



Inter-Parliamentary Union

Technical Cooperation Programme

PROJECT PROFILE: URUGUAY



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

Project details

Title:	Support to the Parliament of Uruguay
Status:	Closed
Duration:	12 months (2002-2003)
Budget:	US\$ 100,000
Donor partner:	United Nations Development Programme

Background

In June 2001, the IPU received a request from the Speaker of the House of Representatives to assist the House in order to modernize its legislative and administrative procedures with the use of new technologies.

This project was based on the recommendations of a joint IPU/UNDP needs assessment mission which took place in August 2001 in response to that request. The project addressed the most urgent needs of the parliament as identified during the mission.

In order to face these challenges, the Institute of Political Science of the University of the Republic provided support, since it had relevant experience in this subject and had recently cooperated with the parliament.

Objectives

The overall objective of the project was to assist the parliamentary authorities in improving parliamentary, financial and administrative procedures, including human resources management, in order to enable the parliament to be more responsive to the challenges it faced. The project would ensure that it would be better able to perform its functions in an efficient and transparent manner.

Specific objectives included:

- Strengthening the capacities of the House of Representatives and Senate committees;
- Strengthening relations with civil society;
- Evaluating the legislative process with a view to improving its efficiency and productivity;
- Designing a cooperation programme.

Target beneficiaries

The beneficiaries included members and staff of the parliament of Uruguay, civil society and the Uruguayan public.



General Assembly of Uruguay

Outcomes

- A general evaluation was carried out of the whole legislative process based on the follow-up and analysis of three laws adopted by the parliament. The presiding officers of both chambers jointly selected the three laws. The evaluation included recommendations for the improvement of the legislative process, such as through improved internal communication in the parliament;
- An evaluation was carried out of civil society involvement in the legislative process. The evaluation included recommendations for the improvement of the relations between the parliament and civil society, such as through the establishment of a standing committee for petitions;
- The project ensured that the secretaries and under-secretaries of the committees were better trained, thus enabling committee business to be managed more efficiently.

Experts providing advice to the project included:

- Mr. Pablo Garcia Mexia, National Assembly of Spain
- Senator César Jáuregui, Mexican Senate;
- Ms. Margarita Seminario, State University of New York.

Parliaments providing assistance to the project:

- National Congress of Chile.

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Documents

Archived:

Admin. and Finance:

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

Activities:

- A training programme for secretaries and under-secretaries of the parliamentary committees
- A review mission to Uruguay
- A working visit to the Parliament of Chile for six participants of the first training
- A general evaluation of the legislative process
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General

- Background material

ARCHIVED June 2007