



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION  
114<sup>th</sup> Assembly and related meetings  
Nairobi, 4 to 12 May 2006



Executive Committee  
Item 8



EX/246/8-R.1  
3 April 2006

**IPU ACTIVITIES TO STRENGTHEN PARLIAMENTS AND DEMOCRACY**

This document has been prepared by the Secretariat in view of the Governing Bodies' annual review of the IPU's work in the promotion of democracy. It covers the period from early 2005 to the 114<sup>th</sup> Assembly. In promoting democracy, the IPU uses an integrated approach with parliament as the focus. It thus works to strengthen the capacities of parliaments to perform their constitutional functions, including in the defense and promotion of human rights. The IPU's activities in this field also seek to ensure that women play a significant role in parliamentary processes. Much of the work to strengthen parliaments therefore includes human rights and gender components. The IPU also promotes knowledge on parliaments and democracy. Inter-linkages between these various components are actively sought when implementing activities.

This report should be read in conjunction with the relevant sections of the Secretary General's report on the IPU's activities for 2005.

**I. STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTS**

***National projects of assistance to parliaments***

1. In 2005, the IPU was involved in providing technical assistance to the following parliaments: Afghanistan, Algeria, Equatorial Guinea, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Uruguay and Viet Nam. Projects in these countries included orientation and professional development for members, training for staff and the provision of advisory services in order to create a legal and administrative environment conducive to effective parliaments. In Iraq, activities involved preparations for the implementation of a wide-ranging programme of assistance to the newly elected parliament. The programme is expected to get underway in 2006 following an assessment mission which will take place once the security situation has improved. In Afghanistan, the IPU in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, prepared the ground for the convening of the first fully-fledged parliament in Afghanistan in more than 30 years. The parliament met in inaugural session in December 2005.

2. The above-mentioned projects were carried out in the context of the IPU's Technical Cooperation Programme. In all of these projects, gender and human rights were integrated as cross-cutting issues, as well as specific project components.



3. Apart from the projects in Equatorial Guinea and Nigeria, which were funded by the European Commission, the others were carried out with funding from the United Nations Development Programme. Total funding available for all these projects was about \$19.4 million over several years. The bulk of this funding is managed directly by UNDP through country-based teams<sup>1</sup>.

4. In early 2006, the IPU conducted a needs assessment of the newly elected parliament of Burundi. A project is being designed to strengthen the capacities of this young parliament. At the time of preparing this report, the IPU was planning needs assessment missions to the parliaments of the Republic of Congo and Ecuador. Projects are also expected to be developed for these parliaments. Preliminary contacts have been established with the Transitional Parliament of Somalia with a view to a possible programme of assistance.

### ***Global and regional activities to strengthen parliaments***

5. In addition to country-based activities, the IPU was also actively involved in the organization of regional activities to strengthen parliamentary capacities on specific issues of topical interest.

- *Building parliamentary capacity for sustainable development*

6. The year 2005 saw a deepening of cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in the context of the IPU/UNITAR global capacity-building initiative for parliaments on sustainable development. The inaugural conference of this programme took place in Paris in April 2005, in cooperation with the French Senate. It was attended by more than 160 parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from nearly 70 countries. In November 2005, IPU and UNITAR convened the first regional seminar for Arab Parliaments in Beirut, Lebanon, at the invitation of the Lebanese Parliament. It focused on water management and was attended by over 40 parliamentarians from 13 Arab parliaments. A second regional seminar for African Parliaments is planned to take place in Cameroon in June 2006.

- *Strengthening the capacities of parliaments in post-conflict management*

7. The IPU has also pursued its cooperation with the UNDP with a view to developing guidelines for the delivery of technical assistance to parliaments in conflict situations. In 2005, the two organizations reviewed regional and country studies on the key challenges facing post-conflict parliaments. The IPU hosted a working group in Geneva for this purpose. The resulting guidelines are expected to be adopted at a donors conference scheduled in Brussels in April 2006. They address ways and means of assisting parliaments in coping with post-conflict challenges.

- *Strengthening parliamentary capacity for national reconciliation*

8. In a related field of activity, in July 2005, the IPU and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) published a handbook on *Making reconciliation work: The role of parliaments*. It provides insights into the role played by parliaments in coming to terms with the legacy of abuse that so often marks sustained periods of internal strife. The handbook provides a number of innovative examples of transitional

---

<sup>1</sup> Afghanistan alone accounts for about \$15.5 million.

justice experiences and concrete suggestions for parliamentarians as they support reconciliation.

9. Building on this cooperation, IPU and IDEA initiated a series of regional seminars on parliament's role in promoting reconciliation. The first such seminar was held for the African region in Bujumbura, Burundi in November 2005. This seminar was designed to assist African parliaments in facing the daunting challenges of post-conflict management. The seminar focused on ways and means of dealing with the scars of the past, including through the creation of transitional justice mechanisms which, in addition to truth commissions, include trials, reparation programmes for victims and institutional reform.

- *Strengthening parliamentary capacity for oversight of the security sector*

10. In pursuance of cooperation with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces (DCAF), the IPU organized a regional seminar for Latin America Parliaments on parliamentary oversight of the security sector. This seminar took place in Montevideo, Uruguay from 1-2 July 2005. Some 70 parliamentarians for 13 national and regional parliaments attended. The seminar examined ways and means of embedding the security sector firmly in a democratic structure.

## **II. PROMOTING AND DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS**

11. The IPU's activities in this field continued to focus on the protection of the human rights of parliamentarians and the strengthening of the capacities of parliaments to play effectively their role as guardians of human rights. These latter activities were conducted in the context of the IPU's efforts to strengthen parliaments.

- *Defending the parliamentary mandate*

12. The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians examined and adopted decisions on an average of 55 cases at its sessions in July and October 2005 and January 2006. At its October 2005 session, the Committee submitted 31 of these cases to the Governing Council in a public report, including five for the first time. They were the subject of resolutions by the Council.

13. An on-site mission was carried out in June 2005 for a confidential case. In June and September 2005 trial observations took place in the case of Mr. Hussam Khader (Palestine/Israel), and in June 2005 in the case of Mr. Javed Hashmi (Pakistan).

14. In order to maximise the implementation of its decisions, the Committee cooperated extensively with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the European Parliament. In October 2005, upon the recommendation of the Governing Council and the Committee, a third-party intervention was submitted to the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Ms. Merve Safa Kavakçi (Turkey).

### ***Seminar on freedom of expression, parliament and the promotion of tolerance***

15. The IPU, in cooperation with Article 19, an expert organization in the field of freedom of expression, organized the second in a series of annual seminars initiated by the IPU to build the capacities of parliamentary human rights bodies. This seminar took place from 25 - 27 May 2005 at IPU headquarters and was attended by some 100 members of parliamentary human

rights bodies. The seminar focused on the adequate protection of the freedom of speech of members of parliament and the legitimate restrictions on this freedom.

### ***Seminar on the implementation of legislation on indigenous peoples' rights***

16. On 25 and 26 July 2005, the IPU, together with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), organized a seminar at IPU Headquarters for members of parliament and other actors working on issues relating to indigenous populations. The seminar aimed to identify obstacles to full implementation of legislative action in favour of indigenous peoples and to find ways of eliminating such obstacles. The conclusions of the debate will be reflected in the next report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, which is due to be submitted to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in 2006.

### ***Launch of handbook on human rights***

17. In the framework of the Decade for Human Rights Education, the IPU and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights signed a agreement on the joint preparation and publication of a handbook on parliaments and human rights. Indeed, many parliamentarians and in particular the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians had strongly recommended the publication of such a guide to enhance the knowledge of parliamentarians in this domain. A renowned human rights expert, author of a widely used commentary of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and presently the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture, was mandated to draft the handbook with input from the IPU and the OHCHR. The English and French versions of the handbook were launched at the 113<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly by the Deputy United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Mehr Khan Williams, and the IPU President. The publication outlines the international and regional instruments and mechanisms designed to promote and protect human rights, it provides basic information on the meaning of the fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and offers special suggestions for parliamentary action to ensure their respect. Since then, the handbook has been widely distributed to parliamentarians and other institutions and organizations working on human rights issues.

## **III. PROMOTING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN**

### ***Building parliamentary capacity for gender-sensitive budgeting***

18. Pursuing its series of regional parliamentary events aimed at strengthening parliament's input in the development of gender-sensitive budgets, the IPU organised, in cooperation with UNIFEM, a regional seminar on "Parliaments and the budgetary process, including from a gender perspective" for Latin American Parliaments, in September 2005. The National Assembly of El Salvador hosted the seminar. It offered parliamentarians of eight Latin American and Caribbean countries<sup>2</sup> an opportunity to exchange views, compare their experiences and deepen their understanding of the budgetary process and of the tools they can use to make an effective contribution in this field. Emphasis was placed on the need to ensure that budgets took gender - or equity between men and women - into consideration.

19. The seminar was also an opportunity to launch the Spanish version of the Handbook for Parliamentarians on *Parliament, the Budget and Gender*, produced by the IPU, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNIFEM and the World Bank Institute.

---

<sup>2</sup> Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay and Uruguay.

***Preparing women for representative political office***

20. Following an IPU needs assessment mission to Manama in July 2005, the IPU and the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) of Bahrain organized a seminar on *The Roles and Responsibilities of National and Local Representatives* on 27-28 September 2005 in Manama, Bahrain. The seminar was designed for women candidates for the upcoming legislative and local elections scheduled to take place in 2006 in Bahrain. It focused on issues such as parliamentary mandates, the legislative, oversight and budgetary functions of parliament and the international dimension of parliamentary work. The role of local representatives was also discussed.

21. The seminar was attended by 80 potential women candidates, members of parliament as well as representatives from municipal councils. They were broadly representative of the political spectrum in Bahrain.

***Promoting implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)***

22. The Convention is the most comprehensive international legal instrument addressing women's rights. As in 2004, the IPU and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (UNDAW) organized a one-day information seminar, at IPU Headquarters, on 20 October 2005 on the role of parliaments in implementing the Convention. The seminar primarily targeted members of parliaments of those States parties to the Convention whose reports were considered in 2005 or will be considered in 2006. It identified opportunities for strengthening parliament's role both in the reporting process, and in follow-up to the CEDAW Committee's concluding observations in regard to the reporting State. The seminar brought together more than 60 MPs from 35 countries. It was the third seminar organised on the topic by the IPU and UNDAW.

***Providing parliamentary input to the 50<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)***

23. On the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the IPU organized a meeting of women speakers of parliament on the theme: Gender equality on the legislative agenda: The role of women presiding over parliaments. A dozen high-level parliamentary leaders, representing roughly half the number of the world's female Presiding Officers of Parliament, met for an inter-active discussion on the impact of women in politics, ranging from the changes they bring in institutional culture to the difference they make when it comes to setting legislative agendas.

24. In cooperation with the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, the IPU also organized a one-day parliamentary event during the CSW session on the theme: Gender equality: Making a Difference through Parliament. Some 150 MPs from more than 65 countries representing all continents discussed the particular role of members of parliament in promoting gender equality, parliamentary mechanisms to promote gender equality in parliaments, and the role of parliamentary committees specifically dealing with gender issues. The President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians presented the meeting's conclusions in her report to the CSW.

25. These events also provided an opportunity for the IPU to present its latest analysis on progress and setbacks in women's representation in parliament, as well as an information kit on Women in politics: 60 years in perspective.

### ***Protecting women and children against violence***

26. The IPU continued to focus attention on female genital mutilation (FGM) and the need to cease the practice. In this context, in co-operation with UNICEF, the IPU supported the organization by the African Parliamentary Union of a conference on "Violence against women, abandoning female genital mutilation: the role of national parliaments". This event was hosted by the National Assembly of Senegal in December 2005 and brought together members of parliament from 21 countries. The Conference sought to secure the political commitment of members of parliament at the continental level to abandoning the traditional harmful practice of FGM by sensitizing and mobilizing them on the issue. The Conference highlighted the important role parliaments play in enacting legislation as a first step in the abandonment of FGM, as well as overseeing proper implementation, adopting adequate budgets for programmes of assistance and helping to change mentalities.

### ***Promoting the role of parliament in developing a protective framework for children***

27. The Inter-Parliamentary Union and UNICEF organized a regional seminar for parliaments of the Asia Pacific region and regional inter-parliamentary organizations on "*Developing a protective framework for children: The role of Parliaments*" at the invitation of the National Assembly of Viet Nam. This seminar was held in Hanoi in February 2006.

28. Participants examined ways in which parliaments can contribute to effective protection of children against all forms of violence and abuse. The IPU/UNICEF Handbook for parliamentarians on Child Protection was a major resource for the seminar.

29. A new Handbook on Combating Child Trafficking produced in co-operation with UNICEF was launched at the 112<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, held in Manila. It addresses concrete measures that parliamentarians can take to combat child trafficking and ways and means of building a protective environment for children.

## **IV. PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE OF PARLIAMENTS AND DEMOCRACY**

30. In addition to the production of its traditional information materials on parliaments such as the World Directory of Parliaments, the Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and the regular development of its Parline Database on the role, structure and working methods of parliaments, the IPU pursued other major initiatives in 2005.

### ***Developing electoral standards and disseminating knowledge of elections***

31. In 2004, the IPU launched a project to review developments in the international law and practice of elections since its 1994 study on *Free and Fair Elections: international law and practice*. Research and other consultations, including through a panel of experts convened in November 2004, have led to the publication of an updated version of the study. This edition was launched in March 2006. Previously, a compendium of expert papers produced by members of the panel had been published under the title *Revisiting Free and Fair Elections*. It was also published in the journal *Representation*.

32. The IPU also initiated a new publication, the Panorama of Parliamentary Elections, the maiden edition of which will be published in 2006. This publication provides an overview of global trends in parliamentary elections. It presents key statistics accompanied by brief

thematic narratives. Parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, journalists and students alike would find it useful.

33. On 27 October 2005, the IPU joined a host of international organizations at the UN in New York to endorse formally the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and Code of Conduct for International Election Observers. These two documents had been prepared by the UN, the Carter Center and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI).

#### ***Identifying good parliamentary practice of democracy***

34. The IPU launched in 2004 a study involving a survey of parliaments to identify what they consider to be good practice in the context of democracy. It brought together a panel of experts comprising members of parliaments, journalists and other democracy practitioners to review the study. A draft report was presented to the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Conference of Speakers in New York in September 2005. The study is currently being finalised in the form of a guide that will be launched at the 114<sup>th</sup> Assembly in Nairobi. It will address ways in which parliaments perform their basic functions of law-making, oversight and representation not only at national but also at international level. It also focuses on what it takes to be an effective parliament, including mechanisms whereby parliaments are coping with emerging challenges at national and international level.

#### ***Promoting ICT in parliaments***

35. In November 2005, the IPU in co-operation with the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the Italian Parliament, launched the Global Centre on ICT in Parliament. It is intended to build parliamentary capacity to make best use of ICT in order to make parliament's work more effective and more accessible to the public. The Centre will become operational in 2006.

#### ***Contributing to the global community of knowledge on governance***

36. The IPU, in view of its expertise on parliaments, has been called upon frequently to contribute such expertise to global reflection on matters of governance. In 2005, the IPU's Parliamentary Resource Centre responded to more than 200 online queries relating to the functioning of parliaments.

37. In addition, the IPU participated in an advisory body set up by UNDP and the Office of the UN High Representative for LDCs to review a major report on the state of governance in LDCs since the 3<sup>rd</sup> LDC Conference in Brussels. The IPU is also a member of the Democratic Governance Practice Network Advisory Group, set up by UNDP to contribute new ideas and knowledge aimed at promoting democratic governance for human development.



**SUMMARY TABLE OF DEMOCRACY-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN 2005-EARLY 2006**

AREA OF FOCUS	COUNTRY/REGION	ACTIVITY	TIMING	PARTNER(S)	BUDGET	REMARKS
<i>I. Strengthening parliaments</i>						
	Algeria	Seminar on legislative drafting, Algiers	Nov	UNDP, Switzerland	N/A	IPU involvement limited to identification of expert and documentation
		Seminar on budget, Algiers	March 06	UNDP, Belgium, Lebanon, France	N/A	
	Afghanistan	Study visits for staff to Indonesia and Morocco	Aug/Sept	UNDP, Indonesia, Morocco	Total budget for Afghanistan is \$15.5 million managed directly by UNDP	
		Seminar for staff on parliamentary best practice, Kabul	Oct	UNDP	N/A	
		Technical assistance mission in view of new parliament, Kabul	Dec	UNDP, Belgium	N/A	
		Technical assistance mission parliamentary records, Kabul	Dec	UNDP, Belgium	N/A	
		Orientation for new members, Kabul	Dec	UNDP, USAID, S. Africa	N/A	
	Burundi	Needs assessment mission, Bujumbura	Jan/Feb 06	Cameroon, France, Italy	CHF 30 079 funded by the IPU	
	Equatorial Guinea	Seminar for MPs on legislative functions, Bata	March	Spain, France	Total budget for EG project is Euro 736 000 co-funded by EU and the EG government over several years	
		Technical assistance mission on staff rules and structures, Malabo/Bata	March	France		
		Study visit for Secretary General of Parliament to France and Spain	June	Spain, France		

		Seminar for MPs on the budget, Bata	Sept.	Spain		
		Stenotype Technical evaluation mission, Malabo	Jan 06	Cameroon		
	Iraq	Assessment mission to London	Jan	UK	CHF 1,500 funded by the IPU	
	Nigeria	Orientation workshop for State Assemblies, Bauchi	June		Total spent on project: Euro 1,715,599 funded by EU and the Federal Government of Nigeria	
		Budget seminar for State Assemblies, Plateau	July			
		Human rights conference for State Assemblies, Osun	Aug			
		Civil society/budget training, Abia	Oct			
		Study visit for senior staff of National and State Assemblies to S. Africa and Kenya	Oct	S. Africa, Kenya		
		Study visits for senior staff of N. Assembly to France	Nov	France		
		Parliamentary Service commission workshop, Abuja	Nov			
		Women's political participation seminar for National and State Assemblies, Kebbi	Nov			
		Study visit for Clerks of 6 State Assemblies to Belgium	Nov	Belgium		
		Environmental law and sustainable development workshop, Cross River	Nov			

		Workshop for parliamentary librarians, Osun	Nov				
		Workshop for research officers, Abia	Nov				
		Workshop for editors, Combe	Dec				
		Workshop for information officers, Kebbi	Dec				
	Pakistan	Study visits for members and staff to Thailand	Dec			Budget under IPU/UNDP MOU is \$50 000	
		Training trainers programme for staff in Australia	Dec				
	Viet Nam	Identification of expertise for high level policy forum on public finance, Hanoi	Oct		UNDP, New Zealand	N/A	IPU involvement limited to identification of experts and documentation
	Global	Global Conference on capacity building for Sustainable development, Paris	April		UNITAR, France	\$ 7,733 funded by IPU, other costs covered by UNITAR and French Senate	
	Global	Working group on post-conflict, IPU Geneva	July		UNDP et al	N/A Funded by UNDP	
	Arab region	Seminar for Arab parliaments on water management, Beirut	Nov		UNITAR, Lebanon, Arab IPU	Total budget \$ 50,000 funded by SIDA, spent so far CHF16 000	
	Arab region	Parliamentary conference, Algiers	Sept		UNDP, Arab IPU	Funded entirely by UNDP	
	Latin America	Seminar on parliamentary oversight of the security sector, Montevideo	July		DCAF, Uruguay	CHF 21 334 funded by IPU and DCAF	

	Africa	Seminar on parliaments and national reconciliation, Bujumbura	Nov	IDEA, Burundi	\$ 27,500 cost shared 50:50 by IPU and IDEA	
II Promoting and defending human rights	Global	Committee on HR of MPs, Manila	July			
		Committee on HR of MPs, Geneva	Oct			
		Committee on HR of MPs, Geneva	Jan 06			
		On-site mission	June			
	Palestine/Israel/Pakistan	Trial observations	June/Sept			
	Global	Freedom of expression seminar, IPU Geneva	May	SIDA, Article 19	CHF 80 000 funded by SIDA	
		Seminar on indigenous peoples' rights, IPU Geneva	July	OHCHR		
		Launch of Handbook on human rights, Geneva	Oct	OHCHR		
III. Promoting partnership between men and women	Bahrain	Needs assessment mission, Manama	July			
		Seminar on roles and responsibilities of National and local representatives, Manama	Sept	SIDA	CHF 23 778 funded by SIDA	

	Regional	Seminar for Latin America on budget and gender, San Salvador	Sept	UNDP, UNIFEM, World Bank Institute, Chile	Budget of \$ 45 000 funded by UNIFEM, World Bank Institute and Chile	
		Seminar for Asia-Pacific on protective framework for children, Hanoi	Feb 06	UNICEF, Vietnam		
		Conference on female genital mutilation, Dakar	Dec	APU, UNICEF, DFID, NORAD, Senegal	CHF 29 700 funded by NORAD. DFID funding provided through UNICEF	
	Global	Information seminar on CEDAW, IPU Geneva	Oct	UNDAW		
		Parliamentary events at 50 <sup>th</sup> CSW, New York	March 06	UNDAW		
		Launch of child trafficking handbook, Manila	April	UNICEF		
IV. Promoting knowledge of parliaments and democracy						
	Global	Publication of <i>Revisiting free and fair elections</i> , Geneva		Ford Foundation	\$ 100 000 funded \$ 90 000 by Ford Foundation and \$10 000 by IPU	
		Meetings of expert group on democratic practice, IPU Geneva	Jan, June 05 and Jan 06	SIDA, UNDP	Budget \$ 210 000 funded by SIDA and UNDP CHF 114 887 disbursed in 2005	
		Launch of Global Centre on ICT in Parliament, Tunis	Nov	Italy, UNDESA		
		Publication of revised version of <i>Free and Fair Elections</i>	March 06	Ford Foundation	\$ 100 000 funded \$ 90 000 by Ford Foundation and \$ 10 000 by IPU as part of same project as <i>Revisiting Free and Fair Elections</i>	
		Preparatory mission to Doha in view of 6 <sup>th</sup> Conf of New or Restored Democracies	Feb 06			

**Democracy-related publications issued in 2005- early 2006**

- Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections 2004
- World Directory of Parliaments 2005
- Revisiting Free and Fair Elections
- Revised version of Free and Fair Election: international law and practice
- Handbook for Parliamentarians: Combating Child Trafficking
- Human Rights: Handbook for Parliamentarians
- Making Reconciliation Work: The role of Parliaments
- Global capacity-building initiative for parliaments on sustainable development, report of the inaugural conference, 22-23 April 2005

## **Partners in democracy-related activities**

### ***Donors***

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- European Commission
- Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA)
- UK Department for International Development (DFID)
- Norwegian Agency for International Co-operation (NORAD)
- the Ford Foundation
- Government of Equatorial Guinea
- Federal Government of Nigeria

### ***Partners providing substantive support***

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF),
- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM),
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA)
- National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI),
- Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF).

### ***Regional inter-Parliamentary Associations***

- African Parliamentary Union
- Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union
- Latin American Parliament

### ***Parliaments hosting staff attachments, study visits, seminars, conferences and providing technical experts***

*Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Burundi, Cameroon, El Salvador, France, Germany, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Zambia*

### Democracy-related events in 2006<sup>3</sup>

- Regional conference for women parliamentarians in the Gulf States, Manama Bahrain, April 2006
- Regional seminar on parliament, the budget and gender (for Europe and Central Asia), June 2006
- Regional capacity-building seminar for African parliaments on sustainable development, Yaoundé, Cameroon June 2006
- 114th session of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, July 2006
- Seventh workshop of parliamentary scholars and parliamentarians, organized by the Centre for Legislative Studies of the University of Hull, with IPU sponsorship, Oxfordshire, UK 29-30 July 2006
- Seminar for members of parliamentary human rights bodies, 25-27 September 2006
- Information seminar on Implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women: The role of parliaments and their members, 19 October 2006
- Parliamentary Forum on the occasion of the sixth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, Doha, 29 Oct-1 Nov 2006
- Regional seminar on the role of parliaments in the national reconciliation process in Latin America, held in partnership with International IDEA, early November
- Regional seminar for Asia on parliamentary oversight of the security sector, tentatively August 2006

---

<sup>3</sup> Does not include events (missions, seminars) to be organised in the context of country-specific projects of assistance.