



Inter-Parliamentary Union

Technical Cooperation Programme

PROJECT PROFILE: RWANDA, 2nd Project



Created 2/11/2006

Project details

Title:	Assistance to the Rwandan Parliament
Status:	Closed
Duration:	2 Years (2000-2002)
Budget:	US\$ 48,500
Donor partner:	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Background

Following the Arusha Peace Accord signed in 1993, a Transitional National Assembly (TNA) was established in Rwanda in July 1994, which had a mandate until 2003 when the new Constitution was finalized and elections were held.

Despite its significant role and responsibilities, the TNA only had limited administrative and legislative capacities and its members had little experience in dealing with human rights and gender issues. During the bi-annual IPU Conference in Jordan in April 2000, the IPU was requested by the then Secretary General of the TNA to assess the needs of the Assembly. The assessment mission was facilitated by the UNDP country office in Rwanda and took place in June 2000.

Based on the mission's findings, a project of assistance was developed and implemented in cooperation with UNDP.

Areas of activity

The project focused on three main objectives:

Capacity building for the Committee for National Unity and Human Rights (CUNDH); support for the Forum of Rwandan Female Parliamentarians (FFRP) and the establishment of a Documentation Centre containing human rights and gender information.

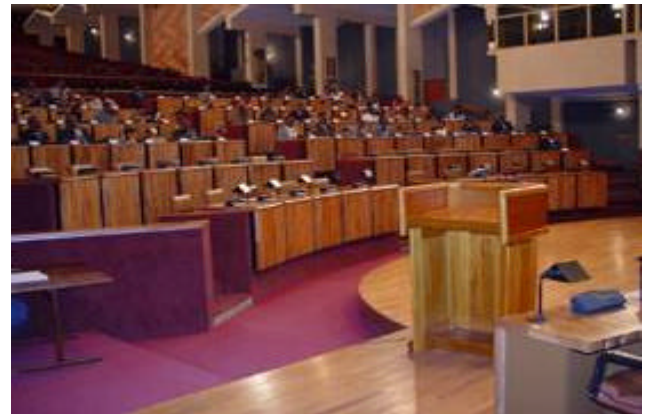
To this end, the following activities were implemented:

- Study tour to Norway, the Netherlands and the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights for 2 CUNDH members.
- Study tour for 2 CUNDH members to South Africa.
- National Seminar on "The Role of Parliaments in the Promotion and Respect of Human Rights".
- Regional Seminar on "Engendering a New Constitution".
- Extensive documentation on human rights and gender and development issues was provided to the TNA library.

In addition, training for staff on steno typing techniques was provided to improve the transcription of minutes of committee and plenary sessions.

Target beneficiaries

The foremost target beneficiaries were the members of the CUNDH and the FFRP. An increased awareness for human rights and gender issues in parliament would also foster the process of peace and reconciliation Rwanda is engaged in.



Plenary hall of the Rwandan Parliament

Results

The outcomes of the project, although hard to measure in concrete terms, may be summarized as follows:

- Awareness of and sensitivity to gender and human rights issues improved considerably, in the parliament as well as in the Rwandan society in general. The number of amendments, laws and questions in plenary that reflected human rights and gender concerns increased significantly. The laws that were amended to include a gender-sensitive perspective included the Public Services Act and the Marriage Act.
- Through the study tours valuable links and contacts to other parliaments were established, integrating Rwanda in a community of parliamentarians involved in human rights and gender activities.

Experts providing advice to the project included:

- Mr. Philip S. Marmo, National Assembly of Tanzania.
- Mr. Mabedle Lawrence Mushwana, Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces of South Africa.
- Mr. Térence Nahimana, Parliament of Burundi.
- Mr. Oulanyah, Chairperson of the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee, Parliament of Uganda.
- Mr. Sacca-Kina Guezere, Parliament of Benin.

Parliaments supporting the project were:

- Parliament of South Africa.
- Parliament of the Netherlands.
- Parliament of Norway.

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Documents archived:

Admin. and Finance:

- Project documents
- Mission reports
- Reports
- ToRs: Missions, Project,
- Correspondence (UNDP, parliaments involved)
- Contracts
- Finance

Activities:

- Seminars
- Study visit to Norway, the Netherlands and IPU Secretariat
- Study visit to South Africa
- Provision of relevant documentation
- Steno typist training

(Most relevant documents e.g. Mission reports, are in the Admin. and Finance Section)

General

- Press and background material

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