



Inter-Parliamentary Union

Technical Cooperation Programme

PROJECT PROFILE: EQUATORIAL GUINEA



Created 31/01/2005 Updated 23/02/2005

Project details

Title:	Support to the Chamber of People's Representatives of Equatorial Guinea
Status:	Ongoing-awaiting renewal of contract
Duration:	Initially, 24 months (2003-2005) - extended until 31/07/2007
Budget:	Euro 736,000
Donor partner:	European Union/Government of Equatorial Guinea

Background

After suspending all cooperation activity with Equatorial Guinea in 1992 due to the political situation and repeated human rights violations, the European Union decided in 1997 to gradually restore its relations with the country. In October 2000 it mandated the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to conduct a mission to assess the needs of the Chamber of People's Representatives of Equatorial Guinea.

Based on the findings of this mission, since May 2003 the IPU has been implementing a project aimed at providing technical assistance to the country's parliament. The project is being financed by the European Commission and the Government of Equatorial Guinea, and is the subject of an agreement between the IPU and the Chamber of People's Representatives.

Areas of activity

The IPU provides support to the Chamber in four areas, namely:

- Review of the Chamber's working procedures;
- Training of specialized parliamentary staff;
- Assistance in setting up a modern information and documentation system, including a library and press service, creation of a website and development of a handbook for parliamentarians;
- Capacity-building seminars for parliamentarians on law, human rights and regional integration.

Target beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of IPU assistance are first and foremost the members of the Chamber of People's Representatives and parliamentary staff. A more efficient Chamber will be beneficial to the people of Equatorial Guinea insofar as their interests will be better defended as the country moves towards democratization.



Photo: Chamber of People's Representatives

Outcomes

The project should facilitate the Chamber's involvement in the process of democratization and the promotion of human rights in Equatorial Guinea. Specifically, it aims to achieve the following:

- A more flexible Chamber in terms of both parliamentary and administrative procedures;
- Greater awareness among parliamentarians regarding their role and responsibilities and the various methods of operating a modern parliament, and more effective support provided by staff to parliamentarians discharging their duties;
- An improved documentation and information service, ensuring greater transparency and deeper involvement of the people in the proceedings of the Chamber.

Experts providing advice to the project included:

- Mr. José Elice Navarro, National Congress of Peru
- Mr. Pierre Hontebeyrie, honorary Secretary General of the National Assembly of France
- Mr. Manuel Gonzalo González, Ms Marta Cadarso Santaolalla; Mr. Javier de Andrés Blasco, Parliament of Spain
- Mr. Fernando Castañon Alvarez, human rights expert
- Ms. Elisabeth Villagomez Morales, Gender issues expert
- Mr. Josep Antoni Delgado Rivera, Generalitat de Catalunya

Parliaments hosting study tours for the project:

- Parliament of France
- Parliament of Spain