



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION



Membership as at 31 January 2000

Members

*The national parliaments
of the following 139 countries:*

Albania
Algeria
Andorra
Angola
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Belarus
Belgium
Benin
Bolivia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada
Cape Verde
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire*
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Denmark
Djibouti
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Estonia
Ethiopia
Fiji
Finland
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Germany
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Guinea
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Mali
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Mauritius
Mexico
Monaco
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Nepal
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Norway
Pakistan*
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay

Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
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Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Tajikistan
Thailand
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Togo
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Uzbekistan
Venezuela
Viet Nam
Yemen
Yugoslavia
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Associate Members:

Andean Parliament
Central American Parliament
European Parliament
Latin American Parliament
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council
of Europe

* The Parliament of this country has been dissolved and the IPU's governing bodies will be required to review its membership at their next session in Amman (Jordan) in May 2000.

What is the IPU?

Founded in 1889 and with its seat in Geneva, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is the world organisation of national parliaments.

At the dawn of the twenty-first century, the world's oldest multilateral political organisation brings together representatives of national parliaments and regional parliamentary assemblies.

Its mission is to foster peace and security through political dialogue, to promote democracy and respect for human rights, and to contribute to the development of representative and effective legislative institutions.

The IPU operates an extensive programme for the promotion of democracy and constitutes a unique global resource for information on parliaments and their structure and functioning. It collects basic data and literature and undertakes comparative and analytical research on parliamentary elections and the working of parliamentary institutions. With the help of its wide network of member parliaments and international partners, it serves as a provider and coordinator of technical assistance to parliaments.

As part of this programme, the IPU promotes partnership between men and women in political life. It maintains a comprehensive database on women's participation in politics, organises debates and undertakes studies to assess progress, and suggests initiatives for further action to achieve parity and partnership in politics.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is first and foremost a political forum for members of parliament. Bringing together parliaments and their members from around the globe on a regular basis, representing every political system and the entire spectrum of ruling and opposition parties, the IPU is a unique platform for observing political opinions and trends around the world.

Each year, the IPU holds two rounds of statutory conferences and related meetings when MPs from all member parliaments meet to exchange experience, to explore avenues for bilateral, regional and global cooperation and to coordinate their activities. It also holds a variety of other global or regional events on specific themes as well as meetings of specialised bodies.

The IPU promotes political negotiations for conflict prevention and settlement through both public multilateral dialogue and quiet parliamentary diplomacy. It has established specific mechanisms for the promotion of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean, along the lines of a previous initiative in Europe, and for certain troubled countries and regions such as Cyprus and the Middle East.

Through resolutions and reports, the organisation expresses the views and positions of the world parliamentary community on issues of international interest and makes recommendations for parliamentary action.

It uses similar channels to stimulate action by parliaments to defend and promote human rights. A special Committee investigates complaints of violations of the human rights of members of parliament themselves. Through dialogue with national authorities and on-site missions, the Committee seeks to determine the facts and to obtain redress where violations have occurred.

The IPU is an official international organisation that works closely with the United Nations system. It provides a parliamentary dimension to the UN by encouraging direct participation and involvement of national parliaments and their members in United Nations activities and by extending parliamentary support to the UN at the international level. The IPU organises regular parliamentary hearings with senior United Nations officials at UN Headquarters, provides parliamentary input to major UN conferences and summits, works in support of several UN peacekeeping and peace-building operations and cooperates closely with the United Nations through its democracy programme.

The IPU will hold a Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments in the UN General Assembly Hall in late August 2000 in conjunction with the Millennium Assembly.

Origins

Created in 1889 on the initiative of two parliamentarians and men of peace, William Randal Cremer (United Kingdom) and Frédéric Passy (France), the Inter-Parliamentary Union was the first permanent forum for multilateral political negotiations. Promoting the concepts of peace and international arbitration, the IPU laid the foundations for today's form of institutionalised multilateral cooperation and advocated the establishment of corresponding institutions at the intergovernmental level – which came into being as the League of Nations and then the United Nations.

The IPU was also instrumental in setting up what is now the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague. Over the years, eight Nobel Peace Prizes – including the first three – were awarded to leading IPU personalities.

Nobel laureates

- 1901 Frédéric Passy (France)
- 1902 Albert Gobat (Switzerland)
- 1903 William Randal Cremer (United Kingdom)
- 1908 Frederic Bajer (Denmark)
- 1909 August Beernaert (Belgium)
- 1913 Henri La Fontaine (Belgium)
- 1921 Christian Lange (Norway)
- 1927 Henri Buisson (France)

IPU's headquarters (Photography IPU/Salgado H)



Structure

The Inter-Parliamentary Conference

This is the main body through which the IPU expresses its views on political issues. It meets twice a year (in the spring and autumn) and brings together some 700 parliamentarians to study international problems and make recommendations for action. Delegations attending Conferences customarily include MPs from all parties (majority and opposition). Voting rights vary according to a State's population, and votes can be split to reflect the different opinions of delegation members. The Conference is held each time in a different country, at the invitation of national parliaments, thus offering participants the opportunity to compare different societies and to strengthen bilateral links with the host country. **Four plenary Study Committees** assist the Conference in its work.



The Inter-Parliamentary Council

This is the plenary policy-making body of the IPU. It meets twice a year (during the statutory conferences) to draw up the annual programme and budget and decide on the affiliation or suspension of members and associate members. The Council also expresses the Union's view on issues laid before it by the Committees or subsidiary bodies. It is composed of two representatives – generally of different political persuasions – from each member and associate member. The members of the Council elect the President of the Council and the Secretary General of the Union.

President: Mrs. Najma Heptulla (India), elected in 1999 for a three-year term.

The Executive Committee

This is the IPU's select governing body which oversees its administration and assists the Council in an advisory capacity. The President of the Council is its ex officio President. Twelve members, two of whom must be women, are elected by the Council; the President of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians is an ex officio member.

The Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

Established in 1978 as a mechanism for coordination among women parliamentarians, the Meeting now forms part of the official structure of the Union and reports to the Council. At statutory meetings, it discusses subjects of common interest and works out strategies to develop the IPU women's programme, give women greater weight in the organisation and ensure that they are elected to key posts. The Meeting is assisted by a Coordinating Committee, whose President is an ex officio member of the Executive Committee.

The Secretariat

The IPU Secretariat is responsible for carrying out its programme of activities in conformity with the decisions of its statutory organs.

Secretary-General: Mr. Anders B. Johnsson (Sweden), elected in 1998 for a four-year term.

Budget

The IPU is financed directly by its members from public funds. The budget for the year 2000 totals 10.3 million Swiss francs. The IPU receives external financial support, primarily from the UNDP, for certain special activities.

Democracy

Promoting principles of democracy

The IPU develops international standards and norms as part of its action to promote democratic and pluralist systems of representative government. In 1994, for example, the IPU adopted a *Declaration on Criteria for Free and Fair Elections* and in 1997 a *Universal Declaration on Democracy*.

Strengthening democratic institutions

"Democracy is founded on the right of everyone to take part in the management of public affairs. It therefore requires the existence of representative institutions at all levels and, in particular, of a Parliament in which all components of society are represented and which has the requisite powers and means to express the will of the people by legislating and overseeing government action."

Universal Declaration on Democracy,
paragraph 11
(Inter-Parliamentary Union, 1997)

In pursuit of this objective, the IPU carries out a comprehensive programme of institution building that focuses on parliaments.

Information gathering and dissemination

The IPU adds to the store of knowledge concerning parliaments by gathering information in its **specialised library** on the powers, structure and working methods of parliaments, disseminating it through its publications and Web site, and constantly updating information on parliamentary elections throughout the world.

The IPU maintains three bilingual (English/French) databases that are directly accessible through its Web site, <http://www.ipu.org>:

- **Parline** (Parliaments on Line) on the role, structure and functioning of parliaments and the status of their members;
- **Parlit** on literature relating to the functioning of national parliaments and parliamentary elections;
- **Women in politics** on literature relating to all aspects of women's involvement in politics (accessible from February 2000).

Recent meetings and workshops on the functioning of parliaments:

- African parliamentary Conference on *"The Contribution of Parliaments to Democracy in Africa"* organised jointly with the African Parliamentary Union (Harare, Zimbabwe, 1998);
- Parliamentary *Seminar on Relations between Majority and Minority Parties in African Parliaments* (Libreville, Gabon, 1999), which also adopted model guidelines on the opposition in parliament.

National seminars for parliamentarians and parliamentary officials:

The most recent were held in Burundi, Fiji and Yemen.

Technical assistance

The IPU runs a technical cooperation programme to assist parliaments, especially emerging democracies and developing countries, in building up their capacity to discharge their constitutional responsibilities, including oversight of government action.

With the help of senior parliamentary staff, the IPU provides specialised technical advice and implements projects of assistance to parliaments. In 1999-2000, it is running and supervising projects valued at \$7.8 million in the following parliaments:

Burundi, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Viet Nam and Yemen.
Projects are being developed in Cambodia, Indonesia and Tajikistan.

In 1998, the IPU signed an Agreement of Cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to boost technical cooperation activities and, in particular, to promote the participation of women in politics.



Promoting partnership between men and women

"The achievement of democracy presupposes a genuine partnership between men and women in the conduct of the affairs of society in which they work in equality and complementarity, drawing mutual enrichment from their differences."...

Universal Declaration on Democracy, paragraph 4
(Inter-Parliamentary Union, 1997)

This concept has served as the backbone of IPU's work to improve the status of women, which covers all areas but focuses on women's participation in politics.

Studies and surveys

Through studies and surveys, including statistics, and specialised conferences and debates during its statutory meetings, the IPU keeps track of global trends in respect of women's right to vote and stand for election and their representation in political parties, parliaments and governments. Constantly updated data on women in parliament are accessible both through the IPU's publications and on its Web site (<http://www.ipu.org>). Since 1998, they have been presented in the form of a regularly updated colour-coded map of the world.

The IPU examines action by women to carve out a place for themselves in politics and to bring about change in political structures and processes. Its most recent study is



based on a series of interviews that shed light on the political careers of women throughout the world, their experience in political parties, parliaments and governments, and their relations with the media and non-governmental organisations.

In 2000, a meeting based on an analysis of this data and organised in cooperation with UNESCO and the United Nations will bring together an equal number of men and women from governments, parliaments and different branches of society. It will follow up the 1997 meeting in New Delhi: *Towards Partnership between Men and Women in Politics*. A first meeting in the series, convened by the Union in 1989, brought to light the inherent link between the involvement of women in politics and the achievement of democracy.

Strategy

The IPU develops strategies to strengthen the partnership between men and women in politics. *Its Plan of Action to correct present imbalances in the participation of men and women in political life* was the result of a two-year process of parliamentary consultation and was drawn up by a group composed of an equal number of men and women representing the world's main political movements and cultures. Initially intended as a contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, September 1995), the Plan led to major progress in a number of countries and within the IPU itself. At the Beijing Conference, 500 parliamentarians from 102 countries, brought together by the IPU at the headquarters of the Chinese National People's Congress, adopted the *Beijing Parliamentary Declaration* in which they pledged to follow up the IPU's *Plan of Action* and the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*.

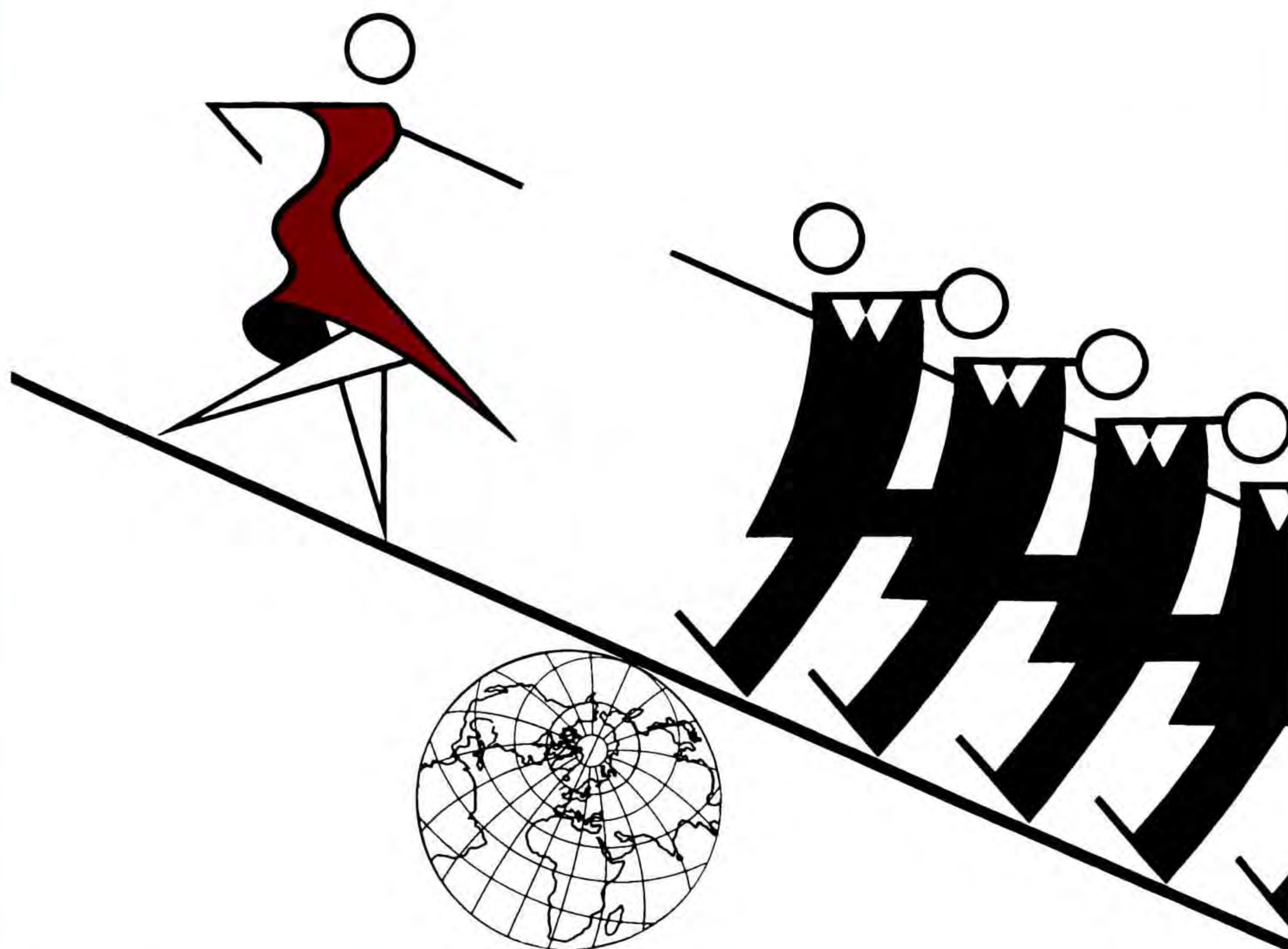
In connection with the "Beijing + 5" Special Session of the General Assembly in June 2000, the Union published, in late 1999, the findings of a global survey of action taken by national parliaments to follow up the two instruments and of a supplementary survey of measures taken by political parties represented in parliament to boost women's involvement in their activities.

The IPU closely followed the drafting of the *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women* and encourages parliaments to bring their national legislation into line with its provisions. In 1997, it studied the impact of armed conflict on women and children, and it has made a statement on ways and means of eliminating all commercial and other forms of sexual exploitation of women and children.

Previously, it had amended its Statutes and Rules to eliminate any use of language that implied the pre-eminence of one sex over the other and to ensure that women were represented in national delegations to inter-parliamentary meetings, in the IPU Executive Committee and in all drafting committees.

Mechanisms

The Meeting of Women Parliamentarians is the principal mechanism. In 1997, the IPU also established a **Gender Partnership Group**, composed of two men and two women, to ensure that the interests and views of the two halves of the population are equally reflected in all the Union's activities.



Human rights

Defending human rights

"Democracy is inseparable from the rights set forth in the international [human rights] instruments... These rights must therefore be applied effectively and their proper exercise must be matched with individual and collective responsibilities. Democracy is founded on the primacy of the law and the exercise of human rights. In a democratic State, no one is above the law and all are equal before the law."...

Universal Declaration on Democracy, articles 6 and 7
(Inter-Parliamentary Union, 1997)

Standard-setting activities and networking

IPU action in defence of human rights, including the human rights of parliamentarians, includes initiatives to promote the ratification of international human rights instruments and their implementation at country level, debates on human rights and the promotion of contacts and exchanges of information among parliaments. To that end, the IPU publishes a *World Directory of Parliamentary Human Rights Bodies* which provides an overview of parliamentary mechanisms dealing with human rights issues in national parliaments and international parliamentary assemblies. The most recent edition was published in 1998.



Defence of the human rights of parliamentarians

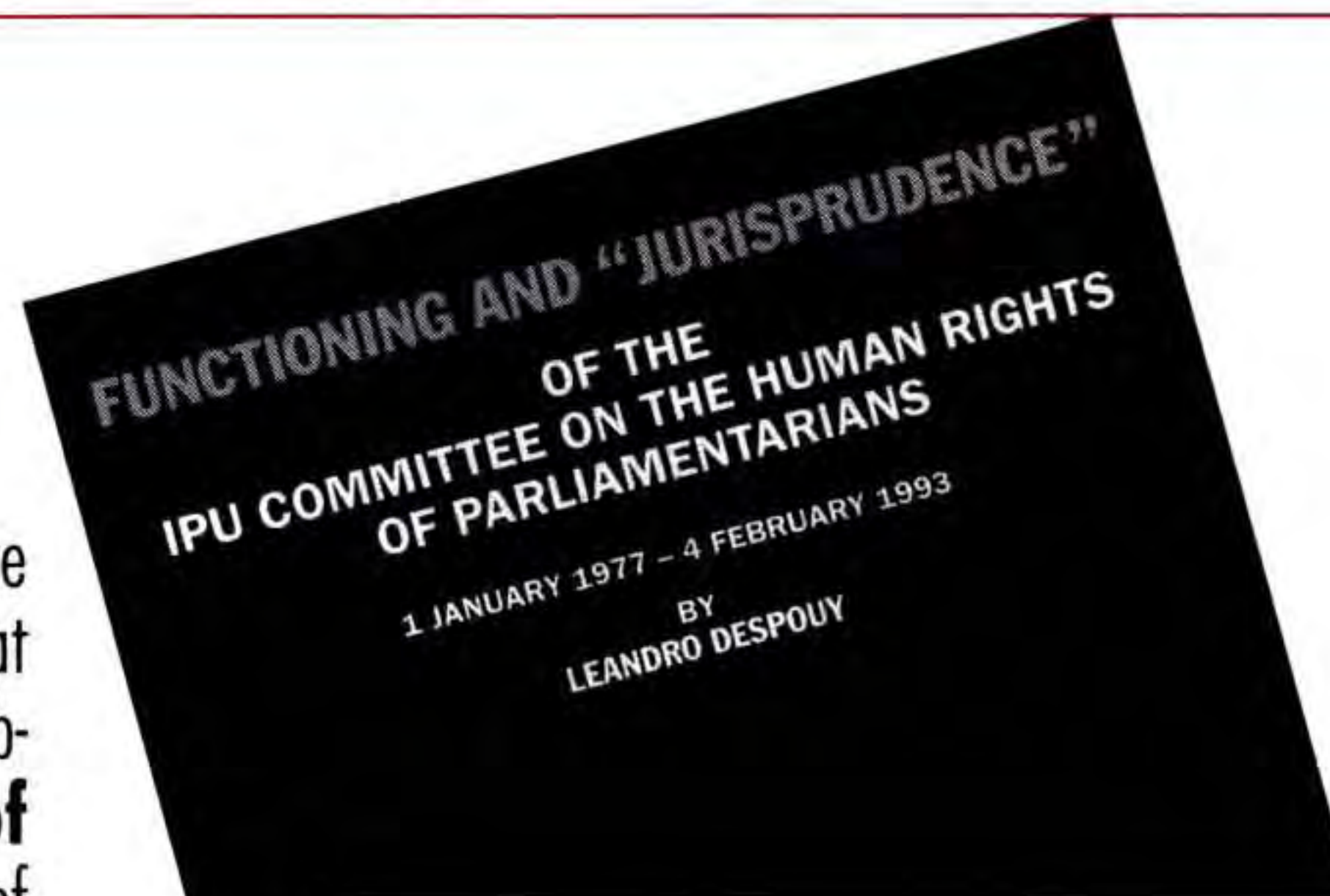
If parliaments and their members are to promote and ensure respect for human rights in their countries, it is essential that MPs' own rights are respected. To that end, the IPU established the **Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians** in 1976 to investigate complaints of violations of the human rights of members of parliament. The Committee, composed of five parliamentarians from different regions, considers complaints and seeks a satisfactory settlement of the cases referred to it through dialogue and cooperation with the authorities of the countries concerned. It may conduct hearings and undertake on-site missions. In cases where a satisfactory settlement cannot be reached during the preliminary confidential proceedings, the Committee submits public reports and recommendations to the IPU Council at its biannual meetings. The member parliaments of the Union support such action in a variety of ways and have thus contributed to the satisfactory settlement of a large proportion of the 1,114 cases in 92 countries that the Committee had declared admissible by the end of 1999. The total number of members of parliament throughout the world stood at 41,656 in 1999.


Most cases considered by the Committee concern parliamentarians who have been stripped of their mandate, threatened, prosecuted, deprived of their liberty or even tortured or murdered for having exercised their right to freedom of speech.

Children's rights

The IPU also regularly addresses issues relating to the protection of children's rights. In 1997 it adopted recommendations for action on **child labour, the elimination of commercial and other forms of sexual exploitation of children, and the protection of children in armed conflicts.**

Parliaments have pledged to urge the governments of their countries to sign, as soon as possible, the *Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention* unanimously adopted by the ILO Conference in June 1999.





Inter-Parliamentary Union


Parliament: Guardian of Human Rights

Inter-Parliamentary Symposium, Budapest, 19-22 May 1993

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Hungarian Parliament



A dynamic process

When the first edition of the *World Directory of Parliamentary Human Rights Bodies* was published in 1990, it was suggested that the Inter-Parliamentary Union should organize a meeting so that the members of such bodies could exchange ideas among themselves and with international human rights experts. It was decided to hold a Symposium which, according to the Union's practice, would bring together on an equal footing both MPs and non-MPs and would favour discussion and the exchange of experiences rather than a negotiating process and the formal adoption of a final text, as in the case of IPU Conferences.

The kind invitation of the Hungarian National Assembly to host the meeting came at just the right moment to enable the Inter-Parliamentary Council to give the go-ahead to the project which soon received the support of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and then that of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

An important feature of the year 1993 being the holding of the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna from 14 to 25 June, the Inter-Parliamentary Union

International security and stability

A political organisation whose primary goal is peace, the IPU attaches particular importance to eliminating hotbeds of tension through political negotiation.

Political negotiation for conflict prevention and settlement

The Conferences also provide members with the opportunity to discuss and express the Union's political views on topics and situations that have a bearing on peace and security. In 1998, the IPU Conference adopted a resolution on conflict prevention and the restoration of peace and trust in countries emerging from war (Windhoek, April 1998). The Union's Conferences provide an ideal forum for bilateral and multilateral contacts and political negotiations. Known as "parliamentary diplomacy", such negotiations can make a substantial contribution to the settlement of diverse conflicts.

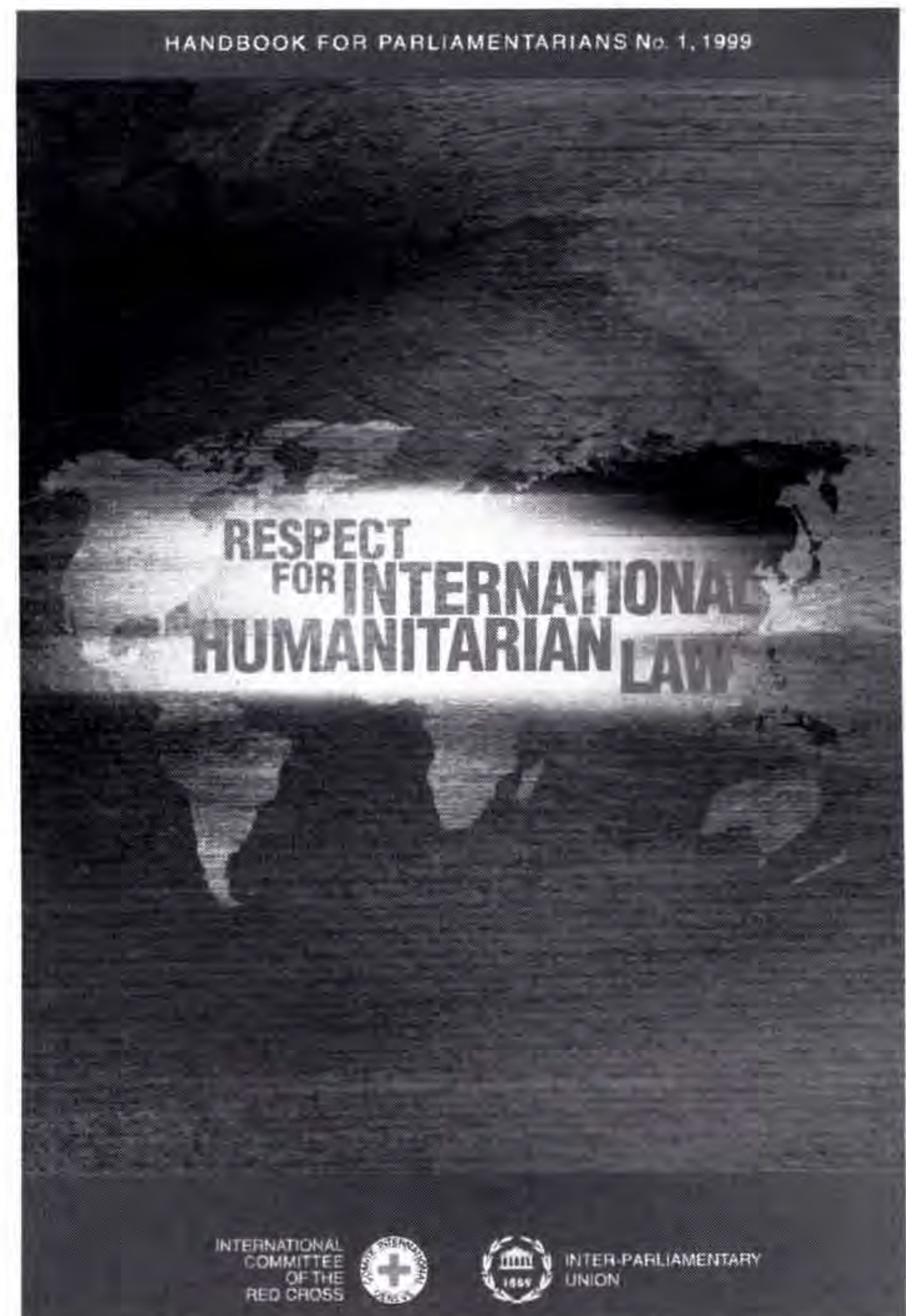
Disarmament

The IPU has been working for disarmament since its foundation. It called for international regulations on trade in conventional weapons (1976) and held a symposium in Mexico City on the subject six years later. In 1990 in Bonn, it organised a specialised conference on the impact of rapidly changing international relations on disarmament and security.

Disarmament questions are regularly placed on the agenda of Inter-Parliamentary Conferences, for example the establishment of a global register of arms transfers (New Delhi, April 1993), nuclear non-proliferation (Paris, March 1994), a ban on nuclear weapons testing (Bucharest, October 1995) and, most recently, the adoption of a comprehensive resolution on nuclear non-proliferation measures and the eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons at the Conference in Brussels (April 1999).

Respect for the rules of international humanitarian law

The IPU has consistently promoted respect for international humanitarian law (IHL). The subject has been debated at numerous IPU Conferences, including at the most recent statutory Conference in Berlin in 1999. In 1994, it created a Committee to promote respect for IHL, which works in close cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross. On the recommendation of its Committee on IHL, the IPU established a reporting mechanism in September 1995 on steps taken at the parliamentary level to ensure respect for IHL. In 1999, the Committee prepared with ICRC assistance a *Handbook for parliamentarians on respect for international humanitarian law* which was published on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the *Geneva Conventions*.



Ban on anti-personnel mines

For some years, the IPU has been promoting a total ban on anti-personnel mines; a survey of all parliaments is currently being conducted to ascertain their position on the subject and steps taken to ratify the *Ottawa Convention the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction*, to promote mine clearance and to treat mine victims.

The Rome Statute

A majority of the Union's members supported the establishment of an International Criminal Court and the IPU encourages parliaments to ratify the Rome Statute and ensure that the Court has the human and material resources it needs to discharge its mandate.

Special mechanisms

Middle East

In 1987, a Committee on Middle East Questions was set up to promote direct contacts between the Arab and Israeli delegations and encourage parliamentary action in support of the peace process. The Committee meets during the statutory Conferences and arranges hearings with the Arab and Israeli delegations.

Cyprus

In 1991, the IPU established a mechanism to monitor the situation in Cyprus in support of the goods offices mission of the United Nations Secretary-General. At present, a Group of three "facilitators" promotes dialogue during statutory meetings between representatives of existing political parties in the two parts of the island. In October 1999, the Council authorised the "facilitators" to organise similar contact sessions in both parts of the island of Cyprus.

CSCM (Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean)

After holding seven Inter-Parliamentary Conferences on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE, 1973-1991), the IPU saw the need for a similar process in the Mediterranean. A first Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Security and Co-operation in the Mediterranean (First CSCM) was held in Malaga (Spain) in 1992 and brought together all Mediterranean countries on an equal footing. This led to a permanent mechanism for dialogue and negotiation among all the Mediterranean partners in the form of twice-yearly meetings during statutory IPU Conferences. A Second CSCM took place in Valletta (Malta) in 1995 and a Third CSCM will take place in Marseilles (France) in March/April 2000; both were preceded by thematic meetings on subjects belonging to the three "Baskets" of the process.

1st basket: Political and security-related cooperation:
Regional stability

2nd basket: Economic cooperation: Co-development and partnership

3rd basket: Dialogue among civilisations and human rights



Sustainable development

The IPU's action in the field of sustainable development is founded on its conviction that development must meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It therefore seeks not merely to link environmental considerations to economic growth, but also to address other vital issues such as human development, participation in decision-making and social and economic justice. The IPU's work in this field is guided by its Committee for Sustainable Development.

Environment

The IPU has based its action on the implementation by parliaments of the *Agenda 21* programme of the Rio Conference (June 1992). The IPU has published a study on parliamentary follow-up to the Rio Summit and a Declaration on changing consumption and production patterns.

Economic and social development

The IPU played a crucial role in mobilising parliamentary support for the preparation, holding and follow-up to such major UN international forums as the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Food Summit. The Union organises *Parliamentarians' Days* at each of these major UN forums to work out common parliamentary follow-up strategies. To follow up the World Food Summit, a specialised Conference on *"Attaining the World Food Summit's Objectives through a Sustainable Development Strategy"* was held in Rome (Italy) in November 1998.

Trade and finance

The IPU believes it is important to associate parliaments and their members far more closely with multilateral negotiations on trade and finance. It has repeatedly called for transparency and openness in trade negotiations and is actively engaged in promoting parliamentary input into the work of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The IPU will hold a parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the Tenth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD X) in Bangkok in February 2000. Moreover, the IPU advocates the revision and strengthening of the current global financial

and economic model and debated the subject at its recent Conference in Berlin in 1999. The IPU has repeatedly called for debt reduction and at its Conference in Brussels in 1999 made a plea for the writing-off of the government debt of the heavily indebted poor countries. The IPU is currently preparing a substantive contribution on the financing of development for the high-level inter-governmental forum that the United Nations is organising in 2000.

Education, science and culture

A Conference organised by the IPU and UNESCO (Paris, June 1996) identified the main challenges of the twenty-first century in education, culture and communication. In its Final Document, *"The Parliamentary Vision for Education, Culture and Communication on the Eve of the Twenty-First Century"*, MPs pledged to forge closer links with UNESCO and provide it with the support of parliaments in the implementation of human development policies. The Conference paved the way for the 1997 Cooperation Agreement between IPU and UNESCO, providing for annual consultations and joint activities.

Specialised IPU meetings on sustainable development

"Environment and Development"
(Brasilia, November 1992)

"North-South Dialogue for Global Prosperity"
(Ottawa, October 1993)

"Science and Technology for Regional Sustainable Development"
(Tokyo, June 1994 — Asia and Pacific regional Conference)

"Attaining the World Food Summit's Objectives through a Sustainable Development Strategy"
(Rome, 29 November-2 December 1998 — IPU-FAO Inter-Parliamentary Conference)

The Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP)

The ASGP is an IPU consultative body that brings together senior parliamentary officials to study parliamentary law and promote cooperation between the services of different parliaments. ASGP studies of parliamentary institutions complement those of the IPU and are carried out in close cooperation and consultation. The ASGP, an autonomous self-managing body, meets during Inter-Parliamentary Conferences. It publishes a biannual review of *Constitutional and Parliamentary Information* and reports on the activities and functioning of parliaments.

Monthly Journal - No.6



MONTHLY WEB PUBLICATION

Event of the month

UNAIDS and IPU launch a Handbook for legislators

INTERVIEW

Dr. Peter Piot Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

By Luisa Ballin

A Handbook to assist parliamentarians in placing issues related to the AIDS virus on their national agenda was launched by UNAIDS and the IPU on 24 November 1999 together with the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Assembly in Cardiff and the Northern Ireland Assembly in Belfast.



Q: What is the purpose of the Handbook for Legislators on HIV/AIDS, Law and Human Rights?

Dr. Peter Piot: This is a unique guide that provides parliamentarians with critical information on the role of law and human rights in responding to the HIV epidemic. It gives guidance on how, among other things, employment, criminal legislation can better prevent and care for people: for example, through mandatory HIV testing, standards and availability of blood, condoms and processes that a legislature can implement demonstrating how such measures have been implemented.

Q: Why is it so important to legislate directly?

P.P.: Parliaments play an important role in law and policy related to the epidemic. It is only about the essential role of human rights.

<http://www.ipu.org/>

THE JOURNAL of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

23 December 1999, Number 6

Opinion: Mike Moore

The Director General of the World Trade Organization, Mr. Mike Moore, has agreed to attend the Parliamentary Meeting of the IPU to be held on the occasion of UNCTAD X in Bangkok (10 and 11 February 2000). In this Journal, he provides some thoughts on the Seattle Ministerial Conference before coming to Bangkok.



A historic assembly of legislators

On 2 December 1999, at the Seattle Ministerial Conference, I had the great pleasure of addressing the first ever assembly of legislators from WTO member countries. This historic meeting, which was the result of an initiative taken by Senator William V. Roth Jr., Chairman of the US Senate delegation to the Seattle Ministerial Conference, ended with the adoption of a call by parliamentarians to establish a standing body of WTO parliamentarians. This standing body should allow WTO parliamentarians to "exchange views, be informed and monitor WTO negotiations and activities" is expected to convene an initial meeting not later than February 2001. The timing of this legislators' assembly and the agreement to establish a standing body could not have been more opportune or significant.

Legitimacy and accountability - the role of parliaments and parliamentarians

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Adresse <http://www.ipu.org/english/home.htm>

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
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Your site on parliamentary democracy

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Monthly Journal

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PARLINE database

Women in parliaments

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HOT TOPIC : [Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of UNCTAD X \(Bangkok, February 2000\)](#)

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Relations with international organisations

United Nations

The IPU works in close cooperation with the United Nations and various specialised agencies of the United Nations system. Since the conclusion of a **Cooperation Agreement** in 1996, there has been growing convergence and interaction between the two organisations in key areas.

As negotiations conducted and agreements reached in the United Nations by representatives of Executives entail State commitments, the IPU seeks to channel diverse national views to the United Nations, thereby providing a parliamentary dimension.

The IPU holds a meeting each year at UN headquarters during the General Assembly, at which members of parliament and senior UN officials review programmes and major initiatives being discussed by the General Assembly. Since 1995, the UN General Assembly has discussed cooperation between the IPU and the United Nations each year. In October 1999, the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, submitted a detailed report under that item and a resolution on the subject, officially sponsored by 139 States, was adopted.

Specialised agencies and programmes of the United Nations system

The IPU works in close cooperation with the entire UN system and has concluded **cooperation agreements** with the **ILO**, the **FAO**, the **UNDP** and **UNESCO**, building on the example set by the UN Agreement. It has also signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**.

On the occasion of major United Nations world summits, the IPU mobilises and coordinates relevant parliamentary reflection and action. It encourages the inclusion of representatives of parliaments in national delegations and organises special sessions at which these representatives have a chance to air the views of the people and ensure dissemination and follow-up in national parliaments to the agreements concluded.

The **Inter-Parliamentary Union's Liaison Office with the United Nations** is responsible for forging contacts with the entire United Nations system in New York and with Permanent Missions to the UN. It provides the administrative support needed for increased participation by MPs in the international process of consultation and coordination within the United Nations.

IPU-UN cooperation. From left to right:

Mr. Santiago Romero Pérez, Director of the IPU Liaison Office with the UN

Mr. Anders B. Johnsson, Secretary General of the IPU

Mrs. Najma Heptulla, President of the IPU Council

Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the UN

Sir Kieran Prendergast, UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs



“We, the peoples of the United Nations...”

From 30 August to 1 September 2000, the Union will organise a world Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments at UN Headquarters in New York on the eve of the Millennium Assembly. This meeting – the first of its kind – will allow presiding officers of parliaments to express the views of the representatives of the people on the major challenges facing the international community and how to respond to them. It will also provide an opportunity for reflection on the role their world organisation – the Inter-Parliamentary Union – can play in projecting that vision to the United Nations in the new millennium. Three preparatory meetings were held prior to the Conference, in Vienna, Rabat and Geneva.

Other partners

Regional parliamentary associations maintain close working relations with the Union and take part in the conferences and other activities as observers. Other observers include Palestine, regional intergovernmental organisations such as the League of Arab States, the Organization of American States and the Organisation of African Unity, and humanitarian organisations including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Amnesty International.





IPU Headquarters
Place du Petit-Saconnex
P.O. Box 438
1211 GENEVA 19 Switzerland
Telephone: (41 22) 919 41 50
Fax: (41 22) 919 41 60
E-mail: postbox@mail.ipu.org

IPU Liaison Office with the UN
821, United Nations Plaza, 9th Floor
New York, N.Y. 10017
United States of America
Telephone: (1 212) 557 58 80
Fax: (1 212) 557 39 54
E-mail: ny-office@mail.ipu.org