



*Better parliaments,  
stronger democracies.*

# GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARY REPORT



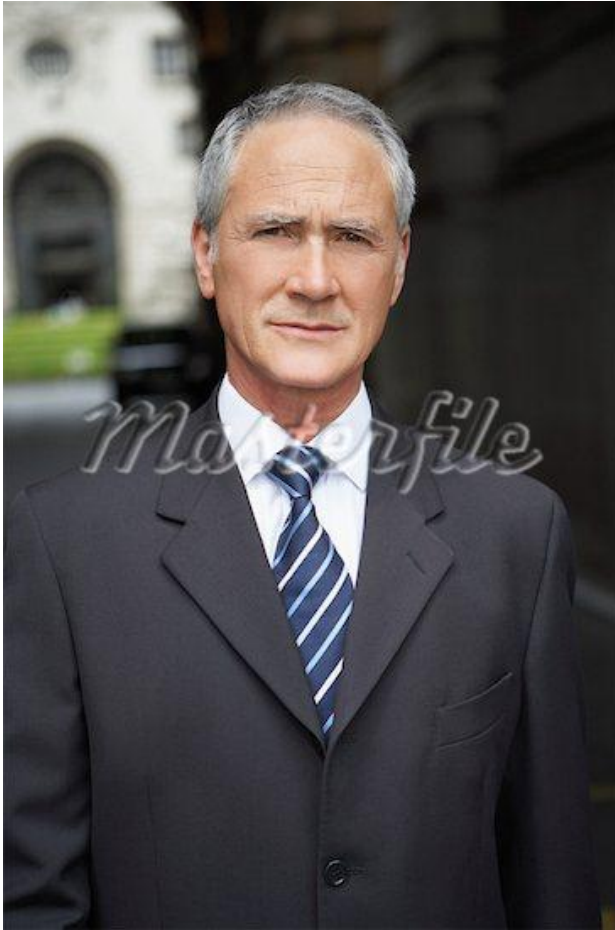
*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

## The changing nature of parliamentary representation





# An 'average' MP?





# Women and men in parliament

*Women in parliament :  
All regions, all parliamentary structures*

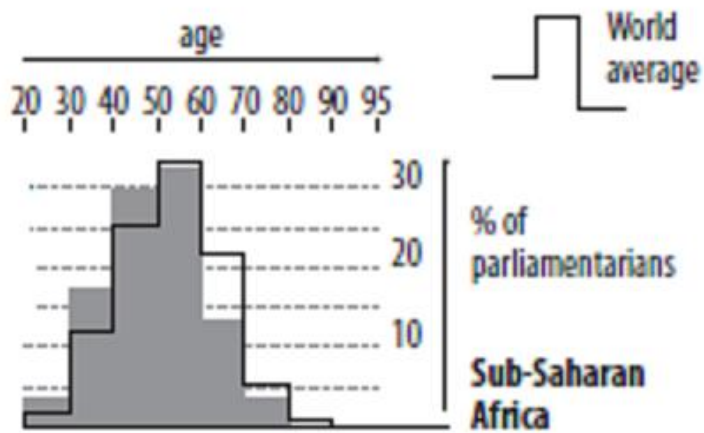


## Global average:

- Women: 19.7%
- Men: 80.3%



# Age



## Global average:

- Women: 50 years
- Men: 53 years

## Sub-Saharan Africa

- 49 years

## Upper chambers

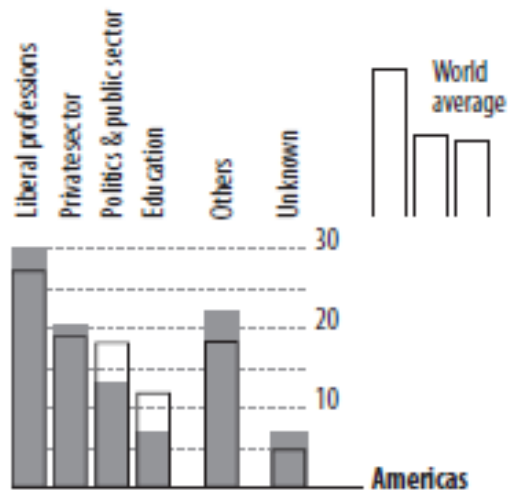
- 59 years



# Profession

## Professional backgrounds of parliamentarians

In % (order of columns corresponds to that of global average)



## Main categories

- Liberal professions: 28%
- Private sector: 19%
- Politics and public sector: 18%
- Education: 12%

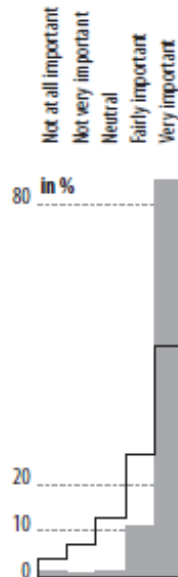




# Perceptions

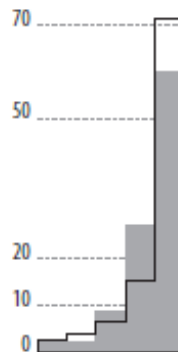
How important is law-making to you?

■ As a parliamentarian  
□ In the public opinion



How important is solving constituents' problems to you?

■ As a parliamentarian  
□ In the public opinion



## MPs' most important role?

- For MPs:
  - law-making (52%)
- For citizens:
  - solving constituents' problems (37%)





# 1. Accountability





# Elections are no longer sufficient



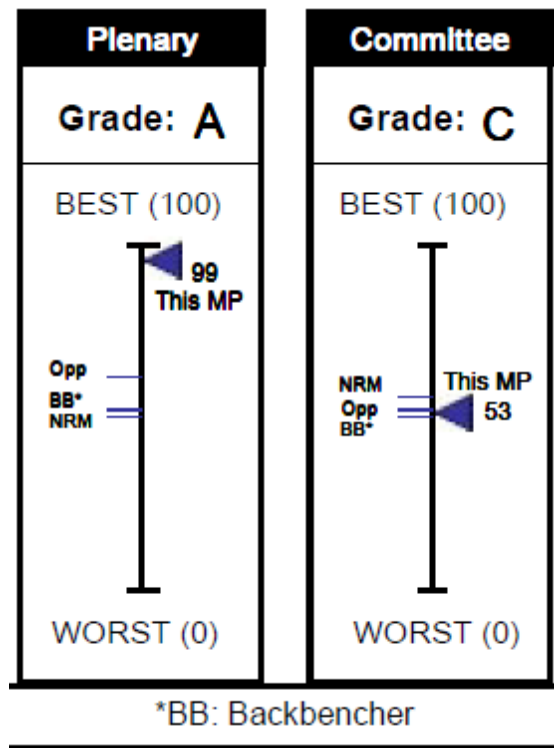
- Expectations of greater transparency
- Limits on the parliamentary mandate







# Parliamentary monitoring organizations



- 190 organizations in 80 countries
- Parliamentary scorecards





# 2. Constituency service





# Reconciling local and national roles



- Volume of work
- Perceived electoral benefits
- Public expectations





# Resources for constituency work



- Staff; office space; travel allowances
- Constituency Development Funds







# 3. Engaging citizens







# Information



- Radio; TV; Internet;
- Visiting parliament, Open Days
- Taking parliament to the people





# Consultation



- Public hearings; local meetings
- Contributions to parliamentary committees





# Parliaments are resilient!





# Continual evolution



- A strategic approach to reform
- Understanding changing expectations
- Enhancing the role of MPs





# Resilience and renewal

- Modernizing parliament
- Building new relationships with citizens
- Fit for the twenty-first century?







**More information:**

**[www.ipu.org/gpr](http://www.ipu.org/gpr)**

**[www.agora-parl.org](http://www.agora-parl.org)**

**Twitter: #IPU126**

