



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Annual Report 2014



What is the IPU?

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is the global organization of national parliaments. We work to safeguard peace and drive positive democratic change through political dialogue and concrete action.

The only international organization to bring together the world's national parliaments, we promote democracy and peace through this unique parliamentary membership.

An ever-changing pool of about 45,000 MPs, representing citizens worldwide, ensures IPU always has a finger on the pulse of democracy.

IPU is an independent, self-governing body funded mainly by our Members. Our current membership includes 166 national parliaments and 10 regional parliamentary bodies as associate members.

Founded in 1889 and marking its 125th anniversary in 2014, IPU is still growing, reflecting the global demand for democracy.

Cover photo:
The growth of terrorism in Iraq and Syria has displaced whole communities and intensified human suffering.
© Reuters/R. Said, 2014

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IPU yesterday, today and tomorrow

2014 has been a watershed year for IPU in more ways than one and for me personally also. Not only did our Organization turn 125, it also saw the changing of the guard in its top positions. Upon assuming office on 1 July 2014, I pledged to build on the successes of my predecessors and help Members infuse renewed vigour into IPU. The election of a new IPU President, Saber Chowdhury, in October left no doubt in anyone's mind that the new leadership was expected to leave its distinctive mark on the Organization. I will continue to work with the new President to allow IPU to deliver on its goals.

The anniversary was a time for introspection and helped us reflect on just how much the vision of our founders has stood the test of time. It also underscored that democracy is still very much a work in progress and one that is under assault in many parts of the world. IPU had to come to terms with the budget realities of Members still affected by the aftershocks of the global financial and economic crisis. We are constantly endeavouring to do more with less without sacrificing our core mandate.



I have committed to help IPU achieve universality by reaching out to all. This universality means not only increasing our membership, but also tackling issues and challenges relevant to all constituencies. We have been successful in engaging with the Geneva-based diplomatic community as we seek greater coherence in how international commitments are met and how new solutions to global issues are found. As we look to 2015, IPU will stand to gain by focusing efforts on remote constituencies and tackling more vigorously conflicts such as those in Syria, Palestine and the Korean Peninsula.

Change through continuity is the motto by which we intend to build on IPU's legacy and chart a new, exciting course. Part of that change means that IPU will have to relook and reposition itself as a modern organization in tune with the times. If we are truly serious about being inclusive, forward-looking and reaching out to all of our constituencies – including youth, indigenous peoples, minorities and non-Members – then we must adapt and use the tools of the day to communicate with them.

In 2014, IPU's communications efforts to increase the Organization's visibility continued to reach new heights. The updated logo, new strap line and visual identity were applied across the board to all IPU documents, publications and materials and a facelift for our official website is in the making. Social media is now firmly embedded in our work and we are reaching new audiences with different communications approaches. IPU organized the first Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in October in Geneva, a natural follow-up to the establishment of the Forum of Young MPs as a statutory IPU body.

The journey ahead will have to include making a meaningful parliamentary contribution to the post-2015 development agenda, which will be adopted in September 2015. Throughout 2014, IPU led a vigorous campaign for the inclusion of democratic governance not only as a stand-alone goal but also one that is mainstreamed into the other goals. Strong democratic institutions, including parliaments, are required to build democracy and create conditions that are conducive to long-lasting development. Also, all eyes will be on us to lead the parliamentary track in securing a global and binding pact on climate change in 2015.

IPU is a Member-driven Organization and I am counting on our Members to help steer the course reflected in our Strategy for 2012–2017 and to navigate any choppy waters we may encounter along the way. Together we can turn our dreams as an Organization and the dreams of your individual constituents into reality.



Martin Chungong
Secretary General

Driving the next generation of change for peace and democracy

June 30th 2014 was a landmark date for IPU. Marking the 125th anniversary of the Organization, it was a moment that looked to both the past and the future. However, celebrations had begun much earlier and continued throughout the year.

The General Debate by our Members at the 130th IPU Assembly on [IPU at 125: Renewing our commitment to peace and democracy](#), captured the many challenges the world and the Organization have faced over the past 125 years. Highlighting terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, violations of fundamental freedoms, inequality, poverty and the need for good governance among the many challenges of today, Members acknowledged that the vision of IPU's founders in 1889 is as true today as then. The lesson we have learned during our history, and reiterated by Members as we face the future, is that lasting peace and security can only be achieved through inclusive and participatory processes, embodied in a representative and elected parliament.

There can be no future without acknowledgement of the past. [125 years of democratic struggle for peace](#) and [Reflections on IPU](#) charted some of our many contributions to peace and democracy in both our distant and recent history. Whether through the facilitation of political dialogue in the early 20th century and during the Cold War or the promotion of democratic institutions, our work and commitment to a world without conflict has never wavered.

Calling upon parliaments everywhere to renew their commitment to peace, democracy and the rule of law to drive the next generation of change, IPU marked the formal anniversary with a special event at the Palais des Nations in Geneva with the United Nations (UN). Bringing together the international community, [Driving democratic change – IPU at 125 and beyond](#) focused on issues such as breaking gender inequalities, parliaments' role in changing peoples' lives to make a tangible difference and asking the critical question



A landmark exhibition on IPU along the shores of Lake Geneva as part of the anniversary celebrations spoke to new audiences and a younger generation.
© IPU/Jorky, 2014



“Will democracy survive the media?” in a world where digital and social media, accessible 24/7, are revolutionizing the relationship between Members of Parliament (MPs) and constituents.

Parliamentary action for peace and democracy, a physical and online exhibition on IPU and how we are working to overcome the many challenges to peace and democracy in the 21st century, brought IPU closer to both the local and international population in Geneva, our Members and the world beyond. It also continues to be a valuable visual outreach tool for the Organization as we work to make ourselves better and more widely known and understood.

IPU’s origins as a collective of visionary politicians were not forgotten during the anniversary commemorations. Parliaments and democracy are only as strong as the commitment, drive, values and vision of the peoples’ representatives. Through our “*Faces of IPU*”, we have sought to capture the human face of our Organization, the vast majority of the world’s parliamentarians, and reveal the many aspirations of our Members in making the world the people want for now – and the future.



New IPU President Saber Chowdhury takes over as head of the Organization from Abdelwahad Radi.
© IPU/P. Albouy, 2014

Changing of the guard – a new vision for IPU

The winds of change blew full force over IPU in 2014. The 125th anniversary year was one that saw a complete changing of the guard at the helm of the Organization.

The retirement of Mr. Anders B. Johnsson as Secretary General after 16 years marked the end of an era. The election of [Martin Chungong](#) at the 130st Assembly as the eighth IPU Secretary General and the first non-European and first African to hold the post heralded change based on continuity and consolidation.

Promising to build on the successes of his predecessors, he has targeted universal membership and reaching out to marginalized regions and parliaments as his key priorities. He also reaffirmed IPU's long-standing commitments to the key pillars of democracy such as modern, representative parliaments; human rights; gender equality; peace and

development. Well known among IPU Members after more than 20 years at the Organization, the new Secretary General is committed to taking IPU to the membership. A number of regional offices are foreseen in a decentralization drive.

The momentum continued in October with the election of a new IPU President. Former Amnesty Prisoner of Conscience and Bangladesh MP [Saber Chowdhury](#) became the 28th political head of the Organization, taking over from former Moroccan Speaker of Parliament, Abdelwahad Radi.

An active politician on both the national and international stage and a firm believer in human rights and the rule of law, President Chowdhury is particularly passionate on climate change, sustainable development and issues relating to peace and nuclear disarmament. With 2015 set to be a pivotal year with the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and expectations running high for the UN Conference on Climate Change in Paris (COP21) to conclude with a binding agreement, his vision for his presidency is for it to be a defining one.



2014 marked an end of an era with the retirement of Anders B. Johnsson and the election of Martin Chungong as new Secretary General. © IPU/P. Albouy, 2014



Working for a safer world – unity in action

Although the two IPU Assemblies in Geneva in 2014 had record attendance and were dominated by the election of a new President and Secretary General, the many conflicts and crises impacting on peace and security were the main political preoccupations of the global parliamentary community.

Whether it was the conflicts in Syria, Ukraine and the Central African Republic (CAR), or terrorism, the Ebola crisis and the dangers of migration for unaccompanied minors, it is clear that none of these major threats to security can be addressed by individual countries on their own.

IPU Assemblies continue to be unique forums for global unity and action to tackle problems that endanger peace and democracy. Together, we continued our search for ways to make our world safer and more peaceful.

Our Members called for an [end to violations of international humanitarian law and human rights abuses by armed groups in CAR](#). Parliamentary action to help restore peace and rebuild democracy in the African country was identified.

The importance of dialogue between all parties concerned in ending conflict and achieving national reconciliation was reiterated. Particular thought was given to the protracted and devastating nature of the Syrian war.

A bold [resolution](#) to mobilize action on nuclear disarmament and make the world nuclear weapon-free built on previous IPU action on the issue.

[An emergency resolution at the 131st Assembly focused on mobilizing international action to tackle the Ebola crisis.](#) © Reuters/J. Reed, 2014

The Ebola crisis, which exploded onto global consciousness as the year progressed, led to calls for the urgent mobilization of increased financial, medical and logistical assistance to affected countries in Africa. [Recommendations](#) were made on measures to help these countries recover quickly from the negative impacts of the crisis that went beyond health issues.

Parliaments were also urged to tackle the consequences of the [global migration phenomenon on children](#), including human trafficking, the recruitment of child soldiers and gender-based violence, through effective legislation. The perpetrators of such crimes need to be punished and victims better protected.

With growing attention on a new sustainable development agenda to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a [resolution](#) was adopted that called for action on reviewing and amending existing legislation to reduce risk of disasters. Demographic dynamics and urban planning policies needed to be factored into policies for a more sustainable future.

As usual, the Assemblies debated a rich and diverse range of issues. There were general debates on IPU's achievements over its 125-year history with Members renewing a commitment to peace and democracy as the Organization's mandate for the future, as well as gender equality and [ending violence against women](#).

Members also discussed the challenges posed by a high turnover of parliamentarians at elections.

[Elections for IPU President and Secretary General dominated both Assemblies during the year, resulting in record turnouts.](#) © IPU/ P. Albouy, 2014

Both Geneva Assemblies allowed for substantive interaction between MPs and heads of UN and other inter-governmental organizations, including the Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, the Executive Director of UN Women, and the Director General of the International Organization for Migration.

The Speaker of Tunisia's National Constituent Assembly, Mustafa Ben Jaafar, provided tangible proof of the critical role of parliament in any society aspiring to democracy and peace as he presented the newly-adopted Constitution of the country where the Arab Spring began.

The various IPU committees meeting during the Assemblies held hearings and illustrated ongoing cooperation with partner organizations on issues relating to refugees, internally displaced persons and statelessness. A [Handbook for Parliamentarians on Nationality and Statelessness](#) produced with UNHCR was formally launched to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.

More than 100 bilateral meetings between national delegations took place at each Assembly. Agreements were concluded, new initiatives were taken to foster better relations between nations through parliamentary contact and valuable relationships established. In today's troubled times marked by a proliferation of violence and conflict, these interactions are priceless.

Our aim to achieve universal membership also moved that much closer with Guinea, Madagascar and Tonga either joining or rejoining IPU, bringing the total number of Members to 166 national parliaments.





Anguish and loss for both sides in the Gaza-Israel conflict (left and below).
© Reuters/M.Salem and R. Zvulun, 2014

Safeguarding peace and democracy

There can be no democracy without peace. The vision of our founders for a world without conflict where peace is built on dialogue between all voices in society remains the fundamental remit and principle framing IPU's work today.

The adoption of a new Constitution in Tunisia, enshrining freedom of belief and equality between men and women, was a defining moment in the country's roadmap to democracy and one that IPU has long been supporting.

That positive start to the year was followed by agreement and action to help Egypt in similar vein. It underscored the strategic importance of helping post-conflict countries to return to peaceful, democratic rule as quickly and effectively as possible. Effective, representative parliaments are key to success.

However, violence and brutality, which reached new heights in 2014 and the senseless loss of so much human life, have rammed home the very steep challenge we face in making our world a safer place.

During the year, IPU condemned attacks on parliaments and democracy in several countries, including Canada. We monitored developments in Burkina Faso, CAR and Libya and remain ready to support all these countries in their efforts to build peace and national reconciliation through strong representative parliaments. Political dialogue in parliamentary chambers must replace bullets and intimidation on the streets. IPU is continuing to reach out to Thailand in the absence of an elected parliament. The Secretary General delivered a keynote address at a seminar in Bangkok entitled *On the path to reform*.

In this spirit, two outreach visits aimed at national reconciliation following the violence of 2011 were organized by the Côte d'Ivoire National Assembly to Duékoué and Dabou in the west and south of the country. Supported by IPU, the visits sprang from recommendations made at a 2013 West African regional conference on parliament's role in conflict prevention and management.

The growth of terrorism, particularly in Nigeria, Iraq and Syria, deeply preoccupied IPU throughout the year. An [appeal](#) was made to all IPU Members to make a concerted effort to stem the indefensible acts of terrorism enveloping the world.

Several efforts were also made to help end the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians between July and October and bring both sides to the negotiating table. IPU's Committee on Middle East Questions remained the only platform in 2014 through which contact was maintained between the Israeli Knesset and the Palestinian Legislative Council. Each had a representative on the Committee.

The Committee has now broadened its scope and approach as a way to fulfil its remit – follow the Middle East peace process and facilitate parliamentary dialogue between all parties to the conflict. A series of roundtables to build joint peace projects is being proposed. The first will focus on co-existence around the scarce resource of water. Others could involve gender and development.

With the Middle East region now largely affected in some way or another by the Israeli-Palestinian, Iraqi and Syrian conflicts, the Middle East Committee also extended its work to the region as a whole.

The shocking violence and human rights abuses in Iraq and Syria, the ongoing and enormous loss of life, and the rapid spread of terrorism there led to joint discussions between Committee members, the Speakers of the Iraqi and Syrian Parliaments, IPU leaders and Presidents of all other IPU committees, including Peace and International Security. The talks were based on the conviction that terrorism can only

Recommendations were subsequently made in a study, for which IPU will provide support. During the 131st Assembly, IPU Members and experts also examined how violence against women in conflict can be addressed.

On a global, political level, the adoption of a new IPU resolution on parliaments' role in ensuring a nuclear weapon-free world was followed by various activities. Advocacy and awareness-raising, including through the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September, have an important role in parliamentary efforts on the issue.

During the 131st Assembly, parliamentarians, among other issues, looked at nuclear prohibition and divestment legislation, phasing out reliance on nuclear deterrence in favour of cooperative security mechanisms, and practical ways to support multilateral nuclear disarmament efforts and initiatives. This helped shape parliamentary input to the Vienna Conference at the end of the year on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.



be defeated by a sustained and comprehensive approach involving the collaboration of all States and international and regional entities.

The atrocities against women and girls in the Iraqi and Syrian conflicts have horrified the world. In 2014, we worked with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to support parliaments in implementing UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. A meeting in Beirut examined how the resolution was faring in Arab countries and identified actions parliaments need to take.

Our Organization is also committed to supporting UNSC Resolution 1540, which calls for strong measures to keep weapons of mass destruction out of terrorist and non-State hands. IPU and the UN will carry out a three-year programme focusing on this issue.

With internet and digital communications at the heart of 21st century life, the increasing threat and use of cyber warfare can no longer be ignored. An expert hearing held at the 131st Assembly will inform the adoption of an IPU resolution on the issue at the Hanoi Assembly in spring 2015.

Strengthening parliaments – principles for success

The political upheavals in parts of the Arab world and elsewhere in recent years have underscored the belief that for people the world over, parliaments are integral to democratic governance. A strong parliament is one that is representative, accountable, transparent, accessible and effective. A modern parliament that delivers on these criteria fulfils the democratic aspirations of the people.

For the more than 40 years since IPU has been providing support to parliaments, many lessons have been learned on delivering effective assistance.

excellent technical support to enable them to deliver on these, the common principles involve 10 proposals. These include coordination among development organizations, sustainability, ethical and responsible conduct, and the key denominator of all IPU's work – a parliament must drive its own development.

Formally adopted at the 131st IPU Assembly in October, the *Common Principles for Support to Parliament* are expected to be the central reference point on effective parliamentary development everywhere. So far, they have been endorsed by 21 parliaments and nine partner organizations with more IPU members expected to follow suit. By underpinning all IPU work to strengthen parliaments, there is every hope that the Common Principles can make a significant contribution to strengthening democracy worldwide.



[IPU support to the women's caucus in the Côte d'Ivoire Parliament led to a strategic plan being developed and implemented. © IPU, 2014](#)

In 2014, a giant step forward was taken in shaping the future of parliamentary development programmes. A year-long process coordinated by IPU and involving the European Parliament, the French National Assembly, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI), culminated in a set of common principles for parliamentary development.

Based on the general principle that effective parliaments are essential to democracy, the rule of law, human rights, equality and development, and that parliaments require access to

2014 also marked the year in which the IPU Strategy for 2012–2017 passed its midway point and our Members reaffirmed our programme to strengthen parliaments as a fundamental priority. During the year, we carried out 65 support initiatives to strengthen parliaments in 20 countries* and a further eight were carried out regionally. These ranged from helping parliaments to develop their human resources and skills to strengthening capacities and action on human rights, gender equality and health. Since 2012, we have helped 38 parliaments, with priority given to those countries emerging from conflict and/or in transition to democracy.

The World e-Parliament Conference is an increasingly important forum for parliaments to share and develop new ideas for becoming transparent and open institutions in the digital age. © South Korean Parliament, 2014



In March, IPU and the Egyptian authorities signed an agreement on developing a fully functioning and representative parliament through short, medium and long-term strategies. An IPU office in Cairo was opened to facilitate effective and timely work, providing a model for future long-term national and regional programmes elsewhere in the world.

Our work in Egypt in 2014, drawing upon the expertise of our Members as well as IPU and national parliamentary staff, has prioritized the development of human resources to improve support services to parliamentarians. Training for 700 newly-recruited parliamentary staff had already begun and several IPU missions provided advice and expertise on specific measures to be taken before a new parliament is elected. This included ensuring political participation and representation of women and minority groups in the drafting of a new electoral law.

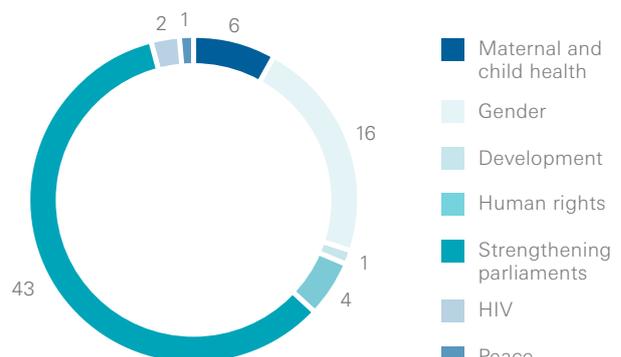
In Myanmar, where we have been engaged in a support programme since 2012, it was a matter of consolidation and continuation. The installation and final staff training for an e-repository of the parliamentary library was a benchmark moment in a long-term project to boost information management resources. There was also more development of management skills and work began to strengthen the Public Accounts Committee, support services to committees overall and parliamentary departments such as Human Resources, Finance, and International Relations and Protocol.

On the global level, the [World e-Parliament Conference 2014](#), hosted by the Republic of Korea Parliament, provided evidence of a growing commitment to openness and transparency as it becomes politically important to demonstrate that

parliament is open to citizens. More and more of our Members are honouring this commitment by making parliamentary documentation available online, broadcasting parliamentary proceedings and adopting policies and practices on open data. However, the Conference also revealed the digital divide that still exists and the many challenges that parliaments face in overcoming it. Bridging this divide should be a priority in building and strengthening democratic values across the world.

*Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Mexico, Myanmar, Oman, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates and Viet Nam

73 national and regional activities by theme





IPU's data on women in politics is a vital resource for IPU Members, policymakers and others in spotlighting what progress needs to be made on women's political representation. © IPU/ P. Albouy, 2014

Challenging the glass ceiling – women in politics

Between the start and end of 2014, the global average percentage of women MPs had barely shifted – from 21.8 per cent to 22 per cent. After the record 1.5 percentage point increase in 2013, this was a major disappointment.

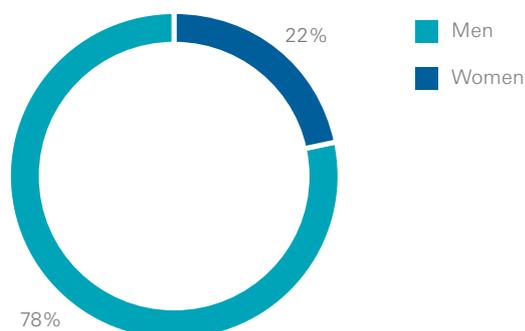
The check on global progress was slightly offset by a few individual highlights. Notably, these were mainly in Latin America. Bolivia, Colombia, Panama and Uruguay recorded increases of between five and nearly 16 percentage points of women in parliament. Elsewhere, Tunisia became one of only 39 countries where women account for more than 30 per cent of parliament's membership. In Fiji, the first democratic parliamentary elections returned 16 per cent women MPs, and in another first for the country, there is now a woman Speaker of Parliament.

Our data on women in executive government at the start of 2014 revealed that although the number of countries with more than 30 per cent women ministers had jumped from 26 to 36 since 2012, glass ceilings remained regrettably firmly in place.

IPU's tracking of women in politics on a daily basis, figures which are then used to form the global rankings on women's political representation, are unique to our Organization.

Widely cited and sought after the world over, IPU data on women in parliament continues to position the Organization as the global port of call on the subject and contributes significantly to IPU visibility.

Gender breakdown of MPs in world



In 2014, our data was used for UNDP's Human Development Report, the Millennium Development Goals monitoring database, the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report and by UN Women, to name but a few. Country-specific data is similarly widely used by media, academia and policymakers across the world.

IPU data used in our own reports included the annual IPU analysis *Women in Parliament, 2013: the year in review* as well as our *Map on Women in Politics 2014*, jointly printed with UN Women.

We pursued our work to provide an up-to-date source of information on electoral quotas for women through [quotaProject](#) – a joint initiative with International IDEA and

With IPU support, Tonga's Legislative Assembly organized a nationwide public awareness campaign on women's access and participation in politics.
[© Parliament of Tonga, 2014](#)

Paving the way for women in parliament

Behind the scenes at national level, IPU is working with parliaments, particularly in post-conflict countries, to take action on getting more women into the institution.

Until systems and mindsets change, quotas remain the most efficient way to enhance women's political participation.

In Egypt, IPU expert advice to a governmental committee in charge of drafting a new electoral law provided legislative solutions to ensuring more representation for women in parliament. As a result, a quota system for women's representation was adopted in the country.

Stockholm University. Together, we produced an *Atlas of Electoral Gender Quotas* on how these are used around the world, with profiles on 85 countries and territories. IPU also continued efforts to strengthen knowledge-sharing on women in politics with the UN, International IDEA and NDI through the www.iknowpolitics.org portal.

To complement this research, we have begun another project focusing on the influence of women in parliament. Consultations were held with women MPs, researchers and organizations providing parliamentary support. These consultations have helped us set the framework for research.



In November, a parliamentary conference organized together with the Côte d'Ivoire National Assembly on gender parity in parliament, led to MPs designing a quota system and ways to implement it effectively. With less than 9.5 per cent of seats held by women MPs, well below the regional average of just over 22 per cent, the next challenge for the West African country is to ensure a quota system is formally adopted and used.

Where quotas are not an option, other measures need to be put in place.

In recent years, IPU has made a push to engage the Pacific region and support democratic development as it has one of the lowest regional averages of women in parliament. During a seminar for Pacific island parliaments, MPs agreed on wide-ranging actions to promote gender equality within parliament and across society.

Increasing women's political participation is a running theme across the annual Women Speakers of Parliament meeting.

© IPU, 2014



Tonga, which has only ever had seven women parliamentarians in 100 years, followed up with action. With our support, the Legislative Assembly organized a nationwide public awareness campaign on women's access to and participation in parliament.

This included a televised practice parliament for women ahead of elections in November. It was a perfect opportunity for 30 women to showcase their talents and abilities as potential leaders to a national audience. Simultaneously, it increased their own knowledge of what parliament does and how.

But the challenge of having more women MPs is also in keeping them in parliament once they are there and helping them make a difference. Developing new skills among women MPs and building on existing ones is a fundamental part of our work. It helps them overcome the barriers they face in their daily work and in getting more women MPs into decision-making roles.

Côte d'Ivoire, which established a caucus of women MPs in 2013 based on IPU guidelines and with the Organization's technical and financial support, has shown what can be achieved when there is a will.

IPU-sponsored training on team-building and strategic planning led to the Ivorian caucus adopting a strategic plan. Using it, funds are now being raised to tackle discrimination against women and to integrate gender into all of parliament's work.

Both Burundi and Rwanda continued their efforts to make their parliaments more gender sensitive, based on the IPU Plan of Action for Gender-Sensitive Parliaments adopted by the 127th Assembly in Quebec in 2012. In Burundi, focus was placed on reinforcing skills on integrating gender equality into legislation and parliament's oversight function. This could be followed by a self-assessment of how gender sensitive the parliament is.

IPU's network of Members is a major added value of the Organization. Rwandan parliamentary staff visiting the German Bundestag could explore how gender is integrated into how it functions. Particular attention was paid to achieving gender equality in human resourcing and training.

A pivotal year for ending violence against women

Media spotlight on the rape and sexual abuse of women and girls in many different countries in recent years has helped to underscore the urgent need to take far-reaching action to end violence against women and girls (VAWG) across the world.

Both fuelling and perpetuating gender inequalities, VAWG undermines democracy, peace, security and human development. Although IPU has been working to put a stop to this abuse since 2008 and made a political statement of intent at the 128th Assembly in Quito, it was in 2014 that the Organization really put VAWG at the heart of its political agenda.

Following a dynamic General Debate at the 131st Assembly, IPU Members endorsed a bold and forward-looking [outcome document](#) in which parliaments strongly condemned VAWG and committed to legislative action to end it by 2030. There was also the acknowledgement that success depended on the collective efforts of both men and women.

Inspiration on what kinds of laws and policies could work to address all types of gender violence was partly provided by the winners of the [Future Policy Award](#), who were announced at a ceremony organized by IPU, the World Future Council and UN Women during the Assembly.

There were also efforts to tackle the specific issue of violence against girls. MPs at an IPU and Bangladesh Parliament seminar in Dhaka on [Ending the cycle of violence against girls in Asia-Pacific](#) agreed to put pressure on governments to fully implement existing legislation and focus on a response that



The kidnapping, rape, forced marriage or sexual enslavement of women and girls in conflict areas continued to be an international concern in 2014.
© Reuters/A. Akinleye, 2014

better supported victims and punished perpetrators. With child marriage one of the most prevalent forms of gender violence in the region, MPs also appealed for strategies to delay marriage age and keep girls in school.

To help inform their debate and follow-up action, a study produced together with the World Health Organization (WHO) on child marriage legislation in 37 countries in the region identified successful approaches as well as legislative gaps.

Globally, IPU also called upon parliaments to step up efforts to protect girls from violence on the [International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#) on 25 November.

[Women Speakers of Parliament](#) meeting at IPU's Geneva Headquarters were united in their call to making VAWG in conflict an urgent global priority. Inaction on the kidnapping, rape, forced marriage or sexual enslavement of women and girls in conflicts such as those in CAR, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, as well as Iraq and Syria during 2014, was unacceptable.

IPU also spoke out strongly against an Afghan bill that would have had a detrimental impact on women victims of violence, and welcomed a subsequent presidential decision for the bill to be redrafted.

On the ground, we supported Burundi, Burkina Faso, the Maldives, Mali, Sierra Leone and Tonga on various initiatives to tackle gender violence. These ranged from reviewing draft bills, parliamentary outreach and awareness-raising visits, training on implementing laws, to logistical support for MP networks.

Tangible positive results have followed. In Burundi, IPU support led to 160 parliamentary amendments to a government bill on gender-based violence. A bill addressing all types of VAWG has been improved in Burkina Faso. In the Maldives, a Sexual Harassment Act drafted with IPU support was ratified, while in Mali, a parliamentary network is once again up and running and has identified legislative priorities on the issue in the coming four years. Training and outreach efforts in Sierra Leone have resulted in all 124 MPs, 160 traditional leaders and local officials having a better understanding of VAWG and how to address it, while in Tonga, there have been successful prosecutions and effective application of protection orders in efforts to implement the new Family Protection Act, which came into force in July 2014.



[“No more!!” Violence against women takes many forms and occurs in every corner of our planet. © Reuters/ G. Brito, 2011](#)

Social media played its role in how participants at the First IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians interacted and communicated on the issues at hand. © IPU/ L. Fortunati, 2014



Bringing youth to the political table

If in recent years several steps have been taken to put youth issues on the parliamentary radar, then 2014 was the year “youth” took a full seat at the IPU table.

The [Forum of Young Parliamentarians](#), established to incorporate a youth perspective into IPU’s work, completed its first full year of operation. The Forum’s Board members were elected and the Forum made an input into IPU Assembly resolutions. All candidates standing for election to be the IPU President or Secretary General were also required to appear before the Forum and make their case. The youth voice is one that can no longer be ignored within IPU – or in the outside world.

Young people between 15–25 years account for one fifth of the world’s population. Yet their disengagement from formal politics and lack of political representation are threats to democracy.

Youth voter turnout remains low across the world’s regions, and young people are largely absent from political parties and parliament. [IPU research](#) in 2014 revealed that less than two per cent of the world’s MPs are below 30 years of age. Worryingly, that statistic has remained unchanged since the last IPU survey in 2011.

At the forefront of many pro-democracy movements and protests, using social media and other non-traditional platforms

to air their concerns, young people are nevertheless on the margins of mainstream politics. Yet they are directly affected by the many global challenges we face – poverty, unemployment, discrimination, migration, conflict and barriers to education.

Youth engagement on finding lasting solutions to these problems is essential for the world. And for democracy. Ensuring young people are engaged politically is an urgent priority if we are to build strong democratic societies. IPU’s campaign for the [International Day of Democracy](#) on 15 September 2014 reflected that concern. Engage youth on democracy and harness its power through bold action and changes in mindsets was our call.

To make this happen, IPU is taking a two-pronged approach: get more young people into parliament and involve young people in global political processes on the issues that matter. Both will yield youth perspectives in political decision-making that are more likely to ensure successful outcomes.

If we are to succeed on greater political involvement, we have to make headway on youth political representation. More than 200 young people, mostly parliamentarians from 71 countries taking part in the first-ever Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, called for robust measures, including introducing quotas and lowering the age for voting and running for political office.

Convened by IPU, the conference on [Taking democracy to task](#) addressed head-on young people’s expectations of politics and political leaders. Winning youth over to re-engage with formal politics will require openness, transparency and effectiveness. It is a challenge that governments and parliaments must rise to.



British MP Ann Clwyd recounts the value of IPU's Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians to the 130th Assembly in Geneva. © IPU/P. Albouy, 2014

Protecting the protectors of human rights

For those who are meant to protect everyone else in society, 2014 was a particularly challenging year.

Responsible for ensuring international human rights agreements and norms are applied at national level, parliament and parliamentarians have to be able to do their job of representing the people and overseeing the government without hindrance or fear.

In many parts of the world, this is not always possible. In some countries, such as Somalia, where parliamentarians are routinely targeted and killed, it is clearly dangerous to be an MP. In Afghanistan, being a woman MP comes with additional challenges and dangers.

Throughout the year, IPU spoke out on human rights violations in every single region of the world, from assassinations, attacks, intimidation, arbitrary arrests and detention to lack of fair trial guarantees and the stifling of freedom of expression.

We expressed serious concern at the targeting of opposition MPs as a strategy to muffle political opposition and undermine democracy. We also called for national authorities to make greater efforts to resolve outstanding cases of political assassinations and speedily bring perpetrators to justice. Sixteen years after the killing of Russian MP Galina Starovoitova, the masterminds remain at large. Assassinations in cases in many other countries, including Burundi, Colombia, Lebanon and Sri Lanka, remain unsolved.

The 13th anniversary of the arrest and disappearance of the Eritrean G-11 group of MPs passed with still no news of them or developments on the case, and we appealed for the death sentence passed against former Iraqi MP Ahmed Al-Alwani to be lifted in the absence of clear information on trial proceedings, his prison whereabouts and his health.

Our Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians examined the cases of 311 MPs, both new and ongoing, from 41 countries. This represented a 13 per cent increase from 2013. These figures represent the bulk of human rights violations against MPs as many cases are not formally lodged with the Committee for investigation and resolution. They also underscore the high price parliamentarians are paying to defend fundamental human rights and to exercise their right to freedom of expression.

In 2014, the largest numbers of cases before the Committee were from Africa and Asia. Opposition MPs remain the most vulnerable to violations. Representing more than 70 per cent of all IPU cases in the world, their situation underlines that political diversity is not a given in many countries.

IPU adopted 101 [new resolutions](#) calling on concerned authorities to take effective action for a satisfactory settlement of cases. The Committee carried out two on-site missions to Turkey and Zambia to help make progress in cases there, and trial observations in Cameroon, Colombia and Malaysia were mandated.

On a positive front, we welcomed the provisional release and swearing-in of eight Turkish MPs who had been imprisoned on alleged State security offences. The release of former Burundian MP Gérard Nkurunziza after more than five years in custody in a case marked by grave judicial irregularities was another piece of good news. As was the case of the Cambodian MPs who took up their seats in parliament after criminal charges brought against them were lifted.

To mark International Human Rights Day on 10 December, IPU produced *Human Rights Abuses of MPs – 2014*, a visual presentation of the Committee’s work and the year’s trends. An annual feature to track global, regional and national trends from now on, it will build on the greater awareness and visibility of IPU’s human rights work in recent years. It will also spotlight where more support is needed to protect the world’s parliamentarians.

Human Rights Abuses of MPs – 2014

Cases referred to IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

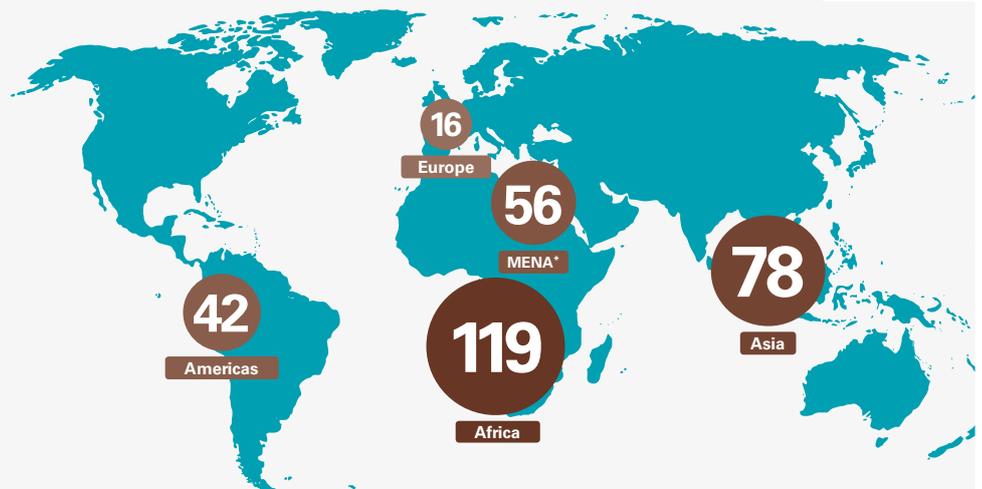
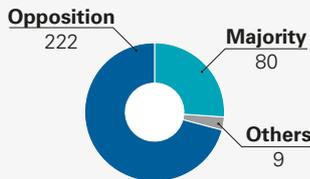
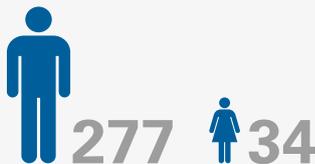


Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy, for everyone.

311 MPs
in **41** countries

Most common violations

- 1 Arbitrary detention
- 2 Lack of fair trial
- 3 Violation of freedom of expression
- 4 Unlawful suspension and loss of parliamentary mandate



*Middle East and North Africa

IPU’s Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians is a unique source of protection and redress for MPs killed, attacked, intimidated or jailed for their political views or differences.

If MPs cannot do their job safely or without fear, they cannot ensure parliament does its job of protecting the human rights and political

freedoms of society as a whole. Without fundamental human rights such as freedom of thought and expression, the right to life, liberty, equality and the right to take part in government, there can be no democracy.

IPU works with parliaments to ensure they deliver on their human rights responsibilities.



www.ipu.org
<http://ipu.org/iss-e/hr-law.htm>
postbox@ipu.org

Reinforcing rights for all

For parliaments and MPs to fully protect the rights of those they represent, they need to be fully informed and engaged on national human rights obligations if they are to oversee government action on this.

At IPU, our aim to strengthen protection and respect for human rights across the world through parliaments is a core part of our work.

Much of that is focused on ensuring parliaments and MPs are connected to the human rights mechanisms of the UN such as the Human Rights Council (HRC) and its Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

A panel discussion during an HRC session in 2013 focusing on how parliaments could more effectively contribute to these mechanisms and processes and the recommendations that followed, resulted in several positive developments in 2014.

Together with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), IPU organized regional seminars aimed at increasing parliamentary knowledge of and engagement with the HRC and its UPR.

The Romanian Parliament hosted the meeting for Central and Eastern Europe, the Uruguayan Parliament for Latin America and the Moroccan Parliament for Africa. At each seminar, concrete recommendations based on regional situations were made.

The adoption of a resolution by the HRC on parliaments' contribution to its work and that of the UPR in June represented a significant step forward. It was a formal acknowledgement of the importance of parliament's role on human rights issues.

The resolution encouraged greater involvement with the HRC and called for increased cooperation between national parliaments, national human rights institutions and civil society. IPU's regional seminar initiative was welcomed and the OHCHR was also called upon to regularly update the Council on IPU's work.

A UN Human Rights Council resolution encouraged greater involvement with parliaments to ensure more effective oversight in the implementation of human rights obligations at national level. © UN/J-M. Ferré, 2014



The Speaker of the Sami Parliament of Norway addresses the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. © UN Photo/Cia Pak



Making indigenous rights a reality

Indigenous rights and political participation were very much on the global and IPU agenda in 2014.

There are 370 million indigenous people in about 90 countries in the world, accounting for five per cent of the global population. However, they represent 15 per cent of the world's disadvantaged and a third of the one billion extremely poor rural people. In addition, indigenous people suffer violations of rights that include forced evictions, land loss, discrimination and loss of culture. Too often, they are absent from political participation and excluded from decision-making at all levels.

In a push to rectify this, two IPU events during the year focused on actions to fight discrimination and uphold the rights of indigenous peoples.

A parliamentary conference in Bolivia that brought together MPs from around the world urged parliaments to translate the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into national law. Many other actions and considerations needed to be taken to ensure indigenous peoples were involved in making decisions that affect their lives, and to end the exploitation of their lands, territories and resources. The new SDGs should factor in indigenous issues.

To help initiate and strengthen parliamentary action on indigenous rights, a new *Handbook for Parliamentarians: Implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* was produced in cooperation with several UN partners. Practical information on legislation, overseeing government action and resource allocation for indigenous peoples is provided.

The UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in New York in September was accompanied by a parallel parliamentary meeting. Specific attention was paid to indigenous peoples' participation in parliament. To inform that debate and provide practical solutions to ensure greater indigenous involvement in decision-making, IPU carried out a survey. *Beyond numbers: the participation of indigenous peoples in parliament* found that there were a minimum of 979 indigenous MPs out of the nearly 45,000 legislators in the world today, 80 per cent of whom are men.

Political solutions do exist to overturn these statistics and to ensure indigenous rights are upheld. But, as our survey showed, much more action is needed to implement them. Doing so would ensure the nearly 90 countries with indigenous populations are truly democratic.



IPU President Saber Chowdhury
and UN Secretary General
Ban Ki-moon meet for their first
official talks at UN Headquarters.
© UN Photo/Mark Garten, 2014



Uniting nations for a better world

Throughout the year, the relationship between IPU and the United Nations went from strength to strength. Whether at national, regional or international level, the engagement between our two organizations has deepened.

In May, a bold and forward-looking resolution was adopted at the UN General Assembly on the interaction between the UN, IPU and national parliaments on key global issues concerning peace, development and human rights. To put the institutional relationship between us on a stronger footing, UN Member States called for a new cooperation agreement. It would not only cement the strategic partnership but also build upon the many achievements of the past 20 years. Importantly, there was the recognition that major global processes and negotiations required a parliamentary input. In particular, IPU plans to convene the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament at UN Headquarters in New York in the lead-up to the UN Summit on the Sustainable Development Goals, were welcomed.

In practice, parliamentary meetings were held alongside major international conferences and processes such as on sustainable development, development cooperation, AIDS, climate change, the rights of indigenous peoples, human rights, gender-based violence and youth.

Within IPU, the Committee on United Nations Affairs became fully operational as the fourth standing committee of the Organization. Equipped with a new Bureau and an elected Committee President, the move was an acknowledgement of the importance of this symbiotic relationship between the UN and parliaments.

During the two IPU Assemblies, the Committee on UN Affairs held hearings with senior UN officials, including the Director-General of the UN Office in Geneva, Michael Møller. There were also discussions on integrated strategies to counter the global drug problem in preparation for a parliamentary contribution to the 2016 UN General Assembly Special Session on Drugs.

Earlier in the year, a field visit to Haiti by the Committee's Advisory Group examined the interaction between a national parliament and a major UN peacekeeping operation. In a politically divided country devastated by the 2010 earthquake and the social, economic and humanitarian challenges it created in its wake, the legislative and oversight role of parliamentarians in stabilizing and reconstructing the Caribbean State was crucial. A number of recommendations were made on ways to improve the relationship between government, parliament and the UN country team to effect the change that would help Haiti and its people.

Both our organizations work ultimately to make positive, tangible differences to the lives of people everywhere. The creation of a better world was a vision of those that founded IPU and the UN but one which is not necessarily widely known or understood. To help address that, IPU joined a UN-led communications initiative to change perceptions on the relevance of our institutions today in the face of stern global challenges. Showing how our work has a life-changing impact on the individual and on societies is the key. Innovative and engaging communications is the means.

Through the "ideas worth spreading" aim of TED talks, IPU joined the UN and other partners in showing how we change lives in the [TEDx Place des Nations](#) event. Through her talk, Afghan MP [Fawzia Koofi](#) revealed to a global audience how the courage and leadership of parliamentarians, and particularly of women MPs, can inspire social and political change and action.

Defining the future of sustainable development

2015 will be the landmark year for the future of global development when the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are adopted. But 2014 was the year when the overall framework for the new goals was being defined and when IPU's input would be particularly critical.

The SDGs are aimed at making sure policies are in place to eradicate poverty by 2030 and to set the planet on a more sustainable course. Success would not only be a turning point in human history, but would also mean democracy and political accountability are delivering on what people expect of them.

In 2014, we at IPU pressed on with our campaign to have a stand-alone goal on strengthening democratic governance. If the world is serious about tackling poverty and challenges to sustainable development, we need institutions that are fit for purpose. Representative of their people and accountable to them for overseeing government, strong parliaments will be fundamental to the success of the SDGs. A goal with a strong reference to parliaments is essential.

We also continued to advocate for a new rights-based model for development, centred on human well-being rather than on simple economic growth. And we reiterated our message that the world needs to finally get serious about gender equality if development has to have any real meaning and chance of success. The Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, a global platform for women MPs at IPU Assemblies, prioritized women's economic and political empowerment as well as poverty eradication as gender priorities for the SDGs.

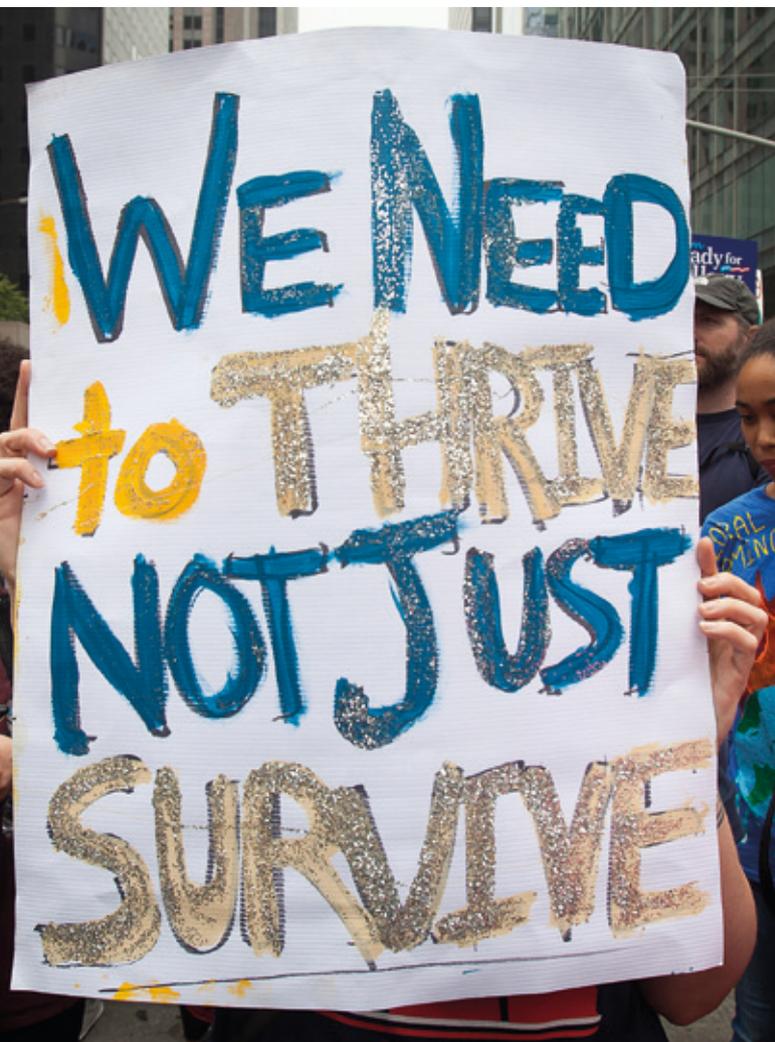
IPU actively engaged with the UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals about our objectives. Its final report issued in July recommended 17 stand-alone goals, one of which included the building of accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Although parliaments were not explicitly mentioned, the proposed goal goes a long way towards supporting the political and institutional reforms advocated by IPU.

Nevertheless, our campaign has and must continue to ensure that what gains have been made are not lost, but built upon. Our Members were encouraged to continue engaging their governments on the issue and to take every opportunity to keep focused on our aim. The annual [Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations](#) in November attended by about 200 MPs highlighted the need to align the SDGs with human rights norms and so combat inequalities as well as poverty.

Earlier in the year, a 19-member IPU-organized delegation attended the first ministerial session of the new High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, where IPU's vision and desire for truly innovative solutions to be found on global sustainability were reiterated. Mandated by the 2012 Rio+20 Conference, the HLPF will be the major hub for the monitoring of the SDGs at the global level.

Acknowledging IPU efforts in support of the post-2015 development agenda, the UN General Assembly adopted two resolutions in 2014 that welcomed IPU involvement in the process. It also included the organization of the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament at UN Headquarters in New York in August 2015 as a contribution to the UN summit, where the SDGs will be adopted.

[Sustainable development must be about the well-being of humans and the planet and not just economic growth.](#)
© Reuters/C. Allegri, 2014



Ensuring access to clean water for all remains a global development challenge.
© Reuters/R.Ranoco, 2014



In parallel to the sustainable development negotiations, IPU continued to be involved in the UN Development Cooperation Forum (DCF). A DCF symposium in Berlin focused on accountability for development cooperation. This will be essential as the DCF is helping to rethink development cooperation as a means to implement the SDGs. The DCF also works in tandem with the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), of which IPU is also a member on behalf of the parliamentary community.

The Global Partnership is designed to support real change at national level by bringing development partners together. IPU's participation at the High-Level Meeting of the

GPEDC in Mexico City, which assessed progress on global commitments made in 2011 and the parallel [Parliamentary Meeting](#) organized with the Mexican Senate, underlined the Organization's commitment to making development work effectively.

2014 was about preparing the ground for the decisions of 2015. We must not falter in our efforts to make sure the right decisions are taken. There is too much at stake.



The impact of drought on the Atibainha dam in Sao Paulo State in Brazil
© Reuters/N. Doce, 2014

No time to lose on taking action on climate change

In the face of comprehensive and incontrovertible scientific evidence of accelerating global warming, parliamentarians have largely recognized that climate change poses a grave threat to the planet and to the very survival of humanity. It is, therefore, critical for everyone to work together and step up efforts to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

With a year to go before the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris with the challenging objective of achieving a legally binding and universal agreement, there is no time to lose in laying the foundations for success at the summit in 2015. IPU, with others, is continuing to insist that any new accord must be legally, politically and operationally binding.

The Parliamentary Meeting organized by IPU and the Peruvian Congress in Lima in parallel to COP20 was the moment to really push forward on committing to action. Speaking with one voice, MPs from around the world laid claim to a central role in any successful political strategy to tackle climate change by underlining their responsibility to ensure agreements are effectively implemented at national level.

An [outcome document](#) called on parliaments to seek broad partnerships in addressing climate change, to set up permanent committees and for IPU to adopt an action plan on the issue to give the necessary momentum to these efforts. Doing so would lay the groundwork for legally effective results beyond 2015. Parliamentarians also reiterated the 2009 Copenhagen agreement on the urgent need to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and limit global temperature rise to less than 2°C from pre-industrial levels.

Government negotiators were urged to flesh out the essential elements of the climate change agreement without delay so as to ensure its definitive adoption in Paris in 2015.

Not taking decisive action now would be to betray future generations. By the time the Paris Conference gets under way, every parliament can show that it has taken clear steps to support low-carbon, energy-efficient development and climate-resilient societies.

Renewing hope for progress on international trade

The successful outcome of the 9th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Bali in 2013 had given rise to renewed hopes, not least among parliamentarians gathered there, that the Doha Round of trade negotiations could finally come to fruition. But within months, that optimism had once more faded.

Legislators are entrusted with the task of overseeing international trade negotiations and scrutinizing the implementation of the commitments entered into by their respective governments. The lack of tangible progress in

[The parliamentary session at the WTO's annual Public Forum focused on the "Post-Bali agenda: where does parliamentary oversight fit in?"](#) © WTO, 2014



the implementation of the Bali package and the stalling of the WTO talks was a matter of serious concern to IPU and our Members. Reinvigorating multilateral trade processes, in particular the WTO-led Doha Round, remains an important political goal for IPU. Its potential for progress on global development demands it.

The Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, an IPU-European Parliament initiative, has for more than 10 years proved its worth as a practical mechanism to engage MPs on trade negotiations. It also helps enhance transparency and makes this uniquely empowered inter-governmental organization accountable to parliamentarians as representatives of the people.

Speaking on behalf of the global parliamentary community, the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference meeting at IPU Headquarters in Geneva in October urged negotiators to boost efforts to move the process forward. The message was unequivocal: failure to deliver on the promise of Bali was not an option for the WTO.

That call, along with those made by others was heard. By the end of the year, WTO had adopted a number of breakthrough decisions, opening the way for a full-scale implementation of the Bali package.

The Steering Committee, which met twice in 2014, comprises representatives of about 25 national parliaments and parliamentary assemblies. Following partial rotation of its membership, Botswana, Colombia, Indonesia, Poland and Portugal have recently joined the Steering Committee.

It is clear – MPs and parliaments need to remain vigilant on developments in international trade negotiations. The WTO's annual Public Forum, which this year focused on, "Why trade matters to everyone", was an opportunity for IPU and the European Parliament to engage more MPs on the issue. A parliamentary session on [Post-Bali agenda: Where does parliamentary oversight fit in?](#) attended by more than 100 parliamentary delegates, became one of the highlights of the Public Forum.

These actions and work over the years to establish a mechanism of effective parliamentary oversight of WTO have started to bear fruit. Not least is the heightened visibility for IPU and the role of parliaments on critical international issues among international Geneva and beyond.

Targeting treatment of HIV and AIDS

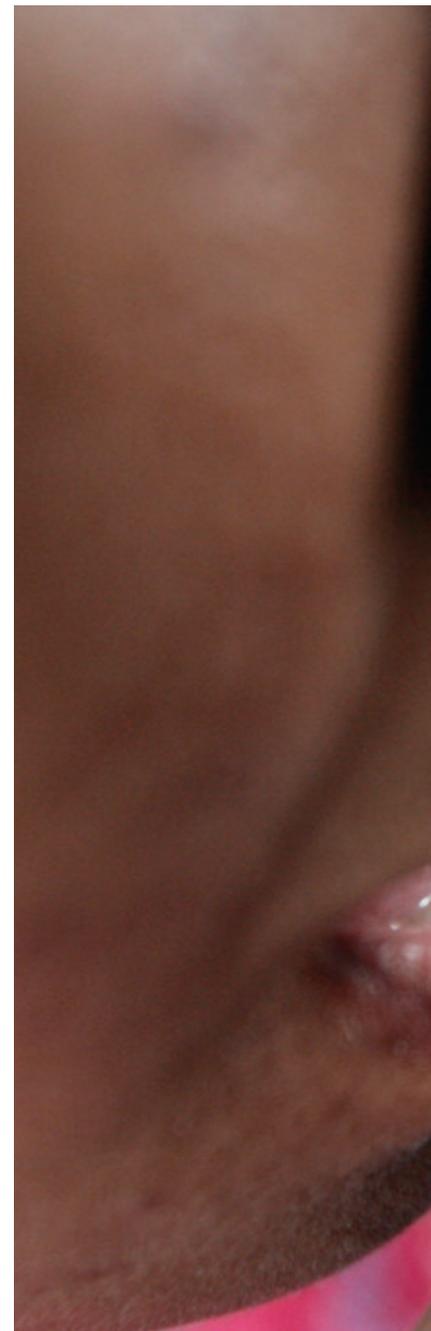
With the number of people with HIV and AIDS remaining largely unchanged at about 35 million globally, access to treatment has emerged as an increasingly critical component of efforts to end AIDS by 2030. Not only does treatment enable those with HIV to live a near-normal life, it can also be used to prevent the transmission of the virus. The irony is that while science is making headway, that progress is not reaching all the people it could – or should.

HIV and AIDS programmes in many countries are failing to reach those that are at most risk, such as men who have sex with men, sex workers, people who inject drugs and transgender people. This is mainly due to laws that criminalize their behaviour and fuel stigma and discrimination, driving vulnerable populations away from health services. Of increasing concern is the low number of children with HIV accessing treatment – 34 per cent compared to 64 per cent of adults.

These two challenges have driven much of IPU's work in 2014. An IPU-Elizabeth Glazer AIDS Foundation event at the 130th Assembly led to the Zimbabwean Parliament taking the initiative to national level. By the end of the year, Zimbabwe had revised national HIV guidelines that are expected to help increase the number of children and adolescents accessing quality testing, counselling and treatment.

The IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH), which works to mobilize parliamentary leadership on these health issues, took the matter to Swaziland. A briefing to parliamentarians in one of the countries most affected by HIV and AIDS on paediatric HIV and AIDS led to discussions on measures MPs could take to ensure successful prevention and treatment among children with HIV in the country.

Access to treatment overall was a major focus of an Advisory Group mission to Viet Nam in late 2014. Organized by IPU, the National Assembly and UNAIDS, the mission reviewed approaches to accessing treatment among other things. It found progress had been made in the past five years on implementing HIV legislation, prevention, and reducing vulnerability among injecting drug users and AIDS-related deaths. Recommendations on further improvement have been shared with the National Assembly.



If the world is to beat AIDS by 2030, getting access to treatment will be pivotal to success. © Reuters/S. Sukplang, 2007



A dialogue between Kyrgyz MPs, IPU and UNAIDS at our Headquarters in Geneva to raise awareness of what parliamentarians can do to lead the fight against the disease resulted in a positive commitment by the parliamentarians to engage their peers on the issue. This will be essential if the worrying increase in prevalence rates among some of the key affected groups in the Central Asian country are to be reversed and for a much-needed overall response programme to be dramatically scaled up.

A [Parliamentary meeting during the XX International AIDS Conference in Melbourne](#), organized by IPU, UNAIDS and UNDP, was a global opportunity for MPs to identify which

parliamentary responses to the AIDS pandemic work best. To help them and MPs everywhere, there is a new resource. The IPU-UNDP guide [Effective laws to end HIV and AIDS: Next steps for parliament](#) highlights positive examples of parliamentary action on the issue and provides practical guidance to MPs interested in rights-based law reform.

2014 also witnessed a further strengthening of the partnership between IPU and UNAIDS. A Programme Funding Agreement, a direct result of a 2013 framework on future cooperation, will lead to specific IPU activities to help end HIV and AIDS.



Progress on maternal and child health is more likely to be made in countries that combine strong political vision with coherent guiding principles than in countries with high economic growth indicators. © Reuters/ L. Gnago, 2013

Forging ahead to improve maternal and child health

Every day, approximately 800 women die during pregnancy and 7,500 newborns in childbirth, with most of these concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. The tragedy lies not in the statistics, but that these deaths could have been prevented.

2014 marked the third year of IPU action on maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH), kick-started by the adoption of our ground-breaking resolution at the 126th Assembly in Kampala entitled *Access to health as a basic right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children*. It remains a defining instrument to help parliamentarians provide leadership on the issue. During the year, our MNCH work focused on Africa and Asia.

In Uganda, we supported efforts to improve the accountability of parliament and MPs' advocacy skills on MNCH. Our partnership with the Ugandan Parliament led to renewed support of advocacy efforts to tackle the issue. A bill was drafted and tabled, mass media campaigns to raise awareness among citizens were carried out, and training was given to MPs on how to fully engage in the budgeting process for MNCH programmes.

In Rwanda, support concentrated on helping parliamentarians to better fulfil their oversight function on women's and children's health and to reinforce their abilities to advocate for better and more accessible family planning services. In addition to seminars and workshops, consultations were organized in hard-to-reach areas with both the public and health professionals.

With more than 160 million children under five in the world stunted due to inadequate nutrition, and another 42 million who are obese, child nutrition needs to be addressed as part of overall efforts to improve MNCH. A regional event in Laos held in partnership with UNICEF and others led to Asia-Pacific MPs committing to action. This included raising awareness among their peers and reviewing national laws and policies. These and other recommendations also fed into a global parliamentary meeting held in parallel to the Second International Conference on Nutrition in Rome in mid-November.

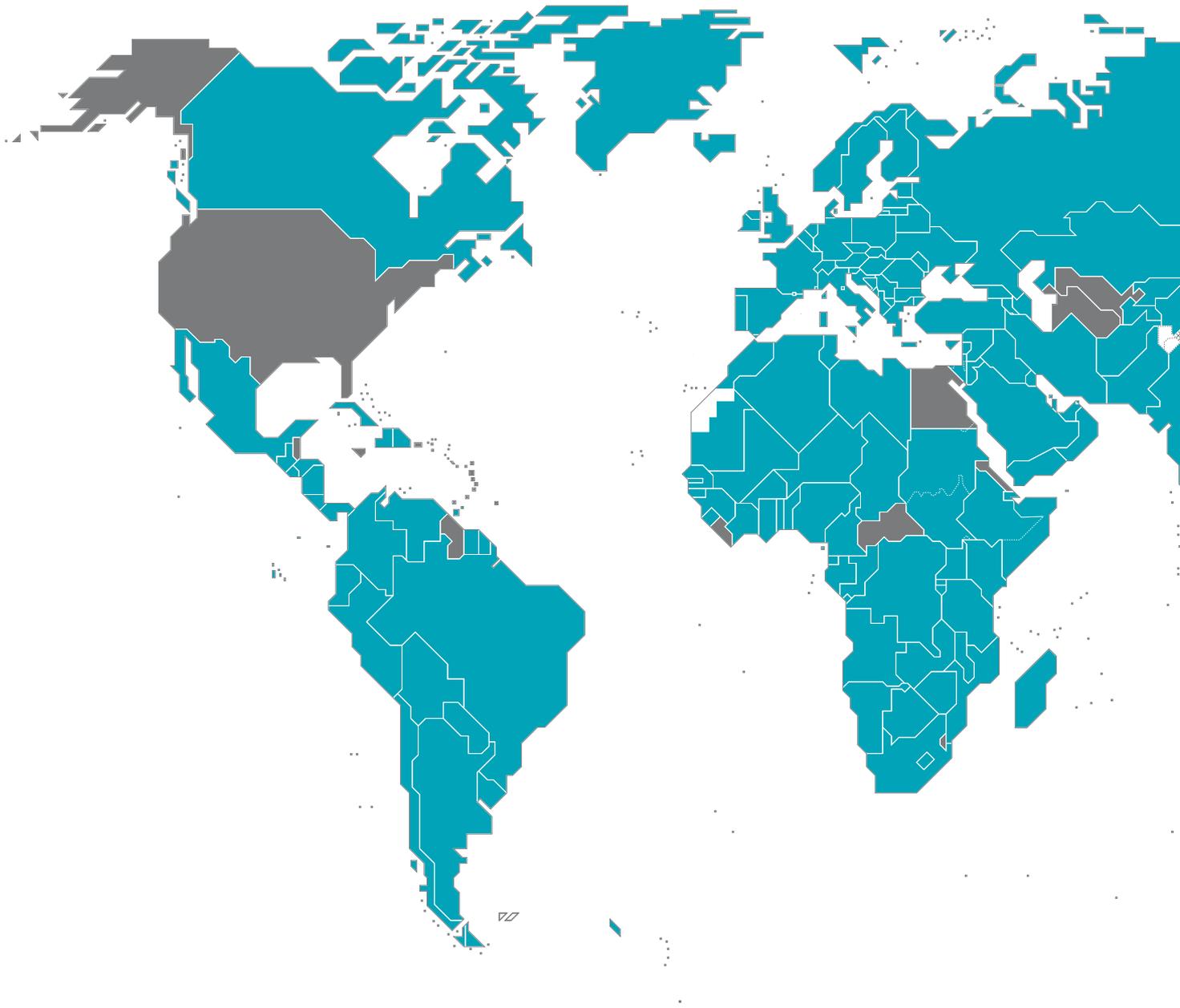
Collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) was maintained and strengthened globally. A side event with PMNCH, Leaving no woman, child or adolescent behind: Accelerating parliamentary action in reducing maternal and child mortality to reach the Millennium Development Goals, was held during the 131st IPU Assembly to distil best ways to improve MNCH and to drive the message home that parliamentary action on the issue must be accelerated and not allowed to let up.

IPU also participated in WHO Stakeholder Meeting on Accountability for Women's and Children's Health, where the accountability framework for MNCH was reviewed and concrete steps to address the gaps were identified.

We are a strong supporter of the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, outcomes of which are reported annually through WHO's independent experts review group, iERG. IPU's submission to iERG highlighted our work with parliaments in the previous 12 months both at the country and regional levels. Discussions on version 2.0 of the Global Strategy have started. We aim to make a significant contribution and are exploring new opportunities for collaboration with our partners.

In the past 20 years, considerable progress on MNCH has been made in countries combining strong political vision with coherent guiding principles rather than those with high economic growth indicators. In 2015, our Members will be able to show what progress they have made since 2012 on implementing key recommendations of the Kampala resolution.

Drawing and building upon this, IPU will continue supporting parliamentary action to strengthen accountability, create proper legal and policy frameworks and implement strategies to make access and quality of care for women and children a reality.



IPU at a glance

President of IPU

Mr. Saber Chowdhury (Bangladesh) was elected President of IPU on 16 October 2014 for a three-year term.

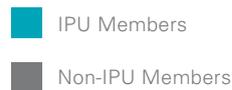
Secretary General of IPU

Mr. Martin Chungong (Cameroon), was elected Secretary General of IPU on 20 March 2014 for a four-year term.

Membership

In 2014, the Governing Council admitted the Parliament of Tonga and readmitted the National Assemblies of Madagascar and Guinea to IPU. Observer status was granted to the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM).

IPU currently comprises 166 Member Parliaments and 10 Associate Members.



Members (166)

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland,

Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Associate Members (10)

Andean Parliament, Arab Parliament, Central American Parliament (PARLACEN), East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), European Parliament, Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO), Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Parliament of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) and Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

Composition of the Executive Committee as of February 2015

	Members	Expiry of term
Ex-officio President:	Mr. S. Chowdhury (Bangladesh)	October 2017
Vice-President of the Executive Committee:	Mr. F.M. Drilon (Philippines)	October 2015
IPU Vice-Presidents:	Mr. R.M.Kh. Al Shariqi (United Arab Emirates)	April 2017
	Vacancy (Burkina Faso)*	October 2015
	Mr. V. Senko (Belarus)	October 2017
	Mr. D. Vivas (Venezuela)	October 2016
	Mr. R. Walter (United Kingdom)	October 2017
Members:	Mr. R. del Picchia (France)	October 2018
	Mr. K. Dijkhoff (Netherlands)	October 2017
	Ms. Z. Drif Bitat (Algeria)	October 2018
	Ms. R. Kadaga (Uganda)	October 2015
	Mr. N. Lammert (Germany)	October 2015
	Ms. M. Mensah-Williams (Namibia)	March 2016
	Ms. N. Motsamai (Lesotho)	October 2015
	Ms. I. Passada (Uruguay)	October 2015
	Mr. M.R. Rabbani (Pakistan)	October 2015
	Vacancy (Japan)*	October 2018

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

Standing Committees: composition of the Bureaux as of February 2015

		Expiry of term
Peace and International Security		
President:	Mr. J.R. Tau (South Africa)	March 2016
Vice-President:	Mr. A. Omari (Morocco)	March 2018
African Group	<i>Current President:</i> Mr. P. Nzengué Mayila (Gabon) Vacancy	March 2018
Arab Group	<i>Current Vice-President:</i> Ms. S. Hajji Taqawi (Bahrain) Mr. A. Al-Ahmad (Palestine)	March 2018 March 2018
Asia-Pacific Group	Ms. S. Barakzai (Afghanistan) Mr. M. Hosseini Sadr (Islamic Rep. of Iran) Vacancy	March 2018 March 2018
Eurasia Group	Ms. K. Atshemyan (Armenia) Mr. M. Ashimbayev (Kazakhstan) Mr. A. Klimov (Russian Federation)	March 2018 March 2018 March 2018
Group of Latin America and the Caribbean	Mr. R. Godoy (Argentina) Ms. G. Fermín Nuesi (Dominican Republic) Mr. Y. Jabour (Venezuela)	March 2018 March 2018 March 2018
Twelve Plus Group	Ms. J. Durrieu (France) Mr. A. Neofytou (Cyprus) Mr. D. Pacheco (Portugal)	March 2018 March 2018 March 2018
Rapporteurs of the Standing Committee to the 132nd Assembly:		
	Mr. J.C. Mahía (Uruguay)	
	Mr. N. Lazrek (Morocco)	

		Expiry of term
Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade		
President:	Mr. R. León (Chile)	March 2015
Vice-President:	Mr. O. Hav (Denmark)	March 2018
African Group	Ms. C. Cerqueira (Angola) Mr. A. Cissé (Mali) Mr. H.R. Mohamed (United Rep. of Tanzania)	March 2018 March 2018 March 2015
Arab Group	Mr. J. Al Omar (Kuwait) Mr. Y. Jaber (Lebanon) Ms. Z. Ely Salem (Mauritania)	March 2018 March 2018 March 2018
Asia-Pacific Group	Ms. N. Marino (Australia) Mr. I.A. Bilour (Pakistan) Ms. S. Tioulong (Cambodia)	March 2018 March 2015 October 2018
Eurasia Group	Mr. S. Gavrilov (Russian Federation) Vacancy Vacancy	March 2018
Group of Latin America and the Caribbean	<i>Current President:</i> Vacancy Mr. F. Bustamante (Ecuador)	March 2015
Twelve Plus Group	<i>Current Vice-President:</i> Ms. S. de Bethune (Belgium) Ms. M. Obradović (Serbia)	October 2018 March 2017
Rapporteurs of the Standing Committee to the 132nd Assembly:		
	Mr. J. Mwiimbu (Zambia) Mr. I. Cassis (Switzerland)	

		Expiry of term
Democracy and Human Rights		
President:	Ms. F. Naderi (Afghanistan)	March 2017
Vice-President:	Mr. J.M. Galán (Colombia)	March 2015
African Group	Mr. J.-A. Agbré Touni (Côte d'Ivoire) Mr. D.P. Losiakou (Kenya) Ms. A. Diouf (Senegal)	March 2018 March 2018 March 2018
Arab Group	Ms. J. Nassif (Bahrain) Mr. R. Abdul-Jabbar (Iraq) Mr. Y. Assaad (Syrian Arab Republic)	March 2015 March 2018 March 2018
Asia-Pacific Group	<i>Current President:</i> Ms. Lork Kheng (Cambodia) Mr. S. Mahmood (Pakistan)	March 2018 March 2018
Eurasia Group	Ms. A. Naumchik (Belarus) Ms. E. Vtorygina (Russian Federation) Vacancy	March 2018 March 2018
Group of Latin America and the Caribbean	<i>Current Vice-President:</i> Ms. K. Sosa (El Salvador) Mr. A. Misiekaba (Suriname)	March 2018 March 2018
Twelve Plus Group	Ms. S. Koutra-Koukouma (Cyprus) Ms. L. Wall (New Zealand) Mr. C. Janiak (Switzerland)	March 2018 March 2017 March 2017
Rapporteurs of the Standing Committee to the 133rd Assembly:		
	Ms. B. Jónsdóttir (Iceland) To be announced	

		Expiry of term
United Nations Affairs		
President:	Vacancy	
Vice-President:	Mr. M. El Hassan Al Amin (Sudan)	March 2018
African Group	Vacancy Ms. C.N. Mukiite (Kenya) Mr. S. Chiheb (Algeria)	March 2018 October 2018
Arab Group	<i>Current Vice-President:</i> Ms. R. Benmassaoud (Morocco) Mr. A.O. Al Mansouri (United Arab Emirates)	March 2018 March 2018
Asia-Pacific Group	Ms. E. Nursanty (Indonesia) Mr. J. Jahangirzadeh (Islamic Rep. of Iran) Vacancy	October 2018 October 2018
Eurasia Group	Vacancy Vacancy Vacancy	
Group of Latin America and the Caribbean	Ms. G. Ortiz González (Mexico) Ms. I. Montenegro (Nicaragua) Mr. J.C. Mahía (Uruguay)	March 2018 March 2018 March 2018
Twelve Plus Group	<i>Current President:</i> Mr. D. Dawson (Canada) Ms. K. Komi (Finland)	March 2018 March 2018

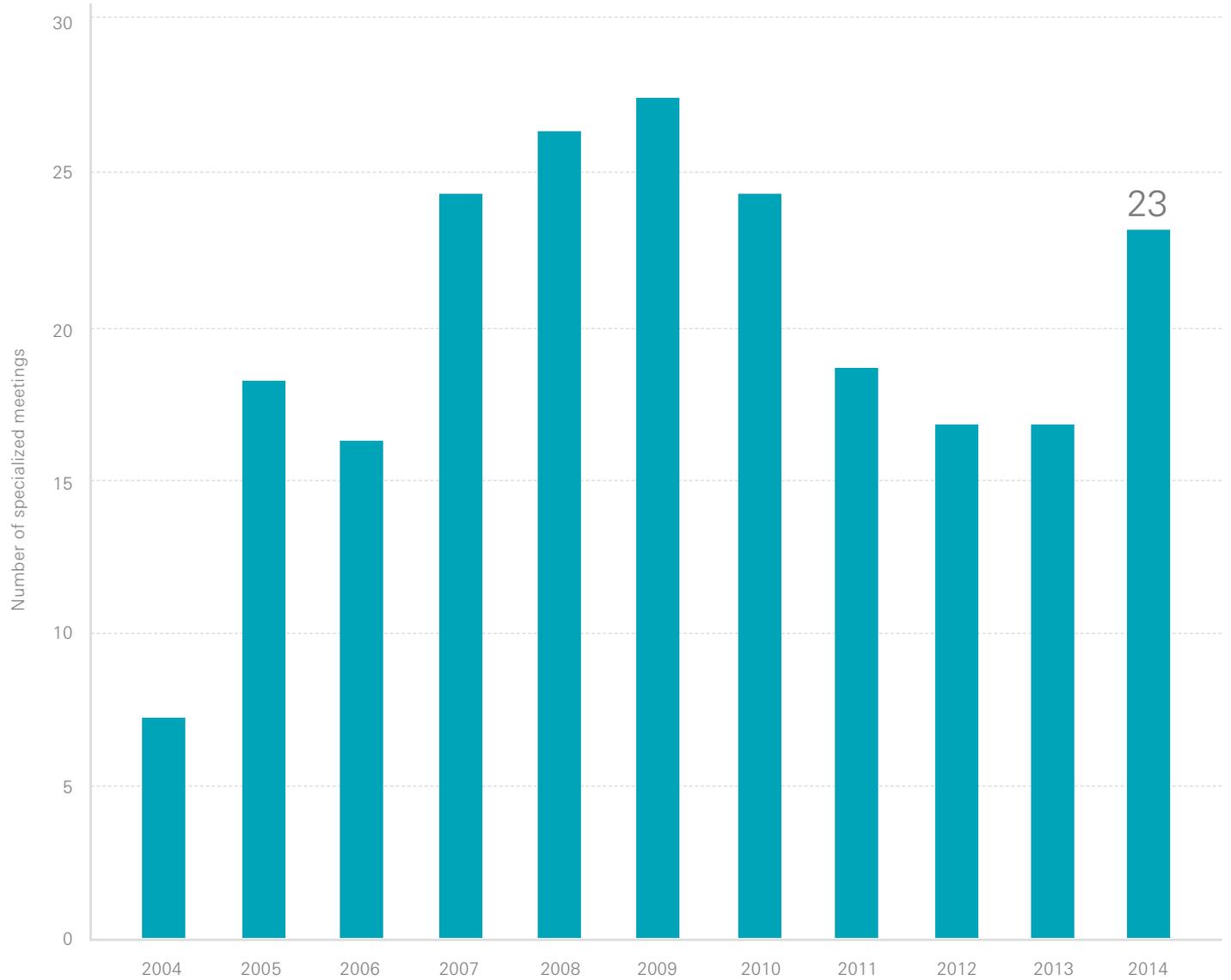
Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP)

The ASGP brings together Secretaries General and other senior office holders in charge of parliamentary services. It studies the law, procedure, practice and working methods of different parliaments and proposes measures for improvement and for securing cooperation between the services of different parliaments. It is a consultative body of IPU, and the ASGP President reports annually to the IPU Executive Committee on the Association's activities. The ASGP President is Doris Mwinga, Secretary General of the Zambian Parliament. The ASGP assists IPU at the latter's request on subjects within the scope of the Association. Studies carried out by IPU relating to parliamentary law and practice are routinely shared with the ASGP and benefit from its input. In 2014, the ASGP provided valuable contributions to the development of a set of Common Principles for Support to Parliaments, which were formally adopted by IPU in October. The ASGP also provides substantial support to many of the technical assistance projects conducted by IPU. In 2014, several of its members provided expertise during assessment and training missions to Bangladesh, Egypt, Guinea Bissau, Myanmar and Tunisia, among others.

Specialized meetings in 2014

- Side event on indicators of democratic governance – UN Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals
NEW YORK, 6 February 2014
- 31st session of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO
BRUSSELS (Premises of the European Parliament), 11–12 February 2014
- Regional follow-up seminar on “The role of parliamentarians in the implementation of Universal Periodic Review recommendations”
BUCHAREST (Romania), 17–18 February 2014
- Parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women
NEW YORK, 11 March 2014
- International Parliamentary Conference on Parliaments and the rights of indigenous peoples
SANTA CRUZ DE LA SIERRA (Bolivia), 7–9 April 2014
- Parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the High-level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation
MEXICO CITY, 14 April 2014
- World e-Parliament Conference
SEOUL (Republic of Korea), 8–10 May 2014
- Event to commemorate the 125th anniversary of IPU
GENEVA, 30 June 2014
- Regional follow-up seminar on “The role of parliamentarians in the implementation of Universal Periodic Review recommendations”
MONTEVIDEO (Uruguay), 15–16 July 2014
- Parliamentary Meeting at the 20th International AIDS Conference
MELBOURNE (Australia), 21 July 2014
- Review of the draft Common Principles for Parliamentary Development
MANILA (Philippines), 28–29 August 2014
- Ninth Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament
GENEVA, 4–5 September 2014
- Regional seminar for Asia-Pacific Parliaments on “Ending the cycle of violence against girls in Asia-Pacific”
DHAKA (Bangladesh), 23–25 September 2014
- Seminar for African parliaments “Translating international human rights commitments into national realities: The contribution of parliaments to the work of the United Nations Human Rights Council”
RABAT (Morocco), 29–30 September 2014
- Parliamentary session within the framework of the annual WTO Public Forum
GENEVA (WTO Headquarters), 1 October 2014
- 32nd session of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO
GENEVA (IPU Headquarters), 2 October 2014
- First IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians on the theme “Taking democracy to task”
GENEVA, 10–11 October 2014
- Workshop on Good Nuclear Disarmament Practice
GENEVA (IPU Headquarters), 17 October 2014
- Regional seminar “Promoting child nutrition in Asia”
VIENTIANE (Lao People’s Democratic Republic), 4–6 November 2014
- Parliamentary meeting at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)
ROME (Italy), 18 November 2014
- Annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations
NEW YORK, 19–20 November 2014
- Parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP20/CMP10)
LIMA (Peru), 8 December 2014
- Parliamentary Roundtable during the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons
VIENNA (Austria), 9 December 2014

Ten-year evolution in IPU meetings



Financial results

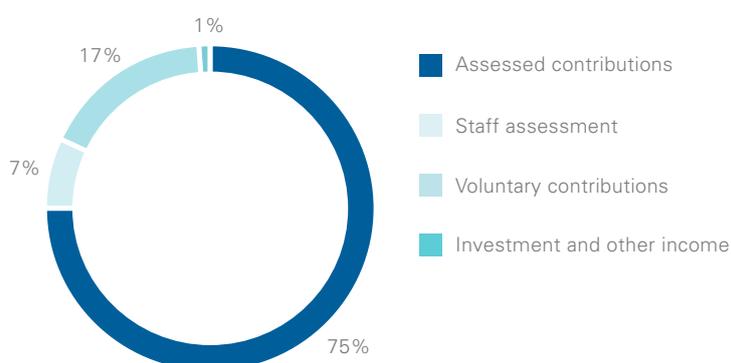
Financing

IPU is financed primarily through the annual assessed contributions from Member Parliaments. Additional revenue is derived from the internal staff assessment, programme support cost charges, interest, fund income and meeting room rentals. In line with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), IPU no longer recognizes the staff assessment element as either income or expenditure in its Statement of Financial Performance but utilizes it for budgetary purposes.

In addition, IPU also solicits bilateral and multilateral donors for voluntary funding that is used to finance technical cooperation projects and activities. A summary of revenue sources for 2014 is presented below, including staff assessment for expenditure comparison.

IPU revenues by source (budget basis)

	CHF (Swiss francs)	%
Assessed contributions	10'952'900	75%
Staff assessment	967'288	7%
Voluntary contributions	2'562'058	17%
Investment and other income	123'046	1%
Total revenue	14'605'292	



Expenditures

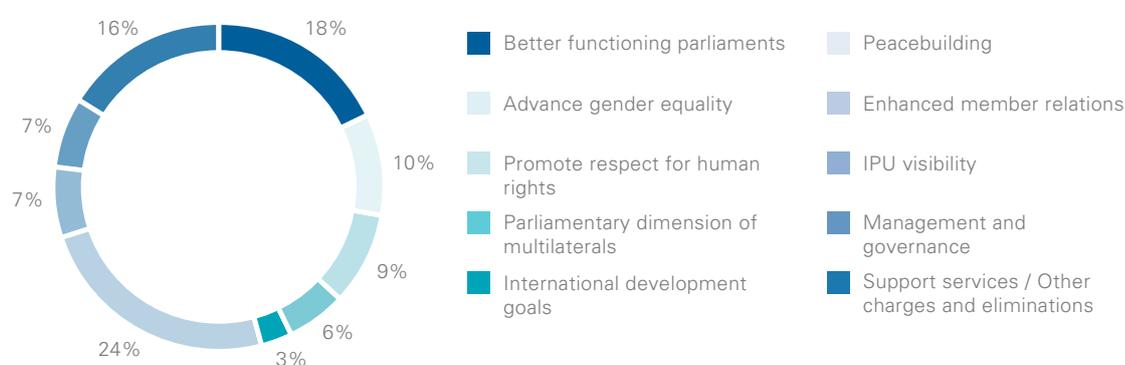
IPU expenditures are dedicated to achieving the strategic objectives of the Organization. A breakdown of expenditures by strategic objective is shown in the following chart, which includes staff assessment for comparison.

IPU expenditures by strategic objective (budget basis)

	CHF (Swiss francs)	%
Better functioning parliaments	2'546'281	18%
Advance gender equality	1'417'935	10%
Promote respect for human rights	1'287'125	9%
Parliamentary dimension of multilaterals	793'844	6%
International development goals	435'102	3%
Peacebuilding	38'928	0%
Enhanced member relations	3'375'125	24%
IPU visibility	978'976	7%
Management and governance	1'061'046	7%
Support services	2'470'045	17%
Other charges and eliminations	-114'686	-1%

Total expenses

14'289'721



Financial Statements

The consolidated financial statements of IPU and its legacy Pension Fund for 2014 are prepared in accordance with IPSAS on a full accrual and going-concern basis. The Organization's financial statements are audited annually by IPU's external auditor under mandate from the Executive Committee. The external auditor is appointed from a national audit office for a term of three years, renewable once.

This is the third year in which the IPU financial statements have been consolidated with the legacy Pension Fund and prepared in full compliance with IPSAS.

Further information on IPU's financial processes, including its annual financial statements and consolidated budgets, are available at www.ipu.org/finance-e/overview.htm.

IPU and closed Pension Fund

Statement of financial position at 31 December 2014 in CHF (Swiss francs)

	2014	2013
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash on hand	8'675	6'825
Cash in current accounts	8'638'737	7'918'498
Cash held by investment fund manager	331'575	270'832
Term deposits and savings accounts	1'568'085	1'563'657
Subtotal cash and cash equivalents	10'547'072	9'759'812
Accounts receivable		
- from Members	719'794	952'480
- from donors	38'760	16'326
- from tax reimbursements	172'664	143'427
- others	59'114	13'758
Subtotal accounts receivable	990'332	1'125'991
Investments	10'335'248	10'758'980
Other current assets	255'670	216'288
Subtotal current assets	22'128'322	21'861'071
Non-current assets		
Fixed assets		
- Building and grounds	8'984'809	9'231'738
- Furnishings	53'084	60'707
- General equipment	286	11'143
- IT equipment	91'302	106'543
- Vehicles	18'046	27'069
	9'147'528	9'437'199
Intangible assets	–	–
Subtotal non-current assets	9'147'528	9'437'199
Total assets	31'275'850	31'298'270
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued payables	211'400	209'254
Advances from Members	257'421	532'807
Deferred revenue	2'194'915	1'693'293
Loans	189'600	189'600
Subtotal current liabilities	2'853'336	2'624'955
Borrowings long term	5'620'663	5'742'049
Closed Pension Fund	11'793'777	12'453'993
Other employee benefits	1'449'623	1'562'117
Subtotal non-current liabilities	18'864'063	19'758'159
Total liabilities	21'717'399	22'383'114

	2014	2013
Net assets		
Restricted funds	532'510	500'518
Accumulated fund balance (working capital fund after contribution)	9'025'941	8'414'638
Net assets	9'558'451	8'915'156

IPU and closed Pension Fund

Statement of financial performance at 31 December 2014 in CHF (Swiss francs)

	2014	2013
Revenue		
Assessed contributions	10'952'900	10'950'800
Voluntary contributions	2'562'058	1'970'037
Investment income	655'641	618'921
Other income	66'172	29'674
Total revenue	14'236'771	13'569'432

	2014	2013
Expenses		
Personnel expenditure – permanent staff	8'165'396	8'166'537
Personnel expenditure – temporary staff	2'162'423	1'837'382
Change in closed Pension Fund provision	-660'216	-651'254
Travel expenditure	1'464'232	1'488'975
Contractual services	960'090	762'093
Operating expenses	871'371	747'441
Supplies, materials and equipment	174'109	153'733
Allowance for doubtful accounts	-65'277	-42'148
Grants and honoraria	127'285	112'412
Depreciation	325'849	336'631
Amortization of loan	68'214	69'594
Loss on foreign exchange	-	16'131
Total expenses	13'593'476	12'997'526
Operating surplus/(deficit)	643'295	571'905

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Inter-Parliamentary Union

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