and sympathy for the Syrian people, calling for an immediate cessation of the violence and human rights violations and abuses perpetrated by the Syrian government. Tragically, the violence continued unabated throughout 2012.

In a departure from traditional practice, the three-day Autumn Assembly in Quebec City was supplemented by two days of informal panel sessions on hard-hitting topics. These ranged from youth participation, postconflict reconstruction, parliamentary immunity, parliamentary and political law to multilateralism and parliamentary diplomacy as well as peak oil and energy security. The Assembly also featured a special gender-partnership session. The debate culminated in the adoption of a Plan of Action to make parliaments more gender-sensitive.

Youth also came to the fore. A growing body of young MPs has been bringing fresh ideas to the debates at IPU Assemblies. In Quebec they agreed on the need to establish a formal mechanism for young MPs within IPU. Amongst other things, they aim to strengthen youth participation in parliament, develop a youth programme at IPU and reach out to young people in politics.

The Assemblies are not just venues for formal meetings, debates, resolutions and decisions. They also provide a myriad of opportunities for parliamentarians to sit down and talk frankly to each other in more informal settings. This can only serve to improve mutual understanding and thus contribute to a richer, better-informed and more accurate public debate on issues of shared interest, be that at the national or international level. At the end of the day, it is through political dialogue, whatever form it may take, that citizens' interests can best be served.



Canadian Senator Donald Oliver closes the 127th Assembly in Quebec as President of the event. © Canadian Parliament 2012

DEMOCRACY, PARLIAMENTS AND THE PEOPLE

In 2012, IPU embarked on the implementation of its five-year strategy "Better Parliaments, Stronger Democracies". The strategy is underpinned by IPU's vision to assist parliaments and parliamentarians in articulating and responding to the needs of the people and their aspirations for peace, human rights, gender equality and development. In a very real sense, therefore, democracy, parliaments and people are at the very core of IPU's vision and action.

This was reflected in the first *Global Parliamentary Report*. The Report puts the spotlight on the pivotal relationship between people and parliament. It analyses changes in citizens' expectations of parliament. It shows how parliaments are responding to those changes. It sets out challenges to be surmounted and gives parliamentarians, policy-makers and citizens fresh ideas as to how parliament can better serve the people.

The Report is a joint endeavour of IPU and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and draws inspiration from the contributions of more than 70 parliaments, 660 parliamentarians as well as researchers and experts. Working in many instances together with UNDP, IPU disseminated the Report, presented it at events in parliaments and elsewhere and incorporated its findings into activities to strengthen parliaments. To date, 15 parliaments have organized launches or discussions around the Report with the Executive Summary so far translated into 12 languages. It has also been presented in Washington D.C. and New York to the "democracy community".

IPU made two regional presentations of the Report. The first took place during a two-day workshop in Samoa, which brought together members of parliaments from the South Pacific. The discussions focused on community outreach and the evolving relationship between parliaments and their constituents.

In Trinidad and Tobago, a workshop brought together members of English-speaking Caribbean parliaments. Here again, much of the discussion focused on constituency work and steps parliaments can take to deliver better services to their constituents.



The Global Parliamentary Report was also discussed at the World e-Parliament Conference, hosted in Rome by the Italian Chamber of Deputies. This was the fifth time that IPU joined forces with the United Nations through the Global Center for ICT in Parliament to take stock of the growing use of modern information technology by parliaments. The meeting brought together a record number of 400 participants from 94 parliaments. They deliberated on how to achieve open parliaments: institutions that are transparent, accessible and accountable to the people. These are the very issues that lie at the heart of the Global Parliamentary Report.

2012 also marked the fifth celebration of International Day of Democracy on 15th September. Thirty-six national parliaments, as well as governments, civil society, international organizations and IPU observed the Day. Many of them picked up on the theme proposed by IPU – "Dialogue and inclusiveness: Central to Democracy" – echoing the theme of the *Global Parliamentary Report*.

Parliaments around the world echoed IPU's message of Dialogue and Inclusiveness. © IPU 2012

STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTS

The Assemblies and the many other meetings, seminars and workshops organized by IPU in the course of any given year offer opportunities for members of parliament to network, exchange experiences and learn from each other. These activities are complemented by projects through which IPU provides advice, guidance and technical support to build parliaments' capacity to hold governments to account, strengthen their budget and audit capacity, enhance transparency and combat corruption.

In the last five years, IPU has organized more than 100 activities in support of over 30 parliaments¹, including 17 in Least Developed Countries (LDCs). IPU Member Parliaments have supported these activities by providing expertise and advisory services, and by hosting study visits.

Many of these activities pay particular attention to building parliamentary capacity in human rights and gender equality. IPU places a premium on accompanying parliaments in countries coming out of conflict and/or in transition towards democracy.



Aung San Suu Kyi and other MPs from the National League for Democracy take the oath of office in the lower house of the Myanmar parliament. IPU has begun a long-term programme of support to the parliament. © Reuters 2012

In some circumstances, these activities promote dialogue and inclusiveness as well. When internal crises seriously affect or bring national parliamentary business to a halt, IPU has been helpful in defusing tension and promoting dialogue.

Throughout 2012, assistance was provided to the parliaments of Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chile, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Maldives, Mali, Myanmar, Pakistan, Palestine, Rwanda, Seychelles, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey and Uganda. A set of principles provides a firm foundation for such assistance. Foremost among them is the fundamental tenet that parliament must be in charge of its own development. Indeed, IPU helps many parliaments to assess their own performance, identify their needs and formulate a strategic vision for their institutional development.

IPU support is modelled on examples of good practice that have been identified by parliaments, many of which are contained in the 2006 IPU report on *Parliaments and democracy in the twenty-first century*. The support draws upon the expertise of national parliaments, their members and staff who lend their experience through IPU, as well as the Organization's own staff. In 2012, IPU carried out 52 support initiatives in 19 parliaments. Nearly 90 experts in addition to IPU staff were involved in these activities.

This represented an unprecedented demand for IPU's expertise as parliaments faced many challenges posed by the global political upheaval of recent years. 2013 looks set to continue this trend.



I Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Lao PDR, Liberia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Palestine, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY

Gender equality is a fundamental building-block for democracy and democratic parliaments. IPU pursues a strategy that focuses on monitoring and providing support for women's participation in politics, building the capacity of parliaments and assisting them in their gender-related tasks.

Throughout 2012, IPU maintained its position as a global reference point for women in politics. It monitored progress and setbacks in women's presence in parliaments on a daily basis and produced monthly and yearly statistics and analysis.

By the end of the year, the global percentage of women in parliaments had reached an all-time high of 20.3 per cent. Although Rwanda remained at the top of IPU's global list with 56.3 per cent and many of the parliaments that scored high on women's parliamentary representation were in Africa or the Nordic countries, it was the Americas that, with 24.1 per cent, held the highest average of any of the main geographical regions.

When presenting its world map of women in politics at the beginning of the year, IPU deplored the slow progress in women's representation in parliament and called on States and political leaders to demonstrate political will. Without it, equality in politics will continue to elude the world for many more decades to come.

IPU also helps parliaments develop national strategies to facilitate women's access to parliament and support women's participation in policy-making. In 2012, IPU provided this kind of support in African countries.

In Burundi, IPU organized training courses for women parliamentarians to build leadership, communication and advocacy skills. In Rwanda, it worked with the parliament to gender-sensitize the budget and provided training to a large group of men and women MPs ahead of parliament's examination of the budget. In Uganda, IPU helped the parliament identify concrete measures it can take to achieve gender equality. These included undertaking "gender audits" of laws and bills, amending discriminatory provisions in existing laws and enhancing oversight of the enforcement of existing legislation.

In Tunisia, IPU worked with the Constituent Assembly to assess its needs in empowering its women members.

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio on the world women want. © Reuters 2012

THE FUTURE



IPU also continued to encourage parliaments to monitor implementation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). It prompted them to take part in the formulation and presentation of the national report to the CEDAW Committee and to facilitate and monitor implementation of the Committee's recommendations. The activity is the subject of an annual briefing session for members of parliament attending the second IPU Assembly each year.

Gender-Sensitive Parliaments

A parliament that is gender-sensitive is a parliament that more effectively responds to the needs and interests of men and women. It is an institution that is founded on gender equality, where women and men have an equal right to participate in its work without discrimination or recrimination. Being sensitive to gender issues also means that parliament is more likely to achieve gender equality within and across society as well as within the institution itself.

In 2011, IPU concluded an extensive two-year research project to determine what parliaments need to do to become "gender-sensitive Parliaments". The *Gender-Sensitive Parliaments* report was welcomed by a large number of parliaments. Some of them used the report and its recommendations to undertake self-assessments. In 2012, IPU worked with Bangladesh, Chile, Rwanda, Turkey and Uganda to help their parliaments assess their performance, using IPU's report as a yardstick.



Some of the 146 Algerian women elected to the lower house of parliament in elections in 2012. Algeria now heads IPU's rankings for the Arab world with the highest number of women MPs. O Reuters 2012

The report was also discussed at a regional workshop hosted by Chilean parliament where legislators from several Latin American countries exchanged experiences and lessons learned in adapting parliamentary structures and working methods to meet gender needs.

Meanwhile, women Speakers met in New Delhi at the invitation of the Indian parliament and IPU to discuss the report and its findings. In their concluding declaration – New Delhi Initiative for Gender-Sensitive Parliaments – the Speakers committed themselves to placing gender equality high on the agenda of parliament, improving the parliamentary working environment and encouraging men to assume their responsibilities in addressing this societal issue.

Throughout the year, IPU members also provided input to a *Plan of Action for Gender-Sensitive Parliaments*. The Plan was adopted unanimously at the conclusion of a special session on the subject at the Quebec Assembly. It provides a roadmap for parliaments and IPU to radically transform the way national institutions address gender equality.

The Plan recommends action in seven priority areas to:

- ▶ Increase the number of women in parliament and achieve equality in participation
- Strengthen gender equality legislation and policy
- > Mainstream gender equality throughout all parliamentary work
- > Institute or improve gender-sensitive infrastructure and parliamentary culture
- > Ensure that responsibility for gender equality is shared by all parliamentarians men and women
- > Encourage political parties to be champions of gender equality
- > Enhance the gender sensitivity of, and gender equality among, parliamentary staff



A young girl in India as protests against rape reach new levels. $\ensuremath{\textcircled{}}$ Reuters 2012

PUTTING AN END TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

In every country, women and girls suffer from widespread and multiple forms of violence. It takes place in the home, on the streets, in schools, in the workplace, during conflict and in time of peace. It manifests itself in its most prevalent forms of domestic and sexual violence. But it also takes the form of female infanticide in preference for boys, child marriages, female genital mutilation, "honour" killings and other forms of femicide.

It is now five years since IPU launched its parliamentary campaign to put an end to this global scourge of violence against women. It uses every opportunity to raise parliamentarians' awareness of the extent of the problem and the actions they can take to forge an effective legal framework, monitor its implementation and build public understanding and support.

This includes using the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November. In 2012, IPU called for strong legislative frameworks that would end violence against women to be put into place as its message for the Day. About 30 parliaments carried out various activities to mark the event.

Pushing the legislative message, IPU and the Tanzanian parliament held a regional seminar for East and Southern African parliaments in December. The participants examined how to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls through effective enforcement of legislation.

In Burkina Faso, parliament and IPU staged a two-day public consultation focusing on the different forms of violence, their causes, prevalence, consequences and the challenges in addressing them. It was the first step in the drafting of a new bill on tackling violence against women in the country.

This led to the creation of a drafting committee composed of MPs and civil society representatives who drew up the bill with IPU assistance. The bill has been tabled in parliament and sent to the government for comments and amendments.

IPU's assistance to the Burkinabe parliament followed similar support to Togo, where a draft bill has been tabled in parliament and is awaiting committee review.

In Burundi, IPU helped parliament organize a seminar on gender-based violence. The wide-ranging consultations brought together around 100 stakeholders from the parliament, government ministries, human rights bodies, law enforcement agencies, civil society and the media. The seminar resulted in a draft law on genderbased violence which was submitted to the Council of Ministers for initial examination before being presented to parliament.

IPU also provided training to parliamentarians to help them raise awareness of gender-based violence legislation in the community and to challenge attitudes and socio-cultural barriers that condone such action. Women parliamentarians in particular were train in leadership, communication and advocacy skills as part of overall efforts to strengthen parliament's ability to tackle violence against women.

A highlight in 2012 was the adoption of a law on domestic violence in the Maldives which IPU helped draft and review. For the first time, victims of domestic violence in the country have legal protection. A government study had found that one in three women in the Maldives between 15-49 years of age had suffered domestic abuse.

PROTECTING THE GUARDIANS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Parliaments and their members are "guardians" of human rights by virtue of their essential legislative and oversight responsibilities on human rights. IPU helps parliaments assume these responsibilities by protecting the rights of their members and providing them with information, knowledge and training to enable them to take an active part in human rights promotion and protection.

The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians spearheads IPU's efforts to uphold the fundamental human rights of members of parliaments. Founded in 1976, the Committee has extended protection to thousands of parliamentarians from every corner of the globe. 2012 was no exception, with the Committee working on the situation of nearly 250 parliamentarians in 39 countries.

During a year in which the working methods of the Committee were changed to make it more flexible, fieldorientated, visible and responsive, human rights missions were carried out in Myanmar, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Maldives. Trial proceedings in the case of Malaysian opposition MP Karpal Singh who faced sedition charges were also followed by a trial observer.

Among the good news in 2012 was the acquittal of former Burundian MP Pasteur Mpawenayo who had been in detention since 2008, the release of the last 'political' prisoners in Myanmar and the quashing of a bribery verdict against Chadian opposition MP, Gali Ngothé Gata.

As well as the positive developments, there were some setbacks. 2012 saw fluctuating numbers of members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) in administrative detention in Israel. At the peak, 23 members of the PLC were in jail, including its Speaker, Abdel Aziz Dweik. During the year, that number dropped to five,



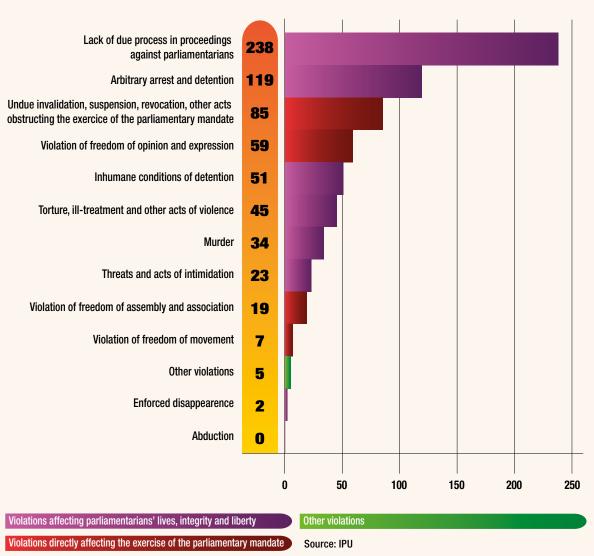
Malian MP and President of IPU's Human Rights Committee presents latest findings on the human rights abuses of MPs to IPU Council. © Canadian Parliament 2012

appearing to confirm a change in Israeli policy on the use of administrative detention. However, by the end of the year, the number of PLC members in Israeli jails was again on the increase. The Committee has also been concerned by the situation in Bahrain, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Maldives which between them led to the addition of another 32 parliamentarians to the Committee's casework.

Failure to respect parliamentary immunity is often evident in the cases examined by the Committee. For this reason a workshop was organized during the Quebec City Assembly. A lively debate unearthed strongly-held and often opposing views among both panellists and participants on whether immunity undermined the rule of law or allowed parliamentarians to do their work unhindered. Nevertheless, several recommendations were formulated on how best to achieve the latter while limiting possible abuses.

Capacity-building activities on human rights were also carried out. A workshop attended by nearly 80 parliamentarians from 21 countries at IPU headquarters focused on parliaments' involvement in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). In 2012, the United Nations Human Rights Council embarked on the second cycle of the UPR to assess the human rights situation in UN Member States based on the recommendations made by the Council in the first cycle.

During the workshop, human rights experts presented the UPR, how it works and its relationship to other UN mechanisms tasked with promoting human rights. They also pointed to the need for closer cooperation between all those involved in order to harmonize strategies that enhanced the promotion of human rights.



2012 Statistics on Types of Abuse

STANDING UP FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Children's rights were very much in the spotlight during the 126th Assembly in Uganda.

Three groups of parliamentarians visited health-care establishments dealing with malnourished children in Kampala, Wakiso and Kisenyi. UNICEF Director Anthony Lake accompanied the MPs who visited the Mwanamugimu infant nutrition unit at the Mulago Hospital in Kampala.

Through these visits and their interaction with both health personnel and mothers of some of the children undergoing treatment, parliamentarians gained a valuable insight into the scale of the malnutrition problem in Uganda.

It helped inform the deliberations at a subsequent panel discussion on tackling malnutrition in children globally. Three areas for parliamentary action were subsequently pinpointed: giving priority to nutrition security in national development plans; promoting education and information for mothers and fostering cooperation between all stakeholders to ensure concerted action to tackle malnutrition in children.

Children's rights were again on the agenda later in the year at a regional seminar in Abuja on harmonizing parliamentary action against child trafficking and labour. The event was organized jointly by the ECOWAS Parliament, the Sahel and West Africa Club-Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (SWAC-OECD) and IPU.

The seminar concluded with a number of recommendations. It called, inter alia, for the development of a model law on preventing and combating child trafficking and labour and the harmonization of national laws based on such a model law; for systematic and mandatory birth registration, and for a unit to be established in the ECOWAS Commission to deal with the protection of children.



Children trafficked to work amongst the fishing communities on Ghana's Lake Volta with their "slave" master. © Jean-Philippe Chauzy/IOM 2003

CONNECTING POLITICS AND TRADE



Participants at the annual Parliamentary Conference on the WTO literally connecting politics and trade. @ G. Fortunato/IPU 2012

"Driven by the desire to make the multilateral trading system work for the people and to achieve greater coherence in international economic governance, we restate our readiness to use all political means at our disposal to forge a multilateral consensus that will lead to the successful conclusion of the Doha Round". It was in these clear terms that the delegates to the annual 2012 session of the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organization articulated their commitment to the values of the universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and fair multilateral trading system embodied by the WTO.

The 2012 session was held on WTO premises in Geneva on 15-16 November under the overarching theme "Back to Basics: Connecting Politics and Trade". Its message to the WTO was congruently political: "Failure to address the jobs crisis, to stimulate domestic demand and to stabilize the financial sector risks sending the global economy into another recession. We insist on the need for integrated and coherent trade, industrial, labour market and social policies".

Co-organized by IPU and the European Parliament, the annual Conference promotes the effectiveness and fairness of WTO activities and the transparency of its procedures. Its primary beneficiaries are legislators specializing in international trade and finance. The Conference helps them exercise more effectively their oversight role vis-à-vis the conduct of their respective governments in the multilateral trade negotiations. Serving as a de facto parliamentary dimension of the WTO, the Conference facilitates the dialogue between governments, parliaments and civil society, and exerts influence on the direction of discussions within the WTO.

The conviction that all peoples and countries should get an equitable share of the opportunities and benefits of trade liberalization was also underscored in a speech by the IPU President at the Thirteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Doha, April 2012). Addressing the high-level segment of the session, President Radi stressed that development and democracy formed two sides of the same coin in much the same way as trade and development. Parliamentary oversight of trade negotiations carried out under WTO auspices constitutes an important part of IPU efforts to ensure democratic accountability of international institutions.

WORKING MORE CLOSELY WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

The year 2012 marked a significant step forward for IPU in terms of its relationship with the United Nations. On 29 May the UN General Assembly adopted a consensus resolution on Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Thanks to the support of IPU Member Parliaments, the resolution received the sponsorship of 86 Member States.

It called for even greater engagement between the three parties on key global issues relating to peace, democracy, human rights and development. A new cooperation agreement will be drawn up to reflect that.

The resolution also called for greater interaction between parliaments and the UN system at the country level on strengthening the rule of law and aligning national legislation with international commitments. IPU is encouraged to continue mobilizing efforts aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and parliaments are urged to contribute to the shaping of the next generation of development goals. The UN in turn was called upon to work with national parliaments in a more integrated manner, particularly on national development strategies.

Last but not least, the UNGA recommended that the annual parliamentary hearing at the United Nations be linked more closely to major international processes. That recommendation was acted upon at the parliamentary hearing in early December when parliamentarians, along

IPU President Abdelwahad Radi and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon © United Nations 2012

with UN officials, experts and Member States, discussed how parliaments could strengthen UN field missions, the Peace Building Commission and the Human Rights Council. They also looked at the role of legislators in peace-making.

The IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs provided a unique forum for legislators to exchange views with senior UN officials, debate and draft parliamentary input to major UN processes and review parliamentary action towards the implementation of international commitments.

The Committee's Advisory Group carried out a field mission to Albania and Montenegro as part of its efforts to examine the impact of UN reform and system-wide coherence at the national level, and to encourage greater parliamentary involvement therein. This was the third in a series of successful missions undertaken in recent years by the Advisory Group, previous ones having been conducted in Ghana, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Viet Nam.

In Quebec City, the Governing Council decided to place the Committee on an equal footing with IPU's Standing Committees with a clear set of rules and regulations. The Committee will now meet at each IPU Assembly and will focus primarily on planning cooperation and the elaboration of parliamentary responses to UN processes.

For more information on cooperation with the United Nations, see: http://www.ipu. org/strct-e/un.htm

A PIVOTAL YEAR FOR DEVELOPMENT

In many ways, 2012 marked a turning point in the way development is understood and the direction it should take. IPU participated in this global "re-think" and contributed fresh perspectives. With limited resources, it invested selectively to help bring the voice of parliaments to key global processes and activities. This will doubtless pay dividends in the years to come.

Perhaps the most significant event of the year was the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). In its lead-up, IPU provided critical perspectives and raised Members' awareness about the event.

A parliamentary briefing in Rio helped highlight failures and achievements of this landmark Conference. In spite of a general lack of concrete new commitments, the Conference did succeed in launching the idea of a new generation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to replace the current Millennium Development Goals when they expire in 2015. The SDGs carry the message that from now on development must be considered from a *sustainability* perspective and must include poor and rich countries alike.

IPU had called for parliaments' role in sustainable development to be clearly spelled out in the final declaration of the Rio Conference. That did not happen but the Organization's lobbying efforts did help make sure that a key high-level forum on sustainable development, shortly to be constituted at the UN, will be open to the input of parliaments.

IPU must now ensure that the modalities of the new forum will allow open dialogue and informal interaction with MPs, along the lines of the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) with which the Organization has been involved since 2008.

Last year, the DCF held three important meetings and published several ground-breaking reports. MPs participated in those meetings. In Brisbane, they argued that the new SDGs must include a clear commitment to development cooperation in the broadest of terms, all of which should be subject to the principle of mutual accountability, with parliaments clearly in an oversight position.

At the main session of the DCF in July, IPU Members argued that for parliaments to be able to carry out their oversight function it was essential that aid policies be improved dramatically and extended to all developing countries. At a third meeting in Vienna on the gender aspects of development cooperation, IPU pressed for a new comprehensive goal on women to be among the SDGs and for gender to permeate the emerging development framework.

IPU's work towards better development results also extended to the new Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation through the Steering Committee that was set up last year. Together with AWEPA, IPU joined the Steering Committee to help guide the work of the Partnership. In 2012, the Committee developed indicators to track progress in implementing the Busan commitments. As a result, at least two new indicators refer specifically to parliaments.



While 2012 ushered in a new process, it was also the year for one final push towards the current MDGs. In partnership with the UN Millennium Campaign, IPU held consultations in Addis Ababa, Dhaka and Manila. Parliamentarians and civil society representatives sat together to figure out critical implementation gaps at both regional and country levels. The meetings also provided a first opportunity for MPs to begin reflecting on the post-2015 development agenda.

IPU continued to provide guidance to parliaments on improving their institutional set-up in mainstreaming the MDGs. A study of the Nigerian parliament provided many useful lessons on how to improve the performance of dedicated MDG committees in relation to the portfolio committees. The question of how to mainstream global commitments through the work of parliaments is a universal one and will no doubt also apply to the SDGs now in gestation. The empirical lessons learned from the field will serve IPU well in the post-2015 era.

Sculptures of giant fish made from plastic bottles on Botafogo beach, Rio, ahead of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012. © Reuters 2012



PROMOTING BETTER HEALTH FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

At the April Assembly in Kampala, IPU adopted the resolution, Access to health as a basic right: the role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children (http://www.ipu.org/ conf-e/I26/Res-3.htm). The resolution provides the basis for parliamentary action to support women's and children's health and accountability for taking such action. It has already begun to gather momentum in parliaments and regional parliamentary bodies, as well as cooperation with new partners.

Work began on two publications to be completed in 2013: a handbook on maternal, new-born and child health (MNCH) and a report on parliaments' efforts to implement IPU's resolution on women's and children's health.

Thanks to voluntary funding, IPU was able to support a number of parliaments in their efforts to improve accountability and results for women's and children's health. It worked with the parliaments of Kenya, Uganda and Bangladesh and supported the efforts of regional parliamentary bodies, including the East African Legislative Assembly and the Pan-African Parliament.

IPU also continued to support the global effort to create a policy environment promoting accountability for women's and children's health. It facilitated parliaments' contribution to follow-up processes of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health. It was invited by the Norwegian Prime Minister to contribute to the 2013 Report of the Global Campaign for the Health MDGs, "Accelerating Progress in Saving the Lives of Women and Children". The Organization also lent a parliamentary perspective to the work of the International Health Partnership (IHP+) and to the post-Busan discussions on more effective use of aid for health.



IPU's resolution on access to health for women and children has galvanized some parliaments into action though much remains to be done in many parts of the world. © Graham Crouch / World Bank

Throughout the year, IPU worked with a variety of institutions in the area of women's and children's health. Noteworthy among these were the Pan-African Parliament and the East African Legislative Assembly, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, the Partnership for Maternal, New-Born and Child Health, World Vision International and the White Ribbon Alliance. IPU is grateful to these partners and to NORAD for their support to its Maternal, New-Born and Child Health Project.

IMPROVING LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS ON HIV/AIDS



Tanzanian MP and member of IPU's Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS, Lediana Mafuru Mng'ong'o talks to injecting drug users at a rehabilitation centre in Dar-es-Salaam during the Group's field mission to the East African country. © Aleksandra Blagojevic/IPU 2012

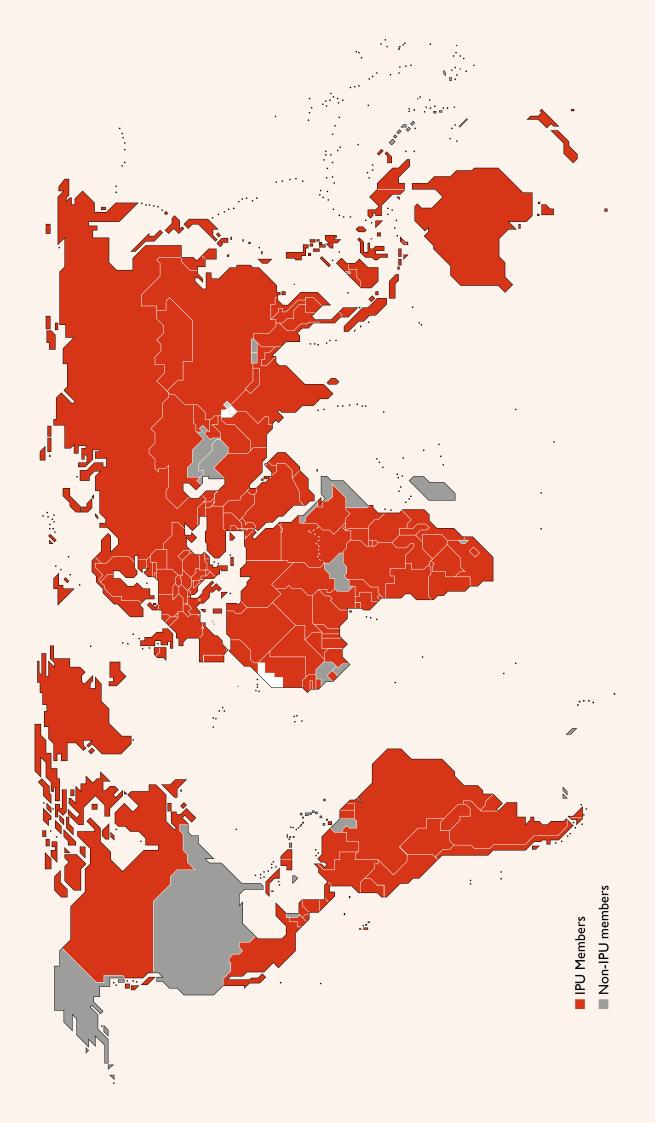
The global HIV epidemic is no longer solely a public health problem. It has become one of the world's most pressing social, economic, development and humanitarian crises. Rolling back HIV is central to achieving many of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). With only two years until the 2015 deadline for achieving them, it is vital that parliaments and their members engage forcefully in the response to AIDS.

In Kampala, this message came across loud and clear at a panel discussion on *Making the law work for the response to AIDS: zero new infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths.* Parliamentarians took stock of the benefits, limits and challenges posed by the legal environment to the HIV response.

The exchanges between panellists and the audience highlighted the need for MPs to remain engaged on the HIV response. They also illustrated the power of the law and parliamentarians who make it, in challenging discrimination and helping to create an environment free from stigma and coercive measures against people who need HIV services.

At the XIXth International AIDS Conference in Washington D.C., IPU launched a guide entitled *Raising the Profile of HIV and AIDS in Your Parliament*. It is designed to help parliamentarians who wish to organize themselves into cross-party groups and step up to the challenge that HIV presents. It is also designed for civil society organizations wishing to work with parliamentarians. The IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and MNCH is using the guide to work more closely with parliamentary bodies dealing with HIV and with individual parliamentarians who are committed to the struggle against the epidemic.

In September 2012, the Advisory Group undertook a field visit to Tanzania to learn from its parliament's response to AIDS and share it as a model with other legislative bodies which are considering strengthening their action against HIV/AIDS.



IPU AT A GLANCE

President of IPU

Mr. Abdelwahad Radi (Morroco) was elected President of IPU on 19 October 2011 for a three-year term.

Membership

In 2012, the Governing Council readmitted the Parliaments of Haiti and Myanmar. It also admitted the Parliament of South Sudan as a new Member. Moreover, the Governing Council approved a request from the Parliament of Lesotho for its membership to be held by both chambers of parliament. It also granted Associate Member status to the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC).

IPU currently comprises 162 Member Parliaments and 10 Associate Members.

Members (162)

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Associate Members (10)

Andean Parliament, Central American Parliament, East African Legislative Assembly, European Parliament, Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union, Latin American Parliament, Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States, Parliament of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Transitional Arab Parliament.

	Members	Expiry of term
Ex-officio President	Mr. A. Radi (Morocco)	October 2014
Vice-President of the Executive Committee	Ms. I. Passada (Uruguay)	October 2015
IPU Vice-Presidents	Mr. K. Chshmaritian (Armenia)	October 2013
	Mr. F.M. Drilon (Philippines)	October 2015
	Ms. R. Kadaga (Uganda)	October 2015
	Mr. K. Örnfjäder (Sweden)	October 2013
Members	Ms. N. Assegaf (Indonesia)	April 2014
	Mr. F.K. Kundi (Pakistan)	October 2015
	Ms. N. Motsamai (Lesotho)	October 2015
	Ms. S. Moulengui-Mouélé (Gabon)	October 2014
	Mr. D. Oliver (Canada)	October 2014
	Mr. Nhem Thavy (Cambodia)	October 2013
	Mr. PF. Veillon (Switzerland)	October 2013
	Mr. D. Vivas (Venezuela)	October 2016
	Mr. J. Winkler (Germany)	October 2015
	Vacancy (Burkina Faso) ¹	October 2015
	Vacancy	

Composition of the Executive Committee on 16 January 2013

¹ The member of the Executive Committee from this country has ceased to be a parliamentarian. In accordance with Article 23-6 of the Statutes, an election shall be held at the next session of the Governing Council. If the newly elected member is from a different parliament than the outgoing member, he/she will serve a full term. Otherwise, the new member shall complete the term of office of his/her predecessor.

Standing Committees: Composition of the Bureaux

		Expiry of term*		Expiry of term*
President	Mr. S.H. Chowdury (Bangladesh)	April 2014	Asia-Pacific Group	
First Vice-President:	Mr. D. Filmus (Argentina)	April 2015	Latin American Group	
Vice-Presidents	TITULA	R	S U B S T I T L	ITE
African Group	Mr. G. Schneeman (South Africa)	April 2016	Mr. A. Bougue (Cameroon)	April 2015
Arab Group	Mr. N. Lazrek (Morocco)	April 2014	Ms. N. Rousan (Jordan)	April 2015
Asia-Pacific Group	Current President		Mr. S. Danusubroto (Indonesia)	April 2015
Eurasia Group	Vacancy		Vacancy	
Latin American Group	Current First Vice-President		Mr. L.E. Sierra Grajales (Colombia)	April 2016
Twelve Plus Group	Mr. P. Moriau (Belgium)	April 2015	Mr. N. Evans (United Kingdom)	April 2015

Rapporteurs of the Standing Committee to the 128th Assembly

Mr. L. Ramatlakane (South Africa), Mr. S. Janquin (France)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE AND TRADE				
		Expiry of term*		Expiry of term*
President	Mr. S.E. Alhusseini (Saudi Arabia)	April 2013	Arab Group	
First Vice-President:	Ms. B. Contini (Italy)	April 2015	Twelve Plus Group	
Vice-Presidents	TITULAR		SUBSTITUTE	
African Group	Mr. J.J. Mwiimbu (Zambia)	April 2014	Mr. H.R. Mohamed (United Republic of Tanzania)	April 2015
Arab Group	Current President		Mr. W. Rawashdeh (Jordan)	April 2015
Asia-Pacific Group	Mr. I.A. Bilour (Pakistan)	April 2015	Mr. D. Adams (Australia)	April 2015
Eurasia Group	Mr. BZ. Zhambalnimbuyev (Russian Federation)	April 2015	Vacancy	
Latin American Group	Mr. R. León (Chile)	April 2015	Mr. F. Bustamente (Ecuador)	April 2015
Twelve Plus Group	Current First Vice-President		Mr. FX. de Donnea (Belgium)	

Rapporteurs of the Standing Committee to the 128th Assembly

Mr. F.-X. de Donnea (Belgium), Mr. R.K. Chitotela (Zambia)

		Expiry of term*		Expiry of term*
President	Mr. O. Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu (Ghana)	April 2014	African Group	
First Vice-President:	Mr. S. Gavrilov (Russian Federation)	April 2014	Eurasia Group	
Vice-Presidents	TITULAR	2	SUBSTIT	UTE
African Group	Current President		Mrs. P. Fouty-Soungou (Congo)	April 2014
Arab Group	Ms. J. Nassif (Bahrain)	April 2015	Mr. R. Abdul-Jabbar (Iraq)	April 2015
Asia-Pacific Group	Vacancy		Mr. R. Fatyana (Pakistan)	April 2015
Eurasia Group	Current First Vice-President		Vacancy	
Latin American Group	Mr. J.M. Galán (Colombia)	April 2015	Vacancy	
Twelve Plus Group	Vacancy		Vacancy	

Ms. C. Charlton (Canada), Ms. M.T. Kubayi (South Africa)

* The date indicated corresponds to the theoretical maximum duration of the Officer's term. In accordance with Rules 7.2 and 8.1 of the Rules of the Standing Committees, Officers shall be elected or re-elected on an annual basis, for a maximum of four years.

Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP)

The ASGP brings together Secretaries General and other senior office-holders in charge of parliamentary services. It studies the law, procedure, practice and working methods of different parliaments and proposes measures for improvement and for securing cooperation between the services of different parliaments. It is a consultative body of IPU and the ASGP President reports annually to IPU Executive Committee on the Association's activities. The ASGP President is Mr. Marc Bosc, Deputy Clerk of the Canadian House of Commons.

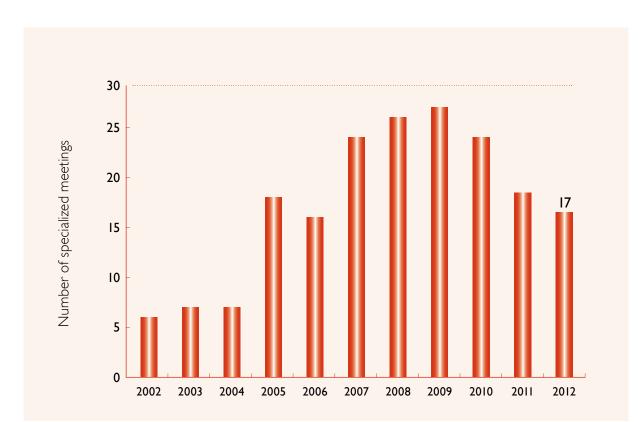
The ASGP assists IPU at the latter's request on subjects within the scope of the Association. Studies carried out by IPU relating to parliamentary law and practice are routinely shared with the ASGP and benefit from its input. The ASGP also provides substantial support to many of the technical assistance projects conducted by IPU. In 2012, several of its members provided expertise during assessment and training missions in the framework of projects in Egypt, Myanmar and Palestine, among others.

Since 2006, IPU and the ASGP have been organizing together a conference following the second IPU Assembly of the year on a subject of interest to members and senior staff of parliaments. The 2012 conference addressed parliaments' use of social media, on which subject IPU will publish guidelines in 2013.

Specialized meetings in 2012

- Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations NEW YORK (United Nations), 6-7 December
- Regional seminar for East and Southern African Parliaments on violence against women DAR ES SALAAM (United Republic of Tanzania), 5-7 December
- Parliamentary workshop "Developing good practice in political representation and constituency work in the Caribbean region" PORT-OF-SPAIN (Trinidad and Tobago), 26-27 November
- Annual 2012 session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO GENEVA (WTO premises), 15-16 November
- Parliamentary workshop "Strengthening the role of Parliamentarians in the implementation of Universal Periodic Review recommendations" GENEVA (IPU Headquarters), 12-13 November
- Joint IPU-ASGP Conference "Parliamentary representation and communication, and the role of social media" QUEBEC CITY (Canada), 26 October
- Seventh Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament NEW DELHI (India), 3-4 October
- Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the United Nations High-level Meeting on the Rule of Law NEW YORK (United Nations), 26 September
- Vorld e-Parliament Conference 2012 ROME (Italy), 13-15 September
- IPU sponsorship of the Tenth Workshop of Parliamentary Scholars and Parliamentarians OXFORDSHIRE (United Kingdom), 28-29 July
- Parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the XIX International AIDS Conference WASHINGTON D.C. (United States of America), 23 July
- Regional debate on "Gender-sensitive parliaments" VALPARAISO (Chile), 11-12 July
- Parliamentary Briefing at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil), 20 June

- Regional Seminar "Joining the initiatives and experiences of national parliaments for an effective campaign against child trafficking and labour" ABUJA (Nigeria), 12-14 June
- All Africa Parliamentary Conference on the Millennium Development Goals (sponsored by IPU) ADDIS ABABA (Ethiopia), 22-24 May
- 25th session of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO BRUSSELS (Belgium), 7-8 May
- Parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the 56th session of the Commission on the Status of Women NEW YORK (United Nations), 29 February



Ten-year evolution in IPU meetings

FINANCIAL RESULTS

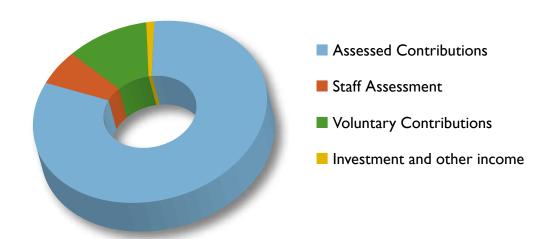
Financing

IPU is financed primarily through the annual assessed contributions from Member Parliaments. Additional revenue is derived from the internal staff assessment, programme support cost charges, interest, room rentals and sale of publications. In line with International Public Sector Accounting Standards, IPU no longer recognises the staff assessment element as either income or expenditure in its Statement of Financial Performance but utilises it for budgetary purposes.

In addition, IPU also solicits bilateral and multilateral donors for voluntary funding that is used to finance technical cooperation projects and activities. A summary of revenue sources for 2012 is presented below, including staff assessment for expenditure comparison:

	CHF (Swiss francs)	%
Assessed Contributions	10,939,900	82%
Staff Assessment	808,186	6%
Voluntary Contributions	1,511,344	11%
Investment and other income	124,266	1%
Total revenue	13,383,696	

IPU Revenues by Source (budget basis)

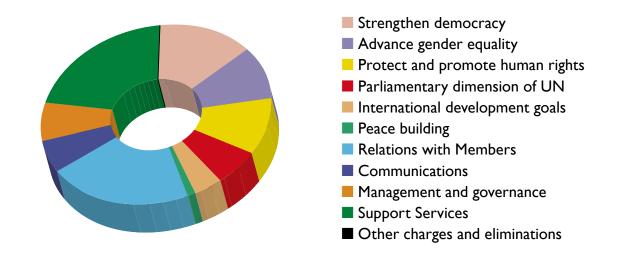


Expenditures

IPU expenditures are dedicated to achieving the strategic objectives of the organization. A breakdown of expenditures by strategic objective is shown in the following chart, which includes staff assessment for comparison:

	CHF (Swiss francs)	%
Strengthen democracy	1,743,897	14%
Advance gender equality	1,282,364	10%
Protect and promote human rights	1,246,814	10%
Parliamentary dimension of UN	798,608	6%
International development goals	547,790	4%
Peace building	130,973	1%
Relations with Members	2,689,492	21%
Communications	679,047	6%
Management and governance	909,708	7%
Support Services	2,691,138	21%
Other charges and eliminations	9,312	0%
Total expenses	12,729,143	





Financial Statements

The consolidated financial statements of IPU and its legacy Pension Fund for 2012 are prepared in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) on a full accrual and going-concern basis. The organization's financial statements are audited annually by IPU'S external auditor under mandate from the Executive Committee. The external auditor is appointed from the national audit office for a term of three years, renewable once.

The 2012 financial statements are the first to be consolidated with the legacy Pension Fund and prepared in full compliance with IPSAS. For this reason, in accordance with the transitional requirements of IPSAS, no comparative 2011 figures are provided in the Statement of Financial Performance. The figures in the Statement of Financial Position for 2011 have been restated to show the IPSAS-compliant financial position at 31 December 2011.

Further information on IPU's financial processes, including its annual financial statements and consolidated budgets, are available at: http://www.ipu.org/finance-e/overview.htm

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION AND LEGACY PENSION FUND

Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2012 in CHF (Swiss francs)

Statement of Financial Fosicion at 51 December 2012 in CFI (5W	,	
ACCETC	2012	2011 Restated
ASSETS		
Current assets Cash on hand	5,989	15,187
Cash in current accounts	7,701,090	7,087,239
Cash held by investment fund manager	242,749	687,267
Term deposits and savings accounts	1,561,965	529,398
Sub total cash and cash equivalents	9,511,793	8,319,091
Accounts Receivable		
from Members	1,053,859	1,007,400
from donors	24,768	41,199
from tax reimbursements	164,542	92,858
Others	61,913	44,453
Sub total accounts receivable	1,305,082	1,185,910
Investments	11,131,606	11,079,832
Other current assets	118,462	217,635
Sub-total current assets	22,066,943	20,802,468
Non-current assets		
Fixed assets		
Building and grounds	9,478,668	9,725,597
Furnishings	61,267	64,660
General equipment	21,999	32,856
IT equipment Vehicles	127,061	100,925
venicles	43,988 9,732,982	<u>60,907</u> 9,984,945
Sub-total non-current assets	9,732,982	9,984,945
Total Assets	31,799,925	30,787,413
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued payables	452,148	345,253
Advances from Members	670,692	126,401
Deferred revenue	1,640,243	1,455,968
Loans	189,600	189,600
Sub-total current liabilties	2,952,683	2,117,222
Borrowings Long Term	7,394,400	7,584,000
Closed Pension Fund	13,129,387	13,800,414
Other employee benefits	1,512,549	1,490,583
Sub-total non-current liabilties	22,036,336	22,874,997
Total Liabilities	24,989,019	24,992,219
NET ASSETS Restricted Funds	425,332	341,032
Accumulated fund balance (Working Capital Fund after contribution)	6,385,574	5,454,163
	<u> </u>	
Net Assets	6,810,906	5,795,195
	, ,	, ,

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION AND LEGACY PENSION FUND

Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 31 December 2012 in CHF (Swiss francs)

	2012
Revenue	
I Assessed Contributions	10,939,900
2 Voluntary Contributions	1,511,344
3 Investment Income	679,693
4 Other Income	39,071
Total Revenue	13,170,007
Expenses	
Personnel Expenditure – permanent staff	7,650,617
2 Personnel Expenditure – temporary staff	1,693,238
3 Change in closed pension fund provision	-609,268
4 Travel Expenditure	1,406,338
5 Contractual Services	633,093
6 Operating Expenses	813,305
7 Supplies, Materials and Equipment	158,766
8 Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	-26,801
9 Grants and Honoraria	86,570
10 Depreciation	329,378
II Loss on Foreign Exchange	19,059
Total Expenses	12,154,296
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	1,015,711



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