



Inter-Parliamentary Union

Technical Cooperation Programme

PROJECT PROFILE: TIMOR-LESTE



Created 31/03/2005 Updated 06/04/2005

Project details

Title:	Strengthening the National Parliament in Timor-Leste
Status:	Closed
Duration:	18 months (2003-2004)
Budget:	US\$ 65,049
Donor partner:	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Background

Cooperation between UNDP and the IPU for assisting the incipient legislative body of Timor-Leste (then called East Timor) started in mid-2001. Since then, the initial National Council has been transformed (following elections) into a Constituent Assembly, and as of 20 May 2002 it became the national parliament (without elections). Both transitional legislative institutions benefited from advisory and technical support from the international community.

An IPU/UNDP mission to Timor-Leste in early 2002 reviewed the activities of the programme of assistance to the East Timor Constituent Assembly and drafted a project proposal to assist the successor parliament, that came into being in May 2002 following the country's accession to independence. In September 2002, an independent UNDP legislative consultant carried out a review mission in Dili and proposed the extension of the project proposal from 2 to 3 years, also including several other activities.

Areas of activity

According to the provisions of the project document and to the proposals formulated by the UNDP legislative consultant, the IPU provided assistance in three main areas of activity:

- Strengthening parliament's role in the budgetary process, including from a gender perspective (as a follow-up to the IPU regional seminar in Manila on the same topic, which was attended by a Timorese parliamentary delegation);
- Support for Women Parliamentarians;
- Technical advisory assistance for the establishment of an International Relations/Protocol Office.

Target beneficiaries

The beneficiaries include members and staff of the parliament of Timor-Leste, civil society and the general public of Timor-Leste.



Parliamentary diplomacy seminar, National Parliament of Timor-Leste

Outcomes

The project resulted in:

- An introduction to the parliamentary role in the budget process, providing guidance to members on how to handle the budget and ensure that it is gender sensitive;
- Advisory services for women parliamentarians aimed at guiding them in their daily work and enhancing their capacity to fulfil their mandates. Advisory services for both men and women parliamentarians on how to address gender issues effectively in parliament;
- The provision of assistance to the parliament in raising its profile internationally, especially in inter-parliamentary relations. More specifically, the project helped to build capacity within the parliament to handle international relations and protocol.

Experts providing advice to the project include:

- Mr. Colin Eglin, Member of the parliament of South Africa
- Mr. Duarte Pacheco, Member of the Portuguese parliament
- Mrs. Clara Monteiro, Head of Protocol of the Chamber of Deputies, parliament of Brazil
- Mr. Chris Paterson, Director, Parliamentary Relations Office, parliament of Australia
- Mrs. Adriana Branco, Member of the Portuguese parliament