



Parliamentary Workshop

Developing good practice in political representation and constituency work in the Caribbean region

26-27 November 2012, Port-of-Spain (Trinidad and Tobago)

Draft agenda

Monday 26 November

9.30-9.45: Opening remarks

9.45-11.15: Session 1: Political representation and voter expectations

The first session will highlight some key findings from the Global Parliamentary Report and the challenges that MPs face in meeting the expectations of voters. It will look at how MPs perceive their own role and what they believe voters want. It will also highlight the diversity, volume and difficulty of much of this 'casework'.

11.15-11.30: Break

11.30-13.00: Session 2: The content of constituency work

During the second session the participants will discuss the variety of issues that are brought to them. They will use the experience of MPs in the seminar to understand the different types of requests, and the difficulties in responding to them, including the amount of time and resources necessary to resolving constituents' problems.

13.00-14.00: Lunch

14.00-17.00: Session 3: Strategic responses to voter expectations

The session will look at ways in which MPs can seek strategic solutions to handling constituency work. This will include the use of consultation, the creation of constituency development funds, innovative responses at the local level and how parliament could be used to find national solutions to local problems.

(15.30-15.45: Break)

Tuesday 27 November

9.30-13.00: Session 4: Identifying practical next steps

This session will draw together all the information from the previous day and seek to identify some immediate and practical steps that the parliament and MPs might implement to improve the way in which constituency work is delivered, and how parliament can make better use of the expertise gained in constituency service work.

(11.00-11.30: Break); 13.00-14.00: Lunch

14.00-15.30: Session 5: The IPU and the Caribbean

An overview and discussion of the key issues the IPU is working on, such as regional initiatives to strengthen parliaments; Cooperation with the United Nations; parliaments taking action on major global issues, developing a parliamentary dimension to the work of the UN; IPU membership, including associate membership, and the benefits it brings.

15.30-16.00: Concluding remarks