



# Inter-Parliamentary Union

## Technical Cooperation Programme

### PROJECT PROFILE: AFGHANISTAN



Created 19/5/2009

#### Project details

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Support to the Establishment of the Afghan Legislature (SEAL)</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>Duration:</b>	<b>Six years (2005-2012)</b>
<b>Budget:</b>	<b>US\$ 15'000'000</b>
<b>Donor partner:</b>	<b>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</b>

#### Background

After decades of conflict and civil war, the Bonn Agreements of 2001 put in place a process for returning Afghanistan to normality with the supervision and support of the international community. Following the adoption of a new constitution in January 2004, landmark presidential elections took place in 2004, and in September 2005 the first parliamentary elections in 30 years were held.

The newly established parliament is going to be crucial to restoring stability and peace to Afghanistan. However after the troubled past of the country, it still needs considerable assistance from the international community. The IPU and the United Nations Development Programme have been at the forefront of efforts to meet the challenges facing the young parliament which was inaugurated in December 2005. A far-reaching programme of assistance was developed jointly by the IPU and UNDP. The programme has been operational since early 2005.

#### Areas of activity

Among the numerous activities completed by the project since its inception, the IPU has facilitated the following:

- Study visits for senior staff to Australia, Germany, Indonesia and Morocco to study various aspects of parliamentary procedures.
- Study visit to the Japanese Diet for MPs and staff, covering various issues of interest such as decision-making through parliaments, bicameralism, electoral systems and party politics.
- National Seminar for parliamentary staff on Parliamentary Best practices.
- Orientation Seminar for new legislators.
- Seminar on Globalization for the Meshrano Jirga (Upper House).
- International Conference on Legislative / Executive Relations.
- The staff of the Minutes and Records Department of both houses were provided with advisory support and training in the recording of parliamentary proceedings and the workings of a multilingual parliament.
- Provision of comparative information, publications and research papers on various subjects

#### Target beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of IPU assistance are first and foremost the members of the two chambers of parliament and parliamentary staff. If the parliament succeeds in fulfilling its tasks of legislation and government oversight, the Afghan society as a whole will benefit from stability, peace and good governance.



Members and parliamentary staff with foreign experts at Kabul seminar - 2005

#### Outcomes

The project should facilitate parliament's involvement in the process of democratization and the reconstruction of the Afghan civil society. In particular the project focussed on:

- The role of parliamentarians in the legislative process.
- Parliamentary procedures in a multiethnic and multilingual context.
- The protection of women's and minorities' rights through legislation and within parliament itself.

#### Experts providing advice to the project included:

Ms MD Morobi, member of the National Assembly, Parliament of South Africa  
Mr. BJ Tolo, Member of the National Council of Provinces, Parliament of South Africa  
Ms Janet Seaton, Member of the Scottish Parliament  
Mr Michael Davies, former Clerk of the House of Lords, UK  
Mr. Ronald Mees, Director of the administration, Parliament of Belgium

#### Parliaments hosting study tours for the project:

- Parliament of Japan
- Parliament of Australia
- Parliament of Indonesia
- Parliament of Morocco
- Parliament of Germany