

UNDP Parliamentary Development Newsletter

June 2013
8th Edition

Welcoming Charles Chauvel, DGG-BDP new Parliamentary Development Advisor!



"It's now well-accepted that sustainable development outcomes require good governance. Such governance requires good laws to be enacted and kept up-to-date. Appropriate resources have to be allocated to their enforcement. That enforcement, and the performance of government generally, must stand up to scrutiny. And constant, two-way communication with the electorate is an increasing and legitimate expectation when decisions are made in its name. As a former parliamentarian, I know that each of these is the proper role of parliament. My team and I look forward to sharing the parliamentary development resources and expertise that the UNDP and its partners have under continual development and revision as our contribution to ensuring that parliaments can play their proper role."

Who is Charles? Until March 2013, Charles Chauvel was the Shadow Attorney-General, and Shadow Minister for Justice, Courts and Corrections, in the New Zealand Parliament. During his time as an NZ MP, he chaired the Parliament's finance committee, its scrutiny of regulations committee, and its privileges committee, and was Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Attorney-General. He was the first – and is to date the only – person of Pacific Island ancestry to have served on the front bench of any NZ political party. Prior to holding the shadow justice-related ministries he was the shadow minister for environment and climate matters. While an MP, Charles Chauvel was a member of the Inter-parliamentary Union, Parliamentarians for Global Action, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, NZ Parliamentarians for Population and Development, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Disarmament, the Australasian Study of Parliament Group (Executive Member), the NZ/EU Parliamentary Friendship Group (Chair), and the NZ Chapter of GOPAC (Founding Chair).

Charles can be reached at : 1-646 781 4343 / charles.chauvel@undp.org

GOPAC 5th Global Conference in Manila (Jan. 30 – Feb. 2 2013)

UNDP and the "Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption" (GOPAC) organized the *Fifth Global Conference of Parliamentarians Against Corruption* in Manila, Philippines from January 30 to February 2, 2013. It was attended by hundreds of Parliamentarians from around the world, as well as representatives of specialized anti-corruption organizations. The President of the Philippines, Benigno Aquino, along with his Deputy and the Philippine House of Speaker attended the opening of the conference. This conference was an occasion to conduct discussions and to organize workshops to strengthen the global effort to fight corruption.

FACILITATOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the Parliamentary Development News Update, which aims at sharing and disseminating the latest news and developments in the area of parliamentary development.

Your contributions as a member of the Parliamentary Development Community of Practice are vital to enhance this Network. Please send your contribution to: marilyn.cham@undp.org

We also encourage you to become member of the UNDP Parliamentary Development [Teamworks space](#) in order to access additional information, including previous Newsletters.

EXCLUSIVE

Interview with the Speaker of the House of Representatives in Trinidad and Tobago...on youth engagement, parliamentary outreach and representation.

[To read the full interview, click here!](#)



Photo: Democratic Governance Programme Officer, Jens-Ulrich Poppen (left) with Speaker of the House of Representatives, Honourable Wade Mark (right)



Read the [Conference Declaration and Global Task Force Resolutions](#)
 Access the [Guidance Note on UNCAC self-assessments](#)

Happening in UNDP

Supporting parliamentary consultations on local government funding for better delivery of services

Uganda - UNDP is supporting parliamentary public outreach initiatives in Uganda to engage the public with local leaders and civil society leaders at the regional level to exchange ideas on better legislation, service delivery and clarification of roles at the different levels especially within the multiparty political dispensation. The consultations usually last three days with activities such as town hall meetings, and radio talk shows. The outreaches are usually led by the Speaker, who visits the regions with a team including the Parliamentary Commissioners, Leader of Government Business, Leader of Opposition in Parliament and Members of Parliaments from that region and government ministers. The outreaches are also attended by the district leadership of the region: including the District Chairperson and the district council and the District Chief Administrative Officers. To date, 5 consultations were organized around the issue of local government funding. The findings of these consultations will support the work of the Parliamentary Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development which is working on a proposal to ensure funds retained by local governments can be utilized in the following financial years. The findings will also be presented by the Parliament to the Ministry of Finance during the course of the budget session, to address the low level of funding for districts.



Photo: The Speaker of Parliament Hon. Rebecca Aitwala Kadaga (centre) takes notes as one of the district officials' makes comments during the outreach forum held in Moroto in April 2013.

To read the [full story, click here.](#)

Strengthening parliamentary communication and law-drafting

Democratic Republic of Congo - Staff of the Senate and the National Assembly benefited of a joint UNDP/IPU training workshop on procedural

Lessons learnt and remaining challenges in parliamentary development assistance – Study by SIDA

In November 2012, SIDA published an Evaluation / Pre-Study on Parliamentary Development Assistance reviewing the state of knowledge on donor approaches and their effectiveness since 2005, identifying key gaps in knowledge, and assessing the need for a multi-stakeholder thematic evaluation. This last question has become ever more salient as the demand for results and cost efficiency has grown in donor countries.



[To view the document, click here.](#)

VIDEOS

Tunisia: Support to the National Constituent Assembly



Somalia: Transition to democracy



knowledge and technical knowledge such as Hansard. Three provincial assemblies (Bandundu, Bas-Congo and Kasai Occidental) also received support to produce and edit the parliamentary records which were made available to the public; 504 mailboxes were installed for each of the members of the National Assembly to facilitate internal communication within the Parliament, but also externally, with their constituencies. UNDP is also building the capacity of Parliament in the area of drafting and revising laws. In particular, two staff members of the Senate participated in a training on legal drafting, in Geneva, at a specialized academic institute.

UNDP's Partnership with the National Assembly and Senate in Nigeria in support of the Constitutional Review Process

UNDP has been implementing a number of activities to support the National Assembly's and Senate in conducting the Constitutional Review Process, including its outreach capacity and participation of the public.



Photo: Members of the Senate Constitution Review Committee and UNDP staff during a Study tour visit to Canada.

A retreat was organized in Asaba, Delta State in July 2012 for Members of the Senate Constitution Review Committee enabling it to critically analyse comments submitted by various interest groups and stakeholders, and to identify and prioritize critical issues to be addressed. Following the retreat, UNDP provided substantive technical inputs on the selected topics. UNDP is also analyzing critical constitutional dispositions with the view of identifying areas that need to be reviewed by the Committee as well as supporting the drafting of constitutional provisions where required and requested. As part of UNDP's support, a total of eight delegates visited Canada to learn from the experiences of the Forum of Federations, including governance challenges in other countries and responses to these challenges.

UNDP also contributed to the inclusiveness of the process by supporting several hearings including the National Hearing held in Abuja from the 25th to 27th of October 2012 enabling different groups and stakeholders (i.e.: political parties, women groups, PWDs, CSOs and Media groups) to present their viewpoints to members of the Senate Committee on the Constitution Amendment process.



Photo: Women leader making her presentation on behalf of the Women in Politics Forum (WPF) during the Senate hearing on the review of the Nigerian Constitution.

UNDP and Climate Parliament's video on fighting poverty with power



Interviews with Parliamentarians at the IPU 128th General Assembly in Quito, Ecuador, March 2013

Women parliamentarians from different regions reflecting on the challenges and opportunities for women in politics, the importance of networking and women caucuses to pass gender sensitive legislation.



Nicola Harrington-Buhay, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Moldova, speech in the parliament of Moldova, December 13, 2012



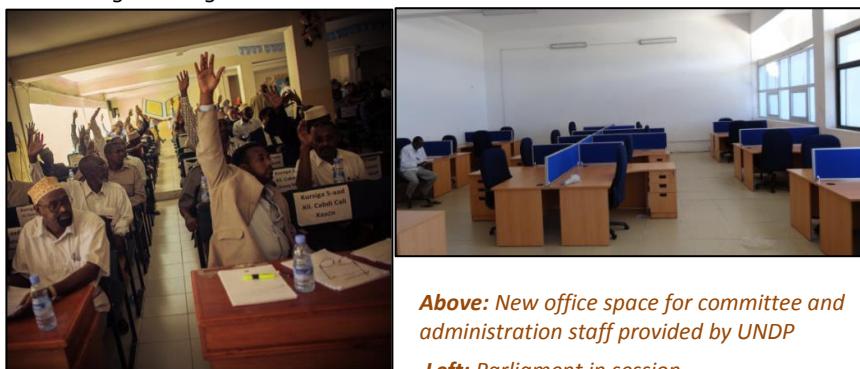
Following the Peoples public hearing sessions held on the 10th November 2012, in all 360 federal constituencies simultaneously, UNDP supported the House of Representatives ad hoc Committee in charge of the review of the Constitution, to classify, and analyze all the questionnaires and inputs that were gathered. Technical assistance was also provided to the Committee on gender mainstreaming. Overall, UNDP assisted the Parliament in ensuring a participatory, transparent, inclusive and nationally/knowledge-driven approach for the amendment of the constitution. UNDP's support also contributed to citizen ownership of the process through the mobilization of UNDP partners and the media to ensure that citizens' concerns are reflected in the amended constitution

- To read the full story, click [here](#).
- To learn more about UNDP's support to the Parliament in Nigeria, including Support to the National Gender Technical Unit and Freedom Of Information Committee, please click [here](#).

Eye on Somalia

Since its formation in August 2012, the new Parliament of the Federal Government of Somalia has developed rapidly, taking a central stage in Somalia's transition to a permanent government following two decades of deadly conflict and state collapse.

In the early stages of its formation, UNDP assisted the Parliament to develop a parliamentary Strategic Plan, which outlines key priorities for its development in 2013 and beyond. In the first quarter of 2013 UNDP supported the implementation of some initial activities outlined in the new plan, including: Capacity assessment of existing parliamentary administration, establishing a new administration structure, developing a graduate scheme to bring 45 young Somali professionals to fill capacity gaps, providing training and orientation to staff and Members of Parliament, and providing training and technical assistance to parliamentary committees on developing workplans and establishing working mechanisms with executive.



Above: New office space for committee and administration staff provided by UNDP

Left: Parliament in session

UNDP also supported an initial assessment of ICT capacity and needs, and the development of a strategy to improve parliamentary communications. It also provided strategic advice to parliament leadership on issues such as reconciliation, outreach and managing house business. The Secretary-General of Parliament received mentoring from counterparts in the region, and UNDP assisted Parliament to conduct a security assessment and plan to provide measures to secure current and future locations.

The success of the parliament paves the way for other arms of government to follow suit and reestablish themselves as functioning institutions able to provide their relative services to the people of Somalia. While at the very beginning of a long and challenging path, Parliament has laid the necessary foundations to continue to grow and develop into a functioning, democratic body that represents the voices and interests of the Somali people. UNDP has played an important role in supporting the Parliament, and by being present in Mogadishu ensured that it was able to respond quickly to dynamic circumstances and events post transition.

RESOURCES

"Toolkit for legislators on gender mainstreaming" – Argentina

[Executive Summary](#)
[Complete text \(PDF\)](#)



"Study on Gender Mainstreaming in the Bangladesh Parliament"

Commissioned by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, under the framework of the UNDP supported Improving Democracy through Parliamentary Development (IPD) Project, in cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in November 2012-January 2013. The Study Report provides sound recommendations and guidance on integration of the issues of gender equity and equality throughout Parliamentary legislative and institutional mechanisms, and processes. The study made recommendations on women's nomination and election to parliament, political parties, and parliamentary committees to oversee National Women Development Policy, capacity of the MPs, gender equality mechanism and the civil society gender network.

"Constituency Relations Study in Bangladesh"

The Study was carried out in February- March 2013 and sheds light on the practical ways of strengthening the MP-constituency relations in the present context of Bangladesh. While some of the recommendations can be implemented through the UNDP intervention such as training assessment of MP office and MPs, and support for educating the people on the roles of MPs, the main challenge lies with the reform initiatives i.e. Code of Conduct for MPs, redefinition of MP roles, guidelines to implement local development projects, constitutional bar on constituency relations and its sustainability in next parliaments. The findings of the study will serve as an entry point to address those issues.

For more information on these Reports, contact Siamul Huq Rabbany, Programme Officer – Political Governance, Democratic Governance Cluster, in Bangladesh at: siamul.rabbany@undp.org.

Supporting the Iraqi Council of Representatives to exercise its oversight function of the security sector more effectively

UNDP, together with the French National Assembly, organized in November 2012 a study tour to France for a delegation composed of MPs from the Defense and Security Committee as well as of senior staff from the Presidency Council of the CoR. This visit was preceded by a two day workshop in Amman during which the participants were familiarized with the French Parliament and the oversight function and were able to develop the agenda of the study tour together with staff from the French National Assembly.



Photo - Iraqi delegation visiting the French National Assembly

The 5 day visit to Paris enabled members of the Iraqi delegation to understand and learn how their French counterparts are able to influence policy

development in the security sector through research and analysis. This is of particular relevance in Iraq, at a time where the Government, with the support of UNDP, has recently launched the process towards the development of a national security strategy. Indeed, as representatives of the people it is critical that parliamentarians are not only associated with this process but that they actively contribute to it through the development of studies /analysis and through consultations with relevant stakeholders and Iraqi citizens. In Iraq, the research and analytical capacities of the CoR are fairly limited, despite the existence of a research department. Unlike the French National Assembly, the various Committees do not have access to dedicated and specific research expertise, and hence have limited capacities to influence policy development. A key element of UNDP's forthcoming support to the Iraqi CoR in general and to the Defense and Security Committee in particular, will therefore be to identify ways and means to develop their research capacities, by associating for instance the CoR with other existing relevant institutions (such as universities, think tanks, etc.).

UNDP promotes public participation in parliamentary oversight

Bangladesh - A sub-committee of the Standing Committee on the Ministry of law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs has made a number of recommendations on the local land registration system following a field investigation visit to Cox's Bazaar with the technical assistance of the 'Improving Democracy through Parliamentary Development' (IPD) Project of UNDP this past January. UNDP's IPD Project facilitated the field visit with the objective of ensuring public engagement in the oversight activities of parliamentary committees. The visit to Teknaf Sub-Registry and Cox's Bazaar District Registry offices was followed by structured public consultations with relevant stakeholders. Major critical points related to land registration system were presented before the sub-committee by local elected representatives, legal practitioners and civil society representatives. The problems brought to the notice of the sub-



"Guidelines on the workings of the regional, district and city Councils of Deputies" - Uzbekistan

The practical manual is prepared based on legislation that regulates the activities of regional, district and city Councils of deputies. There are practical recommendations to local deputies in order to improve and further the implementation of their power in socio-economic development in certain regions. Special attention is given to the analysis of results of the activities of the regional, district and city Councils of deputies.

Visit [UNDP Uzbekistan webpage](#) to access the manual or [AGORA](#).

"Resource Guide to Arab Parliaments" 2011 SUNY / CID

This Resource Guide to Arab Parliaments provides information on selected books, articles, reports, conference papers and websites on legislative institutions, and governance, in the Arab world. The Resource Guide includes resources from 1993 to date and aims to assist researchers in Arab parliaments by providing them with a compilation of possible reference materials.

[To view the Guide, click here.](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



E-discussion on Political Financing for Women

Political financing regulations can affect women's access to run as candidates, be elected, campaign and reach out to the population. Regulations on political funding are used to level the playing field in electoral competition. They can also work to ensure that women are able to compete on a more equal footing with men. This in turn may result in women's increased political participation; a key feature of democracy. Funding regulations need to be context specific and respond to the realities on the ground. iKNOW Politics has collected information on laws, regulations and practices that have been put in place to address challenges women face in raising money in politics.

To view the comments of the online discussion on **Political Financing for Women**, organized by iKNOW Politics (May 6th, 2013 till May 27th, 2013) [Visit this link!](#)



committee included lengthy process of land record registration specially manual registration and archiving, inadequate skilled human resources, complicated access to records of land rights, indefinite identity of land holding, discontinuance of land transactions due to embargo on land registration by government, arbitrary levy of rates and duties by the registration officials etc. As a result of these consultations, the Sub-Committee presented a set of recommendations to the government on digitizing and simplifying the land registration system. To read the full story and recommendations, click [here](#).

UNDP supporting the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Parliament



Bangladesh - The Secretariat of the Bangladeshi Parliament started implementing the Annual Action Plan 2012- 13 drawn under the Strategic Plan of Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat 2012-14 since December 2012. The process is followed by a review by an International Parliamentary Strategic Planning Expert in April 2013. The entire process will gradually lead to organizational transformation on its way to achieving the Vision of being

a model Parliament that meets aspirations of the people. Unfamiliarity with the new management approach and thus resistant to change, non-integration to the conventional management system, resource deficiency and insufficient capacity are the institutional challenges for implementation of the strategic plan. Involvement of the Members of Parliament in the entire process may also be a challenge for the next phase. As immediate measures, internet and intranet web-portals for publication and communication of parliamentary information, establishment of a training and development center to provide development for Members and Officers and Review role and job functions of Secretariat and Senior Management were recommended in the Review to bring visible changes in the shortest period.

Induction Program organized by UNDP increases Knowledge of Vanuatu Parliamentarians

Newly elected parliamentarians in Vanuatu have completed a three day induction program, feeling confident in their knowledge of how Parliament works and what their duties and responsibilities as MPs are. The induction program covered a range of areas including: the constitutional basis of Parliament, the separation and balance of powers, the roles and responsibilities as MPs, how the parliament operates, parliamentary services available to MPs as well as the work of Vanuatu's accountability agencies and the relationship between MPs and these agencies. The induction program is an initiative of the Vanuatu Parliamentary Secretariat in partnership with the Australian National University's Centre for Democratic Institutions (CDI) and the United Nations Development Programme Fiji Multi-Country Office (UNDP). **Read more** about this event [here](#).

Samoa 10% Women's Quota Bill progressing through Parliament

The UNDP Samoa Parliamentary Support Project has been actively supporting capacity building activities for Honourable Members of Parliament on key issues facing the country through arranging a series of seminars for MPs on parliamentary procedures and practices to address the MDGs, Human Rights and Gender Equality. In March 2012, the Samoa Government tabled the Constitution Amendment Bill 2012 that seeks to introduce a 10% quota of



E-discussion: The Challenges and Needs of First-Time Parliamentarians

To mark the launch of Arabic Portal, AGORA organized an E-discussion on 'The Challenges and Needs of First-Time Parliamentarians' (March 1st till April 12th).

[This page](#) offers a recap of the discussion.

"The Evolving Relationship between Citizens and Parliaments in the Arab World", (Rabat, Morocco -5 & 6 June 2013)

Held by UNDP, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Moroccan Parliament. This event will provide an opportunity to discuss the challenges and opportunities of parliamentary representation in the region on the basis of the [Global Parliamentary Report](#), launched in 2012. We are expecting around 50 parliamentarians from the region to attend the meeting and engage in a regional dialogue and identify through working group discussions follow-up measures to this important issue. The meeting will further provide an opportunity to officially launch the Arabic version of AGORA (www.agora-parl.org/ar).

International Parliamentary Conference (7-8 June, Tbilisi, Georgia)

The conference aims at supporting the Parliament of Georgia in addressing some of the challenges ahead through discussing and sharing international experience on selected issues of parliamentary activity, such as Parliament's role in legislative reforms, constituency work and parliamentary oversight. The conference will bring together the Members of Georgian Parliament and parliaments of European countries, including EP, and representatives of non-governmental and international organizations. The main findings and highlights of the Global Parliamentary Report will be presented and serve as a basis for discussion for the session on constituency work, parliamentary representation and public outreach.

Seminar for Members of Mauritius National Assembly Parliamentary Oversight of Public Expenditure Management and Evaluation of Public Policies (10-14 June 2013)

Building on the progress achieved since the introduction of the Programme Based Budgeting (PBB) in Mauritius, UNDP is supporting government's efforts to strengthen the integration of the planning, budgeting and execution framework to improve public sector efficiency and achieve inclusive growth. The enhancement of external accountability mechanisms, especially towards the National Assembly, is an essential condition to consolidate and deepen the PBB reform. In this context, UNDP Mauritius is organizing a high-level peer learning seminar in Paris in partnership with France's National Assembly and Senate on June 10-14, 2013. This seminar will focus on the role and tools of Parliament in oversight of public expenditure efficiency and in the evaluation of public policies. The delegation will include Members of Parliament from Mauritius, especially members of the Public Account Committee (PAC), as well as analysts supporting the PAC

women representatives into Parliament. The Bill has been referred to the Justice Committee for scrutiny and in March 2013, UNDP facilitated a panel discussion, chaired by the Hon. Minister of Justice, Hon. Fiame Naomi Mataafa that covered some of the issues related to the Bill. The discussion coincided with a visit by Australian Parliamentarians from Tasmania to Samoa, including the President of the Tasmanian Parliament, Hon. Sue Smith, who shared her thoughts and experiences on the role of women in Parliaments.



Above: Professor Richard Herr, Tasmania University with Staff of the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly (OCLA) during the second seminar series on Popular Sovereignty, Law and the Integrity of Parliament 12-13 March 2013, Apia, Samoa



Tofa Agafili Patisela
Eteuati Tolovaa, Deputy Speaker, Parliament of Samoa



Ms Jacque Petrusma MP (Tasmanian State Member for Franklin and Shadow Minister for Children, Cost of Living, Human Service) and Honorable Speaker, La'auli Leuatea Polataivao Fosi Schmidt, Parliament of Samoa.

New Governance Programme in Tonga focusing on Parliament

UNDP and the Government of Tonga signed a new Governance Strengthening Programme in April 2013. The A\$3.8 million programme, funded by AusAID, will develop the skills of parliamentarians to improve lawmaking processes and strengthen the ability of the Electoral Commission to manage free and fair elections. It also will produce public education materials about the workings of the Parliament, the role of the Electoral Commission and elections, as well as the responsibility of civil society to help promote democracy. Through this Project, UNDP will also support the role of Tonga's Parliament in spurring and sustaining national human development, raise public awareness on the role of members of Parliament, and increase the relationship between the Government and Parliament.



Photo: HE Mr Brett Aldam, Australian High Commissioner to Tonga, Hon. Lisiate 'Akolo, Minister for Finance and National Planning and Mr. Knut Ostby, UNDP RR

Secretariat. This peer-learning seminar will include sessions with France's parliamentarians involved in control and evaluation activities and senior civil servants from the two assemblies.

5th Donor Coordination Meeting on Parliamentary Development (13-14 June 2013, Paris, France)

The Fifth Donor Coordination Meeting on Parliamentary Development, facilitated by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), UNDP and the World Bank Institute (WBI), will be hosted by the French National Assembly in Paris, France on 13-14, June 2013. The coordination meeting will provide space for donor agencies to share experiences and exchange knowledge on good practices and emerging challenges and priorities, as well as reflect on how to improve actionable strategies and approaches for strengthening the capacity of parliaments as central institutions of democratic governance. The meeting will bring together around 30 delegates from among the multilateral and bilateral donors in this field. On Day 2, members of the wider parliamentary development community will be invited to participate in the meeting. For more information, please contact diane.sheinberg@undp.org.

Second All African Parliamentary Conference on the MDGs and the Post 2015 Development Agenda (24 – 27 June, Abuja, Nigeria)

The Conference is organized by the UN Millennium Campaign and the African Network of Parliamentarians on the MDGs in partnership with the United Nations System, the Pan-African Parliament, the ECOWAS Parliament, and the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Building on the success of the 2012 inaugural conference in Addis Ababa, the event seeks to raise parliamentary consciousness and inspire actions of national and regional parliamentary bodies in the conceptualization, discussions and evolution of a post 2015 Development Agenda anchored on a clear vision for structural social and economic transformation of Africa. More specifically, the Conference will promote parliamentary leadership and cooperation for socio-economic development of Africa; foster inter-parliamentary partnership for the acceleration of the MDGs across Africa; and share best practices in parliamentary engagement with the MDGs and post 2015 development agenda.

SUCCESS STORIES

New Political Parties Law Promotes Women's Participation in El Salvador

The new Political Parties Law passed on February 14 mandates that 30% of a party's candidates for municipal councils, the national legislature and the Central American Parliament be women.

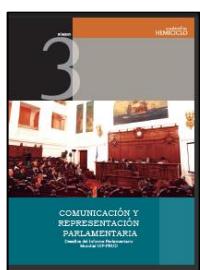
Improving Cooperation between Local Councils and Media

Uzbekistan - In recent years the work of the Parliament and Local Councils in Uzbekistan, and their implementation of acts and the decisions of executive authorities, have been widely covered by the media. Regional Council webpages have also featured articles and interviews regarding the work of local deputies. The issues of cooperation between the Local Councils of People's Deputies and their regular committees with the media have been a core area of UNDP Parliamentary Development Assistance project, which is implemented together with the Legislative Chamber and the Senate of Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan, that has purpose to further enhance the positive professional relationship established between local government and online, print and broadcast media. Regular meetings with journalists and the heads of media organizations, regarding the coverage of the activities of the deputies of Local Councils are clear indication of the importance of executing the draft Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan 'On the Openness of State Authorities', as implemented through an Order of Head of State. This draft law has worked to ensure freedom of expression and information, the openness and transparency of the activities of state authorities, and the strengthened role of the media in informing the public about decisions made that affect the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of citizens.

Click [here](#) to read more about the seminar organized by UNDP on "Issues of cooperation between the Local Councils of People's Deputies and their regular committees with the media".

Launch of the Global Parliamentary Report in Chile

The 2011 Global Parliamentary Report was presented in October 8th, 2012 on the occasion of the international seminar: "Communication and Parliamentary Representation: Challenges identified in the IPU-UNDP Global Parliamentary Report". The seminar was held at the former National Congress in Santiago. Participants included UNDP's Resident Representative Antonio Molpeceres, the member of the Executive Committee of the Interparliamentary Union (IPU),



Ivonne Passada, the President of the Senate Camilo Escalona, the congressman Nicholas Monckeberg and the Undersecretary General of the Presidency, Claudio Alvarado. The report is highly relevant to the Chilean Parliament, especially now that the nature of representation has changed and the world's citizens expect Congress to take a more active role.

A **Report** summarizing the key discussions and presentations of the Seminar compiles is accessible [here](#). To read more about this event, click [here](#).

Updates on Global Programmes

Parliamentary Action on Renewable Energy (PARE) Project

Chronic power shortage is a major problem in many developing countries. At the same time, countries in Africa, Asia and the Arab region have rich potential in renewable energies like solar, wind, hydroelectric or biomass energy. If harnessed, these resources could provide the unlimited energy that is needed to lift the poor out of poverty and help reduce gender inequalities, without accelerating climate change. The lack of national legal frameworks and policies as well as a lack of financial resources are major obstacles that have to be overcome if we want to promote and enable renewable energy for a significant portion of the world's population. Parliaments are key national institutions for

Parliament makes history in Pakistan

The Parliament of Pakistan achieved a milestone in Parliamentary history this quarter. For the first time after 1977, Pakistan's National Assembly completed its term and gave way to a smooth transition to new democratic set-up after upcoming General Elections in May 2013. To read more about this and UNDP's engagement with both the Houses of Parliament since almost a decade through the SDPD Project (Strengthening Democracy through Parliamentary Development), click [here](#).

Parliamentary South-South Cooperation

UNDP in Tanzania and the Indian Bureau for Parliamentary Training (Delhi) have agreed to collaborate within the framework of the new UNDP Legislatures Support Project (Tanzania National Assembly, Zanzibar House of Representatives), now in quarter 2 of implementation, focusing substantially on supporting the research services of both parliaments.

Launch of the Palestinian Youth Legislative Council

On May 15th 2013, UNDP launched the Palestinian Youth Legislative Council (PYLC). The project will provide the youth, as public figures, with unique hands on opportunity to participate in democratic processes including elections, decision-making, social accountability and leadership. By simulating the Palestinian Legislative Council, they will be able to create a successful model of effective youth political participation and leadership. The project is implemented in partnership with the Palestinian Legislative Council, Sharek Youth Forum, UNDP and funded by the Government of Belgium. [Facebook Page](#).

VACANCIES / CONSULTANCIES

UNDP Tonga - Parliamentary Advisor & Programme Coordinator

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UNDP Myanmar - International Parliamentary Expert (Individual Contract)

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UNDP Vietnam - Technical Specialist on Parliamentary Development (Governance and Participation Team) - P4 - FTA

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UNDP LAO PDR - Technical Specialist, Legal Sector Master Plan, Governance Unit (FTA, P-4)

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the development, promotion and funding of renewable energy projects.

The Parliamentary Action on Renewable Energy (PARE) Project aims to build the capacity of parliamentarians to strengthen their advocacy and monitoring of the development of renewable energy sources and to promote policy and regulatory reform to encourage investment in renewable energy in ten countries (Bangladesh, Congo-Brazzaville, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Tunisia).

The PARE Project is using **cross-party parliamentary groups** to promote renewable energy, new grids and other steps to ensure access to sustainable energy. This entry point for effective development work has proven to be a very successful pilot strategy to promote the issue. A cross-party group of MPs has been created in the ten target countries of the Project with two MPs heading the group. The groups have been trained on renewable energy and provided technical assistance and specific knowledge when required to make a policy change or push for legislative reform.

Bangladesh, for instance, saw the launch of the official Climate Parliament Group in September 2012. This cross-party group comprised of both men and women MPs, features representatives of the three main parties of Bangladesh: the Bangladesh Awami League, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, and the Bangladesh Jatiya Party. The Group organised a **Round Table discussion** with experts and government officials within the Bangladesh Parliament, to identify key issues and challenges for the development of renewable energy in the country.

The Climate Parliament Group in the **Jordanian Parliament** requested technical support on the cost of renewable energy in Jordan to prepare for the 2013 budget session in Parliament to convince fellow MPs that renewable energy is a price-competitive method of producing growing demands for electricity in Jordan. In **India**, the Climate Parliament Group of MPs have been focusing their attention on raising the renewable energy targets and budget for renewables in the five year plan. They have been very successful in this regard with a commitment of 15% RE in the energy mix and 1% of the national budget towards renewables by 2020.

As part of the Project, parliamentarians from the 10 countries came together in two international conferences this year. Members of Parliament were able to discuss potential solutions with leading climate scientists, policy experts, and technical specialists for increasing access to renewable energy and tackling climate change, share best practices and work together to outline a future legislative strategy for the promotion of renewable energy. The first hearing in **Sri Lanka 16th-18th November** 2012 focused on regional electricity trading and the potential of sustainable investment for cutting carbon emissions. The second forum in **Qatar 8th-10th December** 2012 had a focus on renewable energy success stories, and explored innovative policy ideas from UNDP, the Institute for Development Studies, and the Climate Bonds Initiative.

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Photo: Meeting of parliamentarians in Sri Lanka

- Watch UNDP and Climate Parliament's [video](#) on fighting poverty with power.
- Request access to our Trusted Area Climate Parliament network by registering at info@agora-parl.org.
- COs interested in piloting this approach or sharing stories and experiences can contact **Julia Keutgen** (julia.keutgen@undp.org) and/or **Sofi Halling** (sofi.halling@undp.org).
- Read the **full reports** of the conferences, including a detailed description of proceedings and agreed strategies for future action,



[Report of the Parliamentary Hearing in Sri Lanka](#)



[Report of the Parliamentary Forum in Doha](#)

Inclusive and participative political institutions Project in Select Arab States

UNDP's experience in supporting democratic governance globally has borne out the importance of political parties and parliaments as key actors in democratic transitions. In responding to the Arab Spring, UNDP's leadership in working with parliaments in the context of crisis pointed to the need to strengthen the capacities of political institutions, help prevent and manage conflict and address political fragility. In recognition of this, a Project was designed in early 2012 through a joint partnership between the Bureau for Development Policy (BDP) / Democratic Governance Group (DGG) Parliamentary Development Team, the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) Crisis Governance Team and the Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS) to directly strengthen the mechanisms for political inclusion in countries affected by the Arab Spring, both as a contribution to supporting national democratic transitions, as well as building the capacities of key political institutions to respond to and manage potential conflicts and crises during the period of transition and beyond.

A Regional Working Meeting was held in Beirut, Lebanon, on 20-21 February, 2013, within the framework of the '*Inclusive and Participative Political Institutions in the Arab Region*' Project. It brought together representatives of UNDP from ten countries in the region (**Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, OPT, Somalia and Tunisia**) as well as the Ambassador of Belgium to Lebanon, key staff from the UNDP Regional Centre in Cairo and HQ. The meeting provided an opportunity for UNDP staff implementing the Project to exchange experiences, capture lessons learned to date and discuss where the planned work has faced roadblocks and how to overcome such challenges to speed and scale-up result as the Project moves forward in 2013. The discussions placed a particular emphasis on how to make programmes more flexible, responsive and adaptable to changing political and social contexts, considering the special fluidity of trying to work with political institutions and processes in a constant state of flux. Discussions strongly focused on the importance of supporting partners to ensure the work of political institutions are perceived as legitimate, as a means of enhancing peace building and state building.



Regional Working Meeting, Beirut – February 2013



This **Report of the meeting** highlights some of the lessons learned so far as well as recommendations, and provides guidance to better understand how an innovative project working in a dynamic political environment has been able to operate under challenging circumstances. The Report can be accessed on [AGORA](#) and on [Teamworks](#).

Some of the results so far at the CO level:

In **Somalia**, the endorsement of a new Provisional Constitution in August and the selection of a new National Federal Parliament (NFP) in September 2012 signaled the biggest peacebuilding breakthrough in 20 years. The Project supported the UNDP Country Office to assist with the process of electing the speaker and President, and followed up with immediate support for a basic induction of Members and development of a Strategic Plan for to guide the work of the NFP for the next 4 years. The Project also supported a review of the Rules of Procedure to promote greater public participation; the new Rules are now being finalized by the NFP House Committee.

In **Libya**, UNDP supported the immediate development of the Secretariat to the new National Transitional Congress. UNDP provided technical expertise, capacity development and organizational support to the NTC (May-August 2012) and supported the transition and elected members through the drafting of induction materials, and by providing knowledge products and technical advice to the GNC. The inaugural session of the General National Congress in August 2012 received draft by-laws created with UNDP's help. UNDP also provided the Congress with tailor-made procedural guides on legislative powers; the Parliament's structure and the rights and duties of elected members. UNDP trained 70 legal staff from the interim Government on how to draft laws, with a special focus on laws that help bring about social and democratic change.

In **Algeria**, the Project ensured greater dialogue between the Parliament and marginalized groups, through facilitation of an initial high level workshop between political leaders and representatives of youth. The workshop identified some key actions for promoting greater interaction between citizens and the Parliament, including the opening of committee hearings to the public. As a result of the workshop, the Parliament asked UNDP to conduct a study as to the merits of a change in its rules of procedure to allow open committee hearings, which will be produced for consideration and implementation in 2013.

In **Jordan**, the new political parties law introduced new regulations for party financing and foreign funding. UNDP helped finalize the development of bylaws regulating party financing. UNDP facilitated dialogues and roundtables among

political parties, civil society, youth and women organizations on election-related laws, and a dedicated network was established ahead of the January 2013 elections.

In **Lebanon**, the Project supported the report for the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW) in preparation for Lebanon's report to the Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This report provided an avenue for engagement for the Committee to identify priority laws that will need to be reviewed and amended.

In **OPT**, the Project supported SHAREK, a Palestinian Youth NGO, to engage with leaders of student council across OPT to enhance their capacities to articulate, effectively communicate and persuasively argue issues that affect them as active individuals and engaged citizens. UNDP also supported several young women politicians to take on leadership positions within political parties across OPT.

In support of active networking and information-sharing, the Project developed and extended the **AGORA Portal** (www.agora-parl.org/ar) to provide a range of additional Arabic resources. The Project launched an 'Arab Parliamentary Knowledge Network' on Agora where parliamentarians, parliamentary staff and practitioners from the Arab States region could connect, share knowledge and experiences, and exchange best practices in the field of parliamentary development.

The project has been extended till December 2013. During the remaining months, more focus will be given to south-south cooperation and promoting a regional approach with a view to cementing a sustainable network of parliamentarians and practitioners in this important area of work.

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