

Inter-Parliamentary Union



United Nations Development Programme



Promoting inclusive parliaments:

The representation of minorities and indigenous peoples in parliament

Questionnaire

Part C: Questionnaire for parliamentarians

Information note

Overview

This questionnaire forms part of a survey on the representation of minorities and indigenous peoples in parliament that is being conducted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Development Programme.

The purpose of this survey is to gather quantitative and qualitative information on the ways in which members of minorities and indigenous groups become parliamentarians and how parliaments include these groups in their work. The information gathered will be analysed to provide insights into parliament as an institution that is inclusive of the social diversity of the population. These findings will be disseminated in a publication to be produced by IPU and UNDP.

You are invited to complete this questionnaire because you are currently a member of parliament. Separate questionnaires are being addressed to parliaments (Part A) and parliamentary groups (Part B).

We estimate that this survey should take no more than 15-20 minutes to complete. Data will be collected, stored and processed through an online survey database. This data is available only to the designated representatives of the IPU and UNDP and is not publicly accessible.

Where we anticipate that we might like to reproduce your responses to validate our research (for the "open" questions in the survey), we ask you to confirm that we may publicly attribute your response by answering the question that appears, "Can we quote this answer in our study?"

Privacy statement

All responses will be dealt with confidentially. All IPU and UNDP representatives involved in this survey research project are required to respect strict confidentiality when processing your responses. The answers to the questions will be made anonymous via coding procedures that will provide disaggregated data on overall trends on an international or regional basis. No personal information, including your name or email address, will be used for any purposes other than the quantitative and qualitative research.

By participating in the questionnaire, you give permission to IPU and UNDP and their designated representatives to use the information that you provide for quantitative and qualitative research purposes only. You certify that the responses are solely your own.

You will need to provide your email address for us to confirm receipt of your response and to contact you to verify information should the need arise.

Options for completing the survey

1. Electronic format (preferred option)

- Download the questionnaire from <http://www.ipu.org/minorities-e>. The questionnaire is available as a PDF file in English, French and Spanish. You can save your responses in the PDF file and return to complete the questionnaire later. When you have finished, click the 'Send the questionnaire to IPU' button at the end of the questionnaire. This generates an e-mail with an attached data file that contains your responses. Alternatively, you can send the PDF file by e-mail to postbox@mail.ipu.org. You will need Adobe Reader (formerly called Acrobat Reader) to view and complete the questionnaire. Adobe Reader is already installed on millions of computers around the world. If you do not have Adobe Reader, you can download it free of charge from the Adobe web at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>. If you have an old version of Adobe Reader, you may need to upgrade your software.

2. Hard copy

- If you are unable to complete the questionnaire electronically, kindly complete it in hard copy, and fax, post or scan and e-mail your response to IPU

Inter-Parliamentary Union
5 chemin du Pommier
1218 Grand-Saconnex
Geneva
Switzerland

Telephone: +41 22 919 41 50
Fax: +41 22 919 41 60
E-mail: postbox@mail.ipu.org
Web: <http://www.ipu.org>

Deadline

Completed questionnaires should be returned to IPU by **30 April 2009**.

Definitions: 'Minorities' and 'indigenous peoples'

The term 'minority' as used in the United Nations human rights system refers to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities as laid out in the United Nations Declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities (General Assembly resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992) and in Article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights .

This Declaration also applies to **indigenous peoples**, in addition to the United Nations Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples (General Assembly resolution A/61/L.67 of 13 September 2007) which articulates its provisions around **specific characteristics that indigenous peoples share around the world**:

- a special relationship to lands and the environment;
- distinct political and social institutions, including customary legal systems and laws, cultural traditions and customs, health practices;
- own understanding/perspective of development priorities, and traditional management of resources and other knowledge.

Neither of the Declarations defines who minorities or indigenous peoples are, as no single definition could encapsulate the realities of all the diverse groups and communities concerned. Instead the United Nations takes into account **the principle of self-identification** when working with indigenous peoples and minorities.

It is now commonly accepted that recognition of minority status should be based on:

- **objective criteria** (such as non-dominance in terms of numbers and/or political power and possessing distinct ethnic, cultural, religious or linguistic characteristics) as well as on
- **subjective criteria of self-definition** (i.e. a will on the part of the members of the group in question to preserve these distinct characteristics).

It is suggested that the same principle should be used for the purposes of this questionnaire.

Any questions?

For further information and advice on completing this questionnaire, please contact
 Andy Richardson (e-mail: andy.richardson@mail.ipu.org; telephone: +41 22 919 4135) or
 Diane Sheinberg (e-mail: diane.sheinberg@undp.org; telephone: +1.212.906.5075)

To contact IPU, please use the following postal address, phone, fax or e-mail:

Inter-Parliamentary Union	Telephone: +41 22 919 41 50
5 chemin du Pommier	Fax: +41 22 919 41 60
1218 Grand-Saconnex	E-mail: postbox@mail.ipu.org
Geneva	E-mail: http://www.ipu.org
Switzerland	

Questionnaire

Country:

Member of

Unicameral parliament

Lower chamber

Upper chamber

Your background:

a. Personal background

Name (Family name, first name)

E-mail address

Postal address

Telephone number (incl. area code):

Fax number (incl. area code)

Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)

Sex

Female

Male

b. Do you consider yourself to be a member of a national, ethnic, religious or linguistic minority or an indigenous group?

Yes

If yes: Please give the name of the minority/indigenous group(s):

No

Other (explain)

b.1 Do you hold a seat that is reserved for a minority/indigenous group?

Yes

No

c. What was your occupation prior to election?

(check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Legal profession	<input type="checkbox"/>	Architect, surveyor, engineer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Political party official	<input type="checkbox"/>	Armed services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Civil service and local authority administration	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clergy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Finance, management or business	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clerical, secretarial, administration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Education profession	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade union official
<input type="checkbox"/>	Journalism, broadcasting, media	<input type="checkbox"/>	Civil society activity
<input type="checkbox"/>	International civil servant	<input type="checkbox"/>	Research
<input type="checkbox"/>	Home-maker, care-taker	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physician, dentist
<input type="checkbox"/>	Social worker	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nursing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture/farming	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (explain)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sciences		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Writer, literary, artist		

d. What is your highest level of education attained?

(check only one answer)

<input type="checkbox"/>	No formal education	<input type="checkbox"/>	University or polytechnic degree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Primary school only	<input type="checkbox"/>	Post-graduate university degree
<input type="checkbox"/>	Secondary school only	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other higher education

e. Parliamentary background

e.1 Mode of obtaining seat

(check only one answer)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Directly elected on a party list	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Directly elected in a constituency		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Indirect election		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nominated by the assembly/parliament		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Appointed by the head of state/government		

e.2 What type of constituency do you represent?

(check only one answer)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Rural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Directly elected in a constituency		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Semi-urban		
<input type="checkbox"/>	National/nation-wide		
<input type="checkbox"/>	None		

f. Political party

f.1 Are you a member of a political party?

Yes

If yes: Please give the name of your political party:

No

Other (explain)

f.2 Does your party belong to any of the following party international groups?

(check only one answer)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Centrist Democrat International	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (explain)
<input type="checkbox"/>	International Democrat Union		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Liberal International		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Socialist International		

f.3 Does your party consider itself to represent a particular minority/indigenous group or groups
Yes

If yes: Please give the name of the minority/indigenous group(s):

No

Other (explain)

g. How many times have you stood for, or been elected to, parliament?

g.1 Stood for parliament

Once Twice Three times Four times or more

g.2 Been elected to parliament

Once Twice Three times Four times or more

h. What was your main channel of entry into politics?

(check only one answer)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Political party activity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trade union activity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Member of sub-national legislature: provincial or state level	<input type="checkbox"/>	Member of local or district council
<input type="checkbox"/>	Social work	<input type="checkbox"/>	Family connections
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-governmental organization (name them)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community activist
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, specify

i. How much influence did the following have in motivating you to become a candidate?

i.1 I wanted to serve my country.

Great deal Fair amount Not very much None Don't know

i.2 I wanted to be involved in the decisions that affect my life.

Great deal Fair amount Not very much None Don't know

i.3 I wanted to represent my community.

Great deal Fair amount Not very much None Don't know

i.4 I was asked to stand by my political party.

Great deal Fair amount Not very much None Don't know

i.5 I was encouraged by my family, friends or community.

Great deal Fair amount Not very much None Don't know

i.6 I wanted to improve the community where I live.

Great deal Fair amount Not very much None Don't know

i.7 Other, specify

Minority/indigenous issues

1. How much influence, in your opinion, do the following have in deterring people from minority/indigenous groups from entering politics?

1.1	Prevailing cultural attitudes regarding the roles of minorities and indigenous peoples in society	Great deal	Fair amount	Not very much	None	Don't know
1.2	Religion	Great deal	Fair amount	Not very much	None	Don't know
1.3	Security concerns	Great deal	Fair amount	Not very much	None	Don't know
1.4	Lack of finances	Great deal	Fair amount	Not very much	None	Don't know
1.5	Domestic responsibilities	Great deal	Fair amount	Not very much	None	Don't know
1.6	Lack of support of political parties	Great deal	Fair amount	Not very much	None	Don't know
1.7	Politics seen as "dirty" or corrupt	Great deal	Fair amount	Not very much	None	Don't know
1.8	Lack of education	Great deal	Fair amount	Not very much	None	Don't know
1.9	Lack of confidence	Great deal	Fair amount	Not very much	None	Don't know
1.10	Lack of support from family	Great deal	Fair amount	Not very much	None	Don't know
1.11	Lack of support from the electorate	Great deal	Fair amount	Not very much	None	Don't know
1.12	Lack of experience in "representative" functions: public speaking, constituency relations	Great deal	Fair amount	Not very much	None	Don't know
1.13	Perception that parliament is not accessible to people from minority/indigenous groups	Great deal	Fair amount	Not very much	None	Don't know
1.14	Other, specify					

2. Does your political party have an official position, manifesto or policy on the participation of minority/indigenous groups in politics and society?

Yes	No	Don't know
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Please explain your answer

Can we quote this answer in our study?

Yes	No
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3. Has your party adopted special measures to increase the participation of people from minority/indigenous groups in your party structures?

Yes	No	Don't know
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Please explain your answer

Can we quote this answer in our study?

Yes	No
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4. In your opinion, are people from minority/indigenous groups well represented in the policy-making organs of your party?

Very Fairly Not very Not at all Don't know

5. In your opinion, how representative of minority/indigenous groups is the composition of your parliament?

Very Fairly Not very Not at all Don't know

6. What are your views on the following statements regarding the use of special measures to ensure the presence of parliamentarians from minority/indigenous groups (for example, reserved seats, quotas, appointments, exemption from electoral thresholds, demarcation of constituency boundaries etc)

6.1 Special measures are necessary to address the under-representation of minority/indigenous groups

Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

6.2 Special measures should only be implemented on a temporary basis

Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

6.3 Special measures are not useful and lead to tokenism for minority/indigenous groups

Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

6.4 Special measures are not necessary. People from minority/indigenous groups should be elected on merit

Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

6.5 Special measures are discriminatory

Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

7. In your opinion, are parliamentarians who gain their mandate through special measures viewed differently to other parliamentarians?

Yes Sometimes No Don't know There are no minority or indigenous parliamentarians

Please explain your answer

Can we quote this answer in our study?

Yes No

8. In your opinion, how active is parliament in protecting and promoting the rights of people from minority/indigenous groups?

Very Fairly Not very Not at all Don't know

Please explain your answer

Can we quote this answer in our study?

Yes No

9. In your opinion, how active is your political party in protecting and promoting the rights of people from minority/indigenous groups?

Very Fairly Not very Not at all Don't know

Please explain your answer

Can we quote this answer in our study?

Yes No

10. How much influence, in your opinion, does the following have in affecting the adoption of legislation regarding minorities/indigenous groups?

10.1 Ruling party support

Great deal Fair amount Not very much None Don't know

10.2 Opposition party support

Great deal Fair amount Not very much None Don't know

10.3 Support of parliamentarians from minority/indigenous groups

Great deal Fair amount Not very much None Don't know

10.4 Support of parliamentarians who are not from minority/indigenous groups

Great deal Fair amount Not very much None Don't know

10.5 Support of your constituency

Great deal Fair amount Not very much None Don't know

10.6 Support of civil society groups or interest groups

Great deal Fair amount Not very much None Don't know

10.7 Support of the international community

Great deal Fair amount Not very much None Don't know

10.8 Other, specify

Great deal Fair amount Not very much None Don't know

11. As a parliamentarian, do you make a special effort to consult with minority/indigenous groups in your work?

Yes Sometimes No Don't know

Please explain your answer

Can we quote this answer in our study?

Yes No

12. Have you or your party taken any action to specifically promote minority/indigenous issues in your parliament?

Yes No

Please explain your answer

Can we quote this answer in our study?

Yes No

13. What should be done to ensure that minority/indigenous issues are addressed in parliament?

Can we quote this answer in our study?

Yes No

14. Please add any other information you find to be of interest for the purposes of this questionnaire.

Can we quote this answer in our study?

Yes No