

The IPU in 2010



Inter-Parliamentary Union – 2011

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What is the IPU?

Almost every issue facing legislators today extends well beyond national borders. The IPU is the forum where parliamentary minds meet on issues of international concern. The IPU facilitates inter-parliamentary debate, dialogue and cooperation. It promotes and defends democracy. It assists parliaments and parliamentarians in fulfilling their mandates.

The IPU is an independent, self-governing body funded by parliaments. 155 national parliaments are currently members.

The IPU offers the world's community of parliamentarians a collective voice in international affairs. It is the only organization of its kind with the global legitimacy to provide a bridge between parliaments and international decision making.

In a world in which democracy sometimes seems to be in retreat, the IPU works continually behind the scenes to protect and consolidate parliaments, the engine room of democracy.



The IPU in 2010

The IPU brought the world parliamentary community together in 2010 to debate some of today's global challenges: natural disasters, climate change, organized crime, and international development goals.

For the third time in its history, the IPU hosted a global summit of Speakers of Parliament. The 2010 summit brought together Speakers from over 130 countries to examine the role of parliaments in providing global democratic accountability for the common good.

The IPU spoke out in defence of democracy. It also assisted parliaments in very practical ways. It promoted standards for democratic parliaments, disseminated information on good practices and helped build parliamentary capacity.

It defended the human rights of members of parliament and promoted respect for universal values, standards and principles. It tackled the question of political representation of minorities and indigenous peoples and held a parliamentary conference to prepare a plan to promote their wider participation in parliament.

The IPU worked in support of gender equality and the participation of women in politics. Women Speakers of Parliament working with the IPU launched the Bern initiative for global parliamentary action on maternal and child health. The IPU helped parliaments in establishing laws and policies to eliminate violence against women.

In 2010 the IPU assisted parliaments in coping with a growing international agenda. Its efforts were recognized by the United Nations when its Member States adopted a far reaching General Assembly resolution inviting the IPU to continue building a parliamentary dimension to the work of the organization.

There is an IPU that is visible. That is the organization that most members know. There is also an IPU that is more discreet, the IPU that provides space for parliamentary diplomacy, for informal contacts between parliamentarians that can help build understanding between countries. This is the IPU that works in support of reconciliation after conflicts, that negotiates the release of detained members of parliament, that helps build understanding between political adversaries and creates space in parliament for the political opposition.

The IPU is deeply convinced that democracy requires strong parliaments everywhere. And it believes that it can make a valuable contribution to that purpose through the channels of parliamentary cooperation. This is the IPU of today.



Anders B. Johansson
Secretary General

Inter-parliamentary cooperation: the IPU Assemblies

Twice in the year 2010, in Bangkok and Geneva, members of parliament converged from around the world at the bi-annual IPU Assemblies. These major parliamentary events, unique in their kind, set the stage for a multitude of informal encounters. On the agendas were events both formal and more loosely interactive, at which members debated drug trafficking, illegal arms sales, human trafficking, youth and democracy, south-south cooperation, the financing of political parties, electoral violence, the floods in Pakistan and the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile, and a number of other topics, many of which are described below.

3rd World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

The World Conference of Speakers of Parliament met for its five-yearly gathering in July at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva. Heading the agenda was the subject of political accountability. Over 130 Speakers of Parliament gave their assent to a final declaration that affirmed how accountability and representation lie at the heart of democracy.

Politics can become a closed space when there is not enough room for opposing opinions. In discussing accountability, the Speakers took a searching look at their own institution. They pledged to ensure that the rights of all members of parliament to speak out without fear of harassment or punishment were guaranteed.

At the opening of the Conference, the United Nations Secretary-General asked the Speakers to provide leadership in ratifying treaties, acting as a force for stability, advancing development, and promoting nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

After hearing the UN Secretary-General, the Speakers pledged their support for the United Nations and its Charter. They commended the UN for enshrining the world's development objectives in the Millennium Development Goals, while emphasizing the need for tighter connections with parliaments if they are to be fulfilled. They affirmed that the IPU is the international body best suited to building the relationship between parliaments and the United Nations.

The Declaration may be viewed on <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/speakers10/declaration.pdf>



6th Annual Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament



As an organization that fights for the place of women as leaders in political life, it is natural that the IPU should bring together women Speakers of Parliament.

The most recent of these annual meetings took place in Bern, just before the 2010 Speakers' summit in Geneva. It was held inside the Swiss Federal Parliament, both Houses of which were then chaired by women (See photo).

On the agenda were child mortality and maternal health. The outcome of the discussions among the 23 women Speakers present was the Bern Initiative for Global Parliamentary Action on Maternal and Child Health. The main challenges, the delegates said, are the need to enforce the law, energize political will, and grapple with discriminatory stereotypes and mentalities.

The Bern Initiative may be viewed on <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/wmnsPk10/outcome.pdf>

Democracy

The IPU's democracy-related work continues to be guided by the Universal Declaration on Democracy, adopted by the IPU in 1997 and the Guide to good practice published by the Organization in 2006 under the title of Parliament and Democracy in the Twenty-first Century. Both documents underscore the centrality of parliament in democracy and the need to support it in fulfilling its constitutional mandate.

The self-assessment toolkit for parliaments published on the basis of the Guide continued to underpin the IPU's standards-setting work. The IPU promoted the use by parliaments of this resource, which is intended to help them identify their strengths and weaknesses in order to determine priorities for improvement. In 2010, the toolkit was used by the parliaments in Ireland and Pakistan, where it is now being applied in the provincial assemblies. An assessment of parliament was carried out by a non-governmental organization in Yemen using the toolkit. Self-assessment is being considered in Bahrain, Thailand and the European Parliament.

Ten years after the adoption in September 1997 of the Universal Declaration, the United Nations chose 15 September for the International Day of Democracy. The IPU's 2010 theme for the International Day was parliamentary accountability. 36 national parliaments organized special events to commemorate the day and emphasize its message of accountability and accessibility with debates, workshops, exhibitions and celebrations. The IPU President penned an article that was published on different continents in which he encouraged young people to roll up their sleeves and get involved in their nation's democracy, including by running for a seat in parliament.

In other events, the IPU and the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments held a meeting on "Strengthening links between parliaments and citizens" on 7 October 2010. The IPU also co-organized the World e-Parliament Conference 2010 to study how MPs are using information and communication technologies to communicate better with the people to whom they owe their seats in parliament.

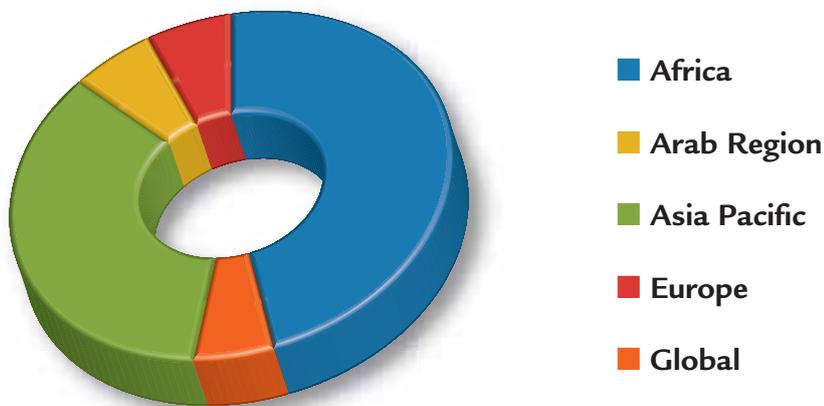


Technical Assistance

Strong democracies require robust parliaments. For the IPU this is an article of faith. It is also a cue for the provision of practical hands-on assistance when it is requested, and for many years the IPU has been providing advice, guidance and technical support to parliaments around the world. In the last year, the parliaments of Algeria, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea Bissau, Maldives, Pakistan, Palestine, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Togo, and Viet Nam have all benefited from such support. Many of these projects are conducted in cooperation with UNDP.

Technical assistance also takes the form of seminars to address contentious issues in parliament. One such issue which the IPU has been dealing with for a number of years is civilian oversight of the armed forces and the wider security sector. In September, at the invitation of the Senegalese National Assembly, members of parliamentary defence and security committees met in Dakar at the latest in a series of seminars which the IPU runs with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces. Participants explored mechanisms for a greater degree of consultation among national parliamentary defence and security committees in West Africa.

Strengthening the institution of parliament in 2010 20 activities in support of parliament



Defending parliamentarians

To stand up for the rights of the people who elected them, members of parliament must feel free to enjoy their own. Members of parliament are sometimes made to pay a high price for their freedom of speech. There are a number of brave men and women parliamentarians around the world who have risked careers and even their lives to express their beliefs.

In order to protect parliamentarians against abuse and thus defend parliament as an institution, in 1976 the IPU established a Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians. Since it was founded the Committee has examined cases in over 100 countries and in many instances helped to provide victims with protection or redress. In 2010, the Committee examined 79 cases in 36 countries.

Among the many cases which the Committee chose to highlight before the IPU Governing Council were those concerning the encroachment on the rights of National Assembly members by the Executive Government in Cambodia; investigations into the killing of MPs in Colombia; the reported deaths of nine imprisoned parliamentarians in Eritrea and the fate of those still alive; the brutal treatment of parliamentarians in Madagascar; renewed prosecution of Anwar Ibrahim in Malaysia; the expulsion of three Palestinian parliamentarians from their homes in East Jerusalem; continuing impunity in the long-running case of the murder of Russian MP Galina Starovoitova; harassment of Tamil National Alliance parliamentarians in Sri Lanka; and impunity for the torture of MPs in Zimbabwe. For a full list of public human rights resolutions adopted by the Governing Council in October 2010, see <http://www.ipu.org/hr-e/187/187all.htm>



Other human rights activities

Alongside the regular work of the Committee, the IPU human rights team set up a seminar in October in conjunction with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the role of parliaments in implementing the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

In the same month, a delegation from the IPU Committee returned to Bogota to continue the previous year's talks. Discussions centred on the investigations into the murders of members of Congress, strengthening security for parliamentarians at risk, and ensuring full respect for those on trial. The mission was led by the President of the Committee, Mexican Senator Rosario Green.

Minorities and indigenous peoples: One of the criteria for a democratic parliament is that it should reflect the social diversity of the population in terms of gender, language, religion, ethnicity, or other politically significant characteristics. A parliament which is unrepresentative in this sense will leave parts of society feeling disadvantaged in the political process or even excluded altogether. More inclusive parliaments strengthen democracy, promote integration within society and prevent conflict. They also match up to international human rights criteria.

It was against this conceptual backdrop that, as part of a broader project run with UNDP, the IPU held its first event bringing together the parliamentary representatives of minorities and indigenous peoples. Parliamentarians from more than 30 countries assembled in Chiapas, Mexico in November for two days of discussions followed by a dialogue with indigenous leaders in the State of Chiapas. The concluding declaration urges parliaments, in the next two years, to hold a special debate on the situation of minorities and indigenous peoples and forge a plan of action to make the right to participation and non-discrimination a reality. The first response to the declaration was a debate in the Parliament of Canada on the situation of indigenous peoples in that country.

Representation was also central to an IPU seminar on youth participation in democracy held in London.

Last but far from least, in Bangkok the IPU Assembly celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by holding a gathering, jointly organized with UNICEF, which was addressed by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on violence against children.

Women in politics

The IPU has long been convinced that no democracy fully deserves the name without balanced participation of women and men in the running of public affairs. This is both an ideal and a goal to be pursued in a variety of practical ways.

A part of IPU's work in this area relates to, and is defined by, the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). National governments are obliged to report to the CEDAW Committee on their observance of its terms, and IPU's aim is to involve more parliaments in the reporting. It therefore writes to parliaments when their country's periodical report is going to be presented to the CEDAW Committee, and after the UN Committee stage, IPU forwards the concluding observations to the parliament for discussions on the observations. It also lobbies for parliamentarians to be part of the delegation presenting the report and keeps the CEDAW Committee informed about the parliamentary dimension. For its part, the CEDAW committee has produced a statement on how to work with national parliaments - a first for any UN committee.

Over the past year, the IPU provided capacity-building services to women in various parliaments. In Jordan parliamentarians worked to sift out discriminatory provisions in the labour code, the social security act and the electoral act to try and bring them into line with the provisions of the CEDAW. An all-party working group was formed.



In July, Arab MPs met in Beirut at an event set up by the IPU, the Lebanese Parliament, UN-ESCWA and UNDP. The parliamentarians talked about what they could do for the CEDAW to stand a better chance of being observed in the region: withdrawing reservations to the Convention, adopting special temporary measures, working to change retrograde thinking, and repealing discriminatory law. The regional meeting was followed by discussions with Lebanese parliamentarians and civil society on the domestic violence bill currently before the Lebanese Parliament.



In Togo, parliamentarians joined government and civil society representatives at a three-day retreat which closed with the adoption of a plan of action for improving school enrolment and attendance for girls, increasing numbers of women politicians, and adopting a new family code. The participants discussed the appalling occurrence of incestuous sexual violence that is said to be on the rise in Togo.

At a seminar in Kinshasa, members of the Parliament of the Democratic Republic of the Congo debated what parliament could do to improve implementation of the CEDAW. They examined gender budgeting as an instrument of social justice and agreed to make a review of the family and electoral codes with a view to weeding out discriminatory provisions, support a bill on reproductive health, and promote women's participation in politics through quota measures. Meanwhile, in Rwanda, IPU provided support to MPs who were reaching out to women in their constituencies to explain their rights to them under the CEDAW Convention.

At UN Headquarters in New York, during the 54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March, the IPU and the UN Division for the Advancement of Women held their sixth annual parliamentary meeting. It focused on how parliaments have a part to play in enforcing gender equality and women's rights, fifteen years after the Beijing Conference. There was also a side event on the role of parliaments in enforcing legislation on violence against women.

Elsewhere, in cyberspace to be precise, the cause of equity was advancing through the International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics, (iKNOW Politics), a web-based global network. The network, of which IPU is one of the founders, is expanding in Arab countries, Asia, Latin America and West Africa.

Annual survey: by the end of 2010, the global average for the proportion of women in national parliaments hit a high of 19.1 per cent. Back in 1995, it was 11.3 per cent. The average annual gain is 0.5 points.

A decade and a half after the Fourth World Conference on Women, any optimism must be guarded at best: in many countries the target of gender balance in politics is a distant dream. Such was the conclusion of the latest survey on women in parliament released by the IPU on 8 March. It was issued along with a new World Map of Women in Politics 2010, produced in cooperation with the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, showing the number of women politicians by country and region.

For women in the Executive and Heads of State, progress is even slower than at the parliamentary level. When the 2010 map went to print, women counted for a mere nine out of 151 elected Heads of State (6%), up by one from 2005. Women hold 16 per cent of ministerial posts.



For pdf versions of the map in 6 languages, see:
<http://www.ipu.org/english/surveys.htm#MAP2010>

Violence against women

In 2008, the IPU began its campaign and programme of work to support parliaments in their efforts to curb violence against women. The aim is to help build robust legal frameworks, lobby for the legislation to be put into effect, and increase public understanding of the multiple dimensions of this phenomenon.

After the Paris regional conference in December 2009, the next in the IPU series of regional meetings on violence against women was held in Cuenca, Ecuador, in April, bringing together MPs from nine Latin American countries. Particular attention was devoted to analysing budgets from a gender perspective. At the IPU Assembly in Bangkok a debate was held on violence against women in prisons. In the Maldives, where a domestic violence bill is before parliament, the IPU recruited four experts to assist with the discussions at the committee stage, one of whom is a member of the CEDAW Committee. At the meeting of Arab parliaments in Beirut in July (see page 12), legislating on violence against women was seen as a pressing priority in a region where Jordan is the only country to have passed a law on the subject.

In a related area, and in the framework of its work on children's rights and violence against women, the IPU has been engaged for a number of years in mobilizing parliaments to adopt laws against female genital mutilation. In Mali, where a bill on the subject is due to go before parliament, the IPU helped the National Assembly set up a national seminar in June to give the MPs a better grasp of the realities of this kind of violence. The challenge is to organize sufficiently convincing outreach activities among the population to make sure that there is enough public acceptance of the legislation for it to be enforceable.

Earlier in the year, on the International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation on 6 February, the IPU, the International Organization for Migration, the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children and the Human Rights Office of Geneva held a panel discussion at the University of Geneva. An exhibition on FGM and ways of putting an end to it was staged at the Geneva Museum of Ethnography.

Later in the year, Parliaments around the world joined forces in organizing special events to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November.



United Nations

The IPU continues, step by patient step, to build its strategic partnership with the United Nations. Equally, it continues to engage in a multitude of activities in partnership with its specialized agencies, as described elsewhere in this report. This year's debate in the UN General Assembly took a bold step forward by instituting an annual agenda item exclusively devoted to interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU, as from 2011. At a time when ideas abound about parliamentary oversight over the United Nations, the adoption of the resolution in question is a resounding vote of confidence in the relationship with the IPU.

At the 3rd World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon acknowledged this relationship, saying "The IPU is bringing the voice of the world's people to the work of the United Nations. I count on your leadership and commitment in working together with the United Nations to make a better world for all."

Since its major reforms in 2005, the UN has invited the IPU to work with all the new bodies set up at the time. There is thus a parliamentary contribution to the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), the Human Rights Council, and the Democracy Fund. In 2010 the UN General Assembly invited the newly established UN Women to work closely with the IPU, and resolved to more systematically engage with the organization in establishing a parliamentary component of major UN deliberative processes.

The annual joint IPU/UN General Assembly Parliamentary Hearing was held in November. On the agenda was the question of the continuing economic crisis and its repercussions, two years down the road. In the company of senior UN officials, diplomats and experts, the parliamentarians debated current risks to economic recovery, continuing structural imbalances, reforming the international financial system, and the role of the G20.

For text of UN General Assembly resolution, see:
<http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/unga10/65-l11.pdf>



The MDGs

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were not written expressly with parliaments in mind, and it is therefore not surprising to find a limited sense of ownership of them among legislators. But while many MPs may remain disconnected from international processes, such processes can have a direct impact on national policies, and it is the IPU's role to help MPs and parliaments make sense of the external environment. Without information on the MDGs parliamentarians do not have the power to hold their government to account if it fails to deliver on its international pledges to combat poverty.

Against that backdrop the IPU undertook a study in 2010 to see how parliaments were responding to the MDGs and what methods they were using. The Analytical Study of Parliamentary Mechanisms for the MDGs examines the pros and cons of various institutional approaches to parliamentary oversight of the goals.

A UN summit was held in New York in September to review the state of advancement of the MDGs. Parliamentarians were hosted by the IPU and the UN Millennium Campaign for a discussion on parliamentary support for MDG policies. Along with the Analytical Study, the meeting saw the launch of an IPU survey entitled *MPs Speak Out: a glimpse into parliamentarians' perspectives on the MDGs*. The MDG Summit Outcome Document acknowledges the particular role and responsibility of parliaments and parliamentarians in meeting the MDGs by the target date of 2015.

The following paragraphs report on IPU work on MDGs 4, 5 and 6. MDG 3, on promoting gender equality and empowering women, is covered earlier in this report.



Child survival and maternal health: MDGs 4 and 5



Giving birth safely is largely a privilege of the rich. If maternal fatalities in childbirth are to be reduced worldwide, and if more children are to survive their infancy, parliaments have to be part of the endeavour. The two Millennium Development Goals that cover these twin objectives are Nos. 4 and 5. The IPU campaigns for parliaments to provide better accountability for the commitments made towards their achievement.

A special presentation was held during the Bangkok Assembly to discuss parliamentary action to achieve the two goals. The presentation was part of a series begun in Cape Town in 2008 seeking to provide examples of successful engagement by parliamentarians in overseeing policies and investments to promote these goals, which aim to reduce child deaths by two-thirds and maternal deaths by three-quarters by 2015. A publication on parliaments was also prepared with the WHO Partnership on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.

At a more recent forum in New Delhi, the IPU held talks on how to improve legislative accountability, stressing the need for partnerships between parliamentarians, the media, civil society organizations and development partners in improving policy and budget performance in this area.

Maternal and child health was also central to the annual meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament (see page 7).

HIV and AIDS: MDG 6

The HIV and AIDS pandemic raises difficult societal and human rights questions. 2010 was a year marked by human rights in the IPU's work on HIV and AIDS. At the 122nd Assembly, UNAIDS and the IPU joined forces to urge governments to remove travel restrictions for people living with HIV. The two organizations also encouraged parliamentarians to push for legislation and law enforcement to protect people living with HIV from discrimination.

Legislating in this area has never been easy, and not all laws in recent years have responded to all the complexities. At the XVIII International AIDS Conference in Vienna, MPs met at the invitation of the Parliament of Austria and IPU to debate the impact of criminal law on public health activities, with a special focus on testing and HIV virus transmission modes. Emphasizing the human rights aspects of the debate, a keynote statement was delivered by Manfred Nowak, UN Special Rapporteur on Torture. Members of parliament agreed that laws exclusively criminalizing the transmission of HIV violated the right not to be discriminated against, further stigmatized people living with HIV and created a false sense of security.

Later in the year IPU and UNICEF convened parliamentarians from 13 southern and eastern African countries in Namibia to debate HIV and social protection for children, where they pledged to pass laws and lobby for policies that met the needs and upheld the human rights of children. They called for urgent action in sub-Saharan Africa where half the population survives on less than \$1.25 per day, some 14 million children have lost one or both parents to AIDS, and millions more have experienced deepening poverty.

At a regional seminar in Belgrade in December convened with the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia, MPs discussed the challenges facing legislators and opportunities for partnerships to support parliamentary engagement on HIV/AIDS. They also discussed ways to set up informal cross-party groups on HIV/AIDS and reproductive health.



Other major global concerns which the IPU is seeking to address include the following:

Climate Change

Within the IPU a consensus has been achieved on the need for coordinated action to avert dangerous human interference in the climate system. When 15,000 delegates from 193 countries travelled to Mexico for this year's UN Climate Change Conference in Cancun, parliaments turned to the IPU to bring together the legislators who were attending. The IPU and the Mexican Congress accordingly joined forces in holding a parliamentary meeting in Cancún on 6 December. The Conference President, Mexican Foreign Affairs Secretary Patricia Espinosa, attended the parliamentary meeting to brief legislators on the inter-governmental talks.

The Parliamentary Meeting in Cancún urged IPU Members to focus their climate-related work on adaptation strategies and intersectoral measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Elaboration of national climate-related budgets and implementing legislation should be based on the concept of solidarity. Heightened attention should be devoted to new instruments such as vulnerability and risk mapping, emissions registers, disaster management and early warning systems. Parliaments were invited to inform the IPU Secretariat of any practical measures they might take to enforce the recommendations. They were also invited to provide examples of best practices in terms of reducing the carbon footprint of parliamentary institutions.

In a year marked by lethal climatic and seismographic events, the IPU brought out an advocacy kit for parliamentarians on Disaster Risk Reduction.



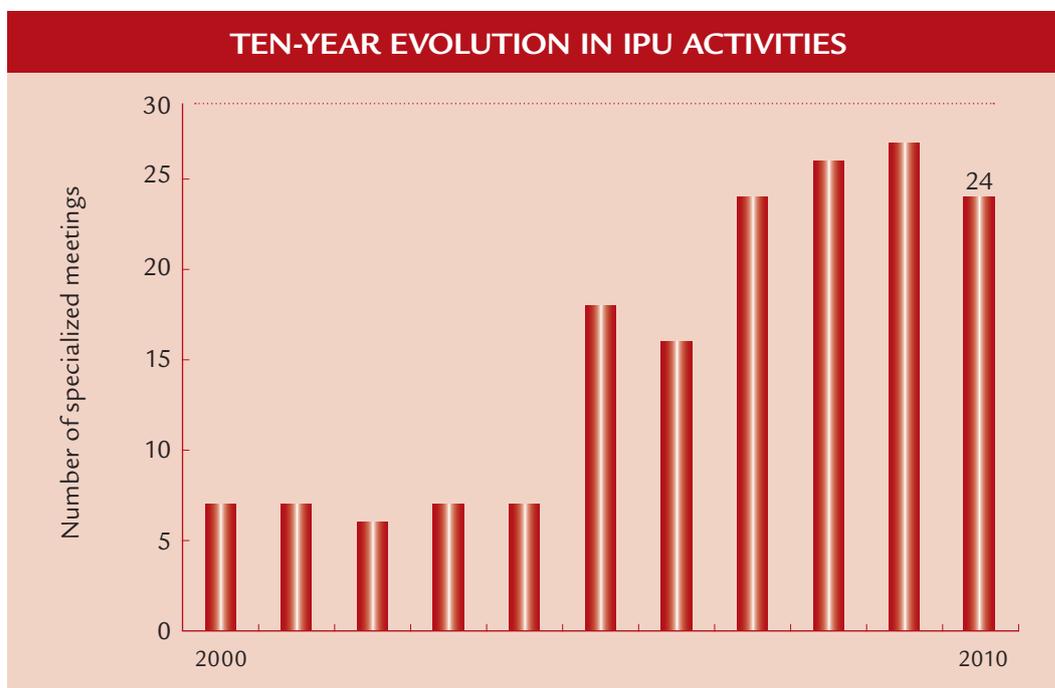
Nuclear weapons

Working with Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), the IPU organized a series of activities during the 2010 NPT Review Conference at UN Headquarters. Parliamentarians gathered in New York to share ideas and experiences on how to advance the growing momentum towards a nuclear weapons-free world. They were joined on 6 May in a panel discussion by the UN Secretary-General, who applauded their initiatives and urged further action towards effective nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. He reiterated that message when addressing the 3rd World Conference of Speakers of Parliament.

Parliaments and world trade

The IPU continues to play a pivotal role in the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organization, a permanent mechanism for oversight of the WTO. In September, the annual WTO Public Forum focused on the topic of forces shaping world trade. Among a rich menu of panel discussions, parliamentarians gave pride of place to a panel discussion on *Can the existing multilateral trading system cope with the emerging challenges?* organized by the IPU and the European Parliament. At the ensuing meeting of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, Director-General Pascal Lamy gave the MPs a detailed briefing on the Doha Round talks.

Institutional developments



Specialised meetings in 2010

- **Regional seminar for Twelve Plus Parliaments on youth participation in democracy**
LONDON (United Kingdom), 8-9 December 2010
- **Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP16/CMP6)**
CANCUN (Mexico), 6 December 2010
- **Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations**
NEW YORK, 2-3 December 2010
- **International parliamentary conference “Parliaments, minorities and indigenous peoples: Effective participation in politics”**
CHIAPAS (Mexico), 31 October - 3 November 2010
- **World e-parliament Conference 2010**
JOHANNESBURG (South Africa), 21-22 October 2010
- **Eastern and Southern Africa Parliamentary Regional Workshop on “Children and AIDS: The social protection response, the role of the Parliaments”**
WINDHOEK (Namibia), 20-22 October 2010
- **Information Seminar on Parliaments and the CEDAW**
GENEVA (Switzerland), 7 October 2010
- **Joint Conference with the Association of Secretaries General of Parliament**
GENEVA (Switzerland), 7 October 2010

- **Seminar on United Nations Human Rights Treaty Bodies**
GENEVA (Switzerland), 7 October 2010
- **Regional Seminar on parliamentary oversight in the area of security in West Africa**
DAKAR (Senegal), 21-22 September 2010
- **Parliamentary side event of the UN MDG 2010 Review Summit**
NEW YORK, 21 September 2010
- **Parliamentary Panel within the framework of the Annual WTO Public Forum**
GENEVA (WTO Headquarters), 16 September 2010
- **Regional Workshop for Arab Parliaments on “Implementing CEDAW and ending violence against women”**
BEIRUT (Lebanon), 27 to 29 July 2010
- **Parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the XVIII International AIDS Conference**
VIENNA, 20 July 2010
- **3rd World Conference of Speakers of Parliament**
GENEVA, 19-21 July 2010
- **Sixth Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament**
BERN (Switzerland), 16-17 July 2010
- **21st session of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO**
GENEVA (IPU Headquarters), 24-25 June 2010
- **Parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the 2010 Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations**
RIO DE JANEIRO (Brazil), 27 May 2010
- **Regional Conference “Towards enhanced parliamentary action to combat the trafficking of children for purposes of labour exploitation in West and Central Africa”**
COTONOU (Benin), 26-28 May 2010
- **Parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the UN Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference**
NEW YORK, 5 May 2010
- **Third Parliamentary Forum on Shaping the Information Society “ICT and the Global Economic Crisis: Current Situation and Future Perspectives”**
GENEVA, 3-5 May 2010
- **Regional Seminar for Latin American parliaments on violence against women**
CUENCA (Ecuador), 21-23 April 2010
- **Parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the 54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women**
NEW YORK (UN Headquarters), 2 March 2010
- **Regional Seminar for the Twelve Plus Group of the IPU on human trafficking**
LONDON (United Kingdom), 22-23 February 2010

Resource mobilization

The IPU is funded by its Members and associate Members through annual assessed contributions. An expanded agenda and an increasing demand for assistance require additional funds. As a result of efforts to obtain predictable and stable funding from voluntary sources, in 2008 the IPU established multi-year partnerships with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Irish Aid and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), for programme funds in 2008-2010. As these arrangements were coming to an end, the IPU entered into negotiations about their renewal during 2010 while continuing to encourage new donors to join the group of IPU funders. Such negotiations are based on the IPU's plan for 2011-2013 entitled "Promoting Peace and Security, Democracy and Development". Negotiations, that are still ongoing at the time of writing, are likely to be successfully concluded in late spring 2011. Other donors, such as the Government of Belgium, the European Commission, UNDP, UNICEF and UNAIDS also contributed to programmes of the IPU during 2010.

The IPU at a glance

Composition of the Executive Committee on 10 February 2011

	MEMBERS	EXPIRY OF TERM
Ex-officio President:	Mr. Th.-B. Gurirab (Namibia)	October 2011
Vice-President of the Executive Committee:	Ms. Z. Drif Bitat (Algeria)	October 2011
IPU Vice-Presidents:	Vacancy (United Arab Emirates)*	October 2012
	Mr. A. Alonso Díaz-Caneja (Mexico)	October 2012
	Mr. R. del Picchia (France)	October 2011
	Mr. M. Vardanyan (Armenia)	October 2013
	Mr. Young Chin (Republic of Korea)	October 2011
Members:	Ms. N. Assegaf (Indonesia)	April 2012
	Ms. S. Moulengui-Mouélé (Gabon)	October 2014
	Mr. M.C. Nago (Benin)	October 2011
	Mr. Ngo Quang Xuan (Viet Nam)	October 2011
	Mr. Nhem Thavy (Cambodia)	October 2013
	Mr. K. Örnfjäder (Sweden)	October 2013
	Mr. D. Oliver (Canada)	October 2014
	Ms. M.A. Saa (Chile)	October 2011
	Ms. D. Stump (Switzerland)	October 2013
	Mr. T. Toga (Ethiopia)	October 2011

* The member of the Executive Committee from this country has ceased to be a parliamentarian.

Standing committees: composition of the bureaux

PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

President:	Mr. T. Boa (Côte d'Ivoire)	African Group
First Vice-President:	Mr. S.H. Chowdury (Bangladesh)	Asia-Pacific Group
Vice-Presidents:	TITULAR	SUBSTITUTE
African Group	Current President	Mr. Z. Madasa (South Africa)
Arab Group	Mr. B. Boutouiga (Algeria)	Ms. L. Bennani Smires (Morocco)
Asia-Pacific Group	Current First Vice-President	Mr. J.D. Seelam (India)
Eurasia Group	Ms. N. Mazai (Belarus)	Mr. V. Nefedov (Russian Federation)
Latin American Group	Mr. A. Gutiérrez Cueva (Peru)	Mr. A. Santos (Brazil)
Twelve Plus Group	Mr. A. Destexhe (Belgium)	Baroness Thomas of Walliswood (UK)
Rapporteurs of the Standing Committee to the 124th Assembly:		
	Mr. J. Seelam (India)	
	Mr. W. Madzimore (Zimbabwe)	

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, FINANCE AND TRADE

President:	Mr. P. Martin-Lalande (France)	Twelve Plus Group
First Vice-President:	Mr. S. Al Hossaini (Saudi Arabia)	Arab Group
Vice-Presidents:	TITULAR	SUBSTITUTE
African Group	Ms. L.S. Changwe (Zambia)	Mr. K. Mporogomyi (United Republic of Tanzania)
Arab Group	Current First Vice-President	Vacancy
Asia-Pacific Group	Ms. S. Tioulong (Cambodia)	Ms. D. Vale (Australia)
Eurasia Group	Mr. V. Baikov (Belarus)	Mr. V. Leonov (Russian Federation)
Latin American Group	Mr. A. Lins (Brazil)	Mr. S. Reyes (El Salvador)
Twelve Plus Group	Current President	Mr. F. Notari (Monaco)
Rapporteurs of the Standing Committee to the 124th Assembly:		
	Mr. A. Cherrar (Algeria)	
	Ms. K. Ferrier (Netherlands)	

DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

President:	Mr. J.C. Mahía (Uruguay)	Latin American Group
First Vice-President:	Mr. Y. Zhumabayev (Kazakhstan)	Eurasia Group
Vice-Presidents:	TITULAR	SUBSTITUTE
African Group	Mr. O. Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu (Ghana)	Mrs. P. Fouty-Soungou (Congo)
Arab Group	Vacancy	Vacancy
Asia-Pacific Group	Mr. S.S. Ahluwalia (India)	Mr. T.J. Wan Junaidi (Malaysia)
Eurasia Group	Current First Vice-President	Mr. S. Gavrilov (Russian Federation)
Latin American Group	Current President	Ms. D. Castañeda (Panama)
Twelve Plus Group	Ms. R.M. Albernaz (Portugal)	Mr. J. Winkler (Germany)
Rapporteurs of the Standing Committee to the 124th Assembly:		
	Mr. Patrick Moriau (Belgium)	
	Ms. M.T. Kubayi (South Africa)	

Membership

In 2010, the Governing Council approved requests for reaffiliation from the Parliaments of Djibouti, Guinea-Bissau and Malawi, and a request for affiliation from the Parliament of Seychelles. It also approved a request for associate membership from the Transitional Arab Parliament.

The IPU currently comprises 155 Member Parliaments and nine Associate Members.

Members (155)

Afghanistan, **A**lbania, **A**lgeria, **A**ndorra, **A**ngola, **A**rgentina, **A**rmenia, **A**ustralia, **A**ustria, **A**zerbaijan, **B**ahrain, **B**angladesh, **B**elarus, **B**elgium, **B**enin, **B**olivia, **B**osnia and Herzegovina, **B**otswana, **B**razil, **B**ulgaria, **B**urkina Faso, **B**urundi, **C**ambodia, **C**ameroon, **C**anada, **C**ape Verde, **C**hile, **C**hina, **C**olombia, **C**omoros, **C**ongo, **C**osta Rica, **C**ôte d'Ivoire, **C**roatia, **C**uba, **C**yprus, **C**zech Republic, **D**emocratic Republic of the Congo, **D**emocratic People's Republic of Korea, **D**enmark, **D**jibouti, **D**ominican Republic, **E**cador, **E**gypt, **E**l Salvador, **E**stonia, **E**thiopia, **F**inland, **F**rance, **G**abon, **G**ambia, **G**eorgia, **G**ermany, **G**hana, **G**reece, **G**uatemala, **G**uinea-Bissau, **H**ungary, **I**celand, **I**ndia, **I**ndonesia, **I**ran (Islamic Republic of), **I**raq, **I**reland, **I**srael, **I**taly, **J**apan, **J**ordan, **K**azakhstan, **K**enya, **K**uwait, **K**yrgyzstan, **L**ao People's Democratic Republic, **L**atvia, **L**ebanon, **L**esotho, **L**iberia, **L**ibyan Arab Jamahiriya, **L**iechtenstein, **L**ithuania, **L**uxembourg, **M**alawi, **M**alaysia, **M**aldives, **M**ali, **M**alta, **M**auritania, **M**auritius, **M**exico, **M**onaco, **M**ongolia, **M**ontenegro, **M**orocco, **M**ozambique, **N**amibia, **N**epal, **N**etherlands, **N**ew Zealand, **N**icaragua, **N**igeria, **N**orway, **O**man, **P**akistan, **P**alau, **P**alestine, **P**anama, **P**apua New Guinea, **P**araguay, **P**eru, **P**hilippines, **P**oland, **P**ortugal, **Q**atar, **R**epublic of Korea, **R**epublic of Moldova, **R**omania, **R**ussian Federation, **R**wanda, **S**amoa, **S**an Marino, **S**ao Tome and Principe, **S**audi Arabia, **S**enegal, **S**erbia, **S**eychelles, **S**ierra Leone, **S**ingapore, **S**lovakia, **S**lovenia, **S**outh Africa, **S**pain, **S**ri Lanka, **S**udan, **S**uriname, **S**weden, **S**witzerland, **S**yrian Arab Republic, **T**ajikistan, **T**hailand, **T**imor-Leste, **T**he former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, **T**ogo, **T**unisia, **T**urkey, **U**ganda, **U**kraïne, **U**nited Arab Emirates, **U**nited Kingdom, **U**nited Republic of Tanzania, **U**ruguay, **V**enezuela, **V**iet Nam, **Y**emen, **Z**ambia, **Z**imbabwe.

Associate Members (9)

Andean Parliament

Central American Parliament

East African Legislative Assembly

European Parliament

Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union

Latin American Parliament

Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Transitional Arab Parliament

Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP)

The ASGP is a consultative body of the IPU comprised of senior parliamentary officials who are in charge of parliamentary services. The Association and the IPU Secretariat endeavour to develop synergies to advance their respective agendas. Since 2003, the President of the ASGP has reported annually to the IPU Executive Committee on the Association's activities. The Association's purposes and activities include the study of the law, practice and procedure of parliaments. It makes suggestions for cooperation between parliaments and for improving their working methods. The agenda for ASGP meetings includes discussion on current themes on the IPU agenda; past examples have included the role of parliaments in promoting reconciliation after civil strife, parliamentary ethics and the development of information and communication technologies in parliaments. Another purpose is to ensure cooperation, when requested and in conjunction with the IPU, in providing legal and technical assistance to parliaments. Many of the programmes of assistance conducted by the IPU in 2010 were implemented with substantial support from the ASGP through its members, who provided the necessary expertise. Since 2006, the IPU and the ASGP have jointly organised a major conference in Geneva, following the October Assembly, on a topical issue related to the work of parliament. In October 2010, the conference was on ways to strengthen links between parliaments and citizens. The Association has an Executive Committee, whose members must belong to different parliaments. The President is Mr. Hafnaoui Amrani, Secretary General of the Council of the Nation of Algeria.

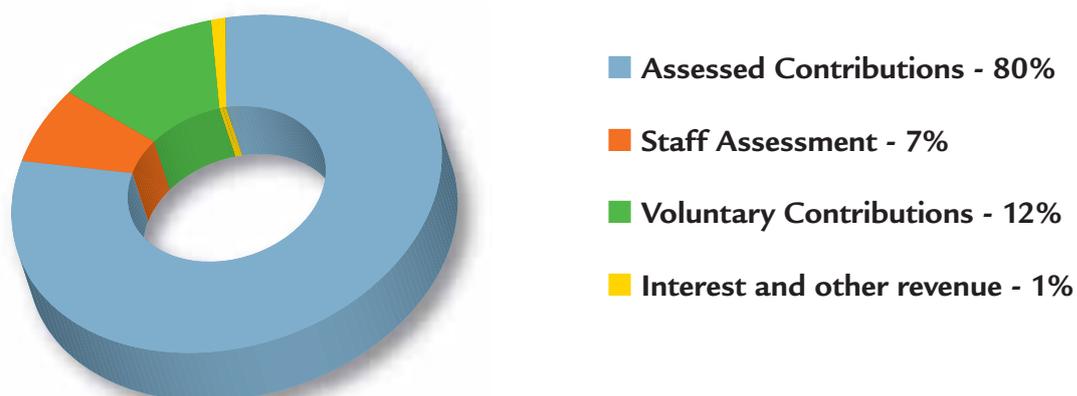
Financial results

Financing

The IPU is financed primarily through the annual assessed contributions from Member Parliaments. Additional sources of revenue are derived from the internal staff assessment, programme support cost charges, interest and sale of publications.

In addition to the foregoing, the IPU also solicits bilateral and multilateral donors for voluntary funding that is used to finance technical cooperation projects and activities. The most recent summary of revenue sources is presented below:

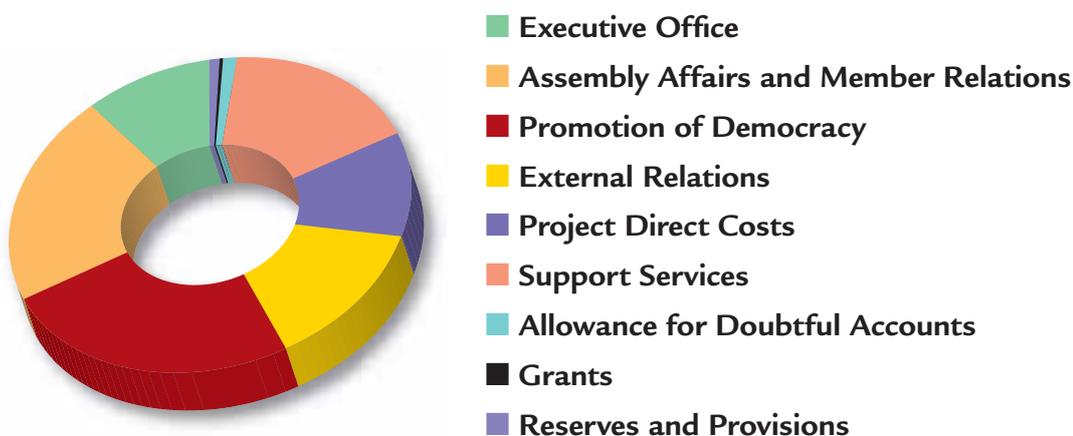
IPU Revenues by Source



Expenditures

IPU expenditures are dedicated to the core strategic objectives of the organization. A breakdown of expenditures by organizational division is shown in the following chart:

	CHF (Swiss francs)	
Executive Office	1,544,489	10%
Assembly Affairs and Member Relations	3,120,200	21%
Promotion of Democracy	3,750,569	25%
External Relations	2,084,268	14%
Project Direct Costs	1,678,724	11%
Support Services	2,562,219	17%
Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	88,817	1%
Grants	38,134	0%
Reserves and Provisions	89,500	1%
Total Operating Expenses	14,956,920	



Financial Statements

The IPU prepares its financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards as applicable to a going concern. The organization's accounts are audited annually by the IPU external auditor under mandate from the Executive Committee. The external auditor is appointed from the national audit office for a term of three years, renewable once.

Further information on IPU's financial processes, including its annual financial statements are available at: <http://www.ipu.org/finance-e/budget.htm#report>

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2010 in CHF (Swiss francs)

	2010	2009
ASSETS		
Cash on Hand	20,427	12,740
Cash on Deposit	6,685,693	7,127,099
Term Deposits	528,883	48,405
Investments	2,550,003	2,519,954
	<u>9,785,006</u>	<u>9,708,198</u>
Accounts Receivable		
from Members	852,997	946,593
from Staff	37,255	24,202
from Donors	16,861	10,204
from Tax Reimbursements	23,286	45,993
Others	26,253	124,917
	<u>956,652</u>	<u>1,151,909</u>
Prepaid Expenses	42,194	113,479
Inventories of Official Gifts	19,796	12,811
Fixed Assets		
Building and Grounds	9,386,782	9,365,782
Furnishings	798,451	778,203
General Equipment	42,281	-
IT Equipment	363,293	319,811
Vehicles	78,534	78,534
less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(2,551,529)</u>	<u>(2,314,826)</u>
	<u>8,117,812</u>	<u>8,227,504</u>
Total Assets	18,921,460	19,213,901
LIABILITIES AND RESERVES		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Payables	351,202	474,929
Advances from Donors	1,506,068	1,382,865
Advances from Members	121,586	231,092
	<u>1,978,856</u>	<u>2,088,886</u>
Loans		
Current Portion	189,600	189,600
Long Term	7,773,600	7,963,200
Pension Fund Liability	2,442,000	2,044,000
Deferred Liabilities	1,744,478	1,823,693
Total Liabilities	14,128,534	14,109,379
Restricted Funds	257,332	167,832
Working Capital Fund (after contribution)	4,535,594	4,936,690
Total Liabilities and Reserves	18,921,460	19,213,901

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 31 December 2010
in CHF (Swiss francs)

	2010	2009
Operating Income		
1 Assessed Contributions	12,028,800	11,856,735
2 Staff Assessment	995,491	1,222,306
3 Voluntary Contributions	1,807,379	2,017,767
4 Investment income	67,982	149,926
5 Other Income	54,172	14,806
Total Operating Income	14,953,824	15,261,540
Operating Expenses		
1 Executive Office	1,544,489	1,401,986
2 Assembly Affairs and Relations with Member Parliaments	3,120,200	2,836,496
3 Promotion of Democracy	3,750,569	3,936,033
4 External Relations	2,084,268	2,150,124
5 Project Direct Costs	1,678,724	1,878,778
6 Support Services	2,562,219	2,385,124
7 Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	88,817	19,207
8 Grants	38,134	52,153
9 Reserves and Provisions	89,500	89,200
Total Operating Expenses	14,956,920	14,749,101
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(3,096)	512,439
Actuarial Gain/(Loss) on Pension Fund	(398,000)	(658,000)
Net Movement in Working Capital	(401,096)	(145,561)
Working Capital Fund, Beginning of Year	4,936,690	5,082,251
Working Capital Fund, End of Year	4,535,594	4,936,690