



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

Presentation on Recent Developments

March 2021

Indicators for democratic parliaments, based on SDG targets 16.6 and 16.7

Preliminary Draft of Indicators has been completed.

25 “indicators” comprising 111 “dimensions” and
around 400 “assessment criteria”.

Pilot testing with parliaments has taken place throughout the
project.

Twenty Parliaments have contributed with feedback.



Indicators for democratic parliaments, based on SDG targets 16.6 and 16.7

Indicators

- All indicators in one file
- Sub-target 1 - Effective parliament
- Sub-target 2 - Accountable parliament
- Sub-target 3 - Transparent parliament
- Sub-target 4 - Responsive parliament
- Sub-target 5 - Inclusive parliament
- Sub-target 6 - Participatory parliament
- Sub-target 7 - Representative parliament

Indicators for democratic parliaments, based on SDG targets 16.6 and 16.7

Future milestones

March: Presentation of the Indicators- Global launch

Further testing and finetuning before final version end of 2022.

New IPU tools



New IPU tools



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Women in parliament in 2021 The year in review



Mexico made history by reaching gender parity in Parliament for the first time in 2021. © Eyephot/Photo via AFP

Introduction

The world walked into 2021 with the shadow of COVID-19 looming large over its head. As well as posing a major health risk, the pandemic had also caused economic and social upheaval. Political life had been affected too, from the challenges of holding elections safely to ensuring the smooth working of parliaments. Though many of these difficulties endured in 2021, and in some cases were compounded, there were fewer delays¹ in elections when compared with the previous year.

The pandemic had also exposed the particular vulnerability of women in times of crisis. Throughout 2020 and 2021, evidence showed that women were bearing a disproportionate brunt of the social and economic fallout of the crisis.² Their vulnerabilities were further exacerbated if they were from non-dominant racial, ethnic, religious or class communities.

¹ <https://www.ipsa.int/news-media/parliamentary-reports/global-overview-over-19-parliamentary-elections>
² <https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/population/2020-stories/story04.shtml>

HIGHLIGHTS

- The share of women in national parliaments increased by 0.4 percentage points, from 25.5 per cent on 1 January 2021 to 25.9 per cent on 1 January 2022. This rate of progress was slower than in the previous two years, when the share had risen by 0.6 points.
- In the 48 countries that held elections in 2021, women were elected to 28.6 per cent of the parliamentary seats up for election. This was significantly better than in 2020, when women accounted for 22.9 per cent across all polls.
- This progress can be attributed to at least two factors. First, the average representation of women in the 48 countries was higher (26.5%) even before the 2021 parliamentary renewals. And second, 30 of the 48 countries that held elections to either chamber had some form of quota in place (compared with 25 of the 57 countries that held elections in 2020).
- Quotas continued to play a critical role in ensuring greater representation of women in 2021. Countries with some form of quota elected 31.9 per cent women on average to their lower or single house, while those without quotas elected only 19.5 per cent women overall.
- Although 29.9 per cent women were elected or appointed to lower or single houses across parliaments in 2021, the corresponding share of women elected or appointed to upper houses last year was 26 per cent.
- The Americas remained the region with the highest representation of women, who accounted for 39.1 per cent of members elected to 15 chambers in the 11 countries that held parliamentary renewals in 2021. Overall, as of January 2022, women made up 33.5 per cent of all parliamentarians in the region, across all chambers and countries.




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United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women



Gender-responsive law-making

Handbook for Parliamentarians No. 33



I SAY YES TO YOUTH in PARLIAMENT

I SAY YES TO YOUTH IN PARLIAMENT!

Half the world's population is under 30 and yet only 2.6% of MPs globally represent this age group. The IPU has identified the six ways below to change this. Please take two minutes to pick one or more pledge(s) to make your parliament younger!



Pledge 1
PROMOTING YOUTH QUOTAS



Pledge 2
**ALIGNING THE AGE OF
ELIGIBILITY WITH THAT OF
VOTING**



Pledge 3
**SUPPORTING YOUTH CHANNELS
IN PARLIAMENT**



Pledge 4
**EMPOWERING YOUNG
PARLIAMENTARIANS**



Pledge 5
MENTORING YOUNG ASPIRANTS



Pledge 6
**ADVOCATING FOR YOUTH
PARTICIPATION**



Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments

The Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments was adopted unanimously by the 127th IPU Assembly (Quebec City, October 2012). It is a key policy document for the IPU and its member Parliaments. It was drawn up following extensive consultation with IPU Members and takes account of the findings and recommendations of the IPU Global Survey on Gender-sensitive Parliaments: A Global review of good practice, published in 2011.

A gender-sensitive parliament is one that responds to the needs and interests of both men and women in its structures, methods and work. The Plan of Action is designed to support parliaments' efforts to become more gender-sensitive institutions and offers a wide range of strategies in seven action areas that can be implemented by all parliaments.

[Go to Evaluating the gender sensitivity of parliaments: A self-assessment toolkit.](#)

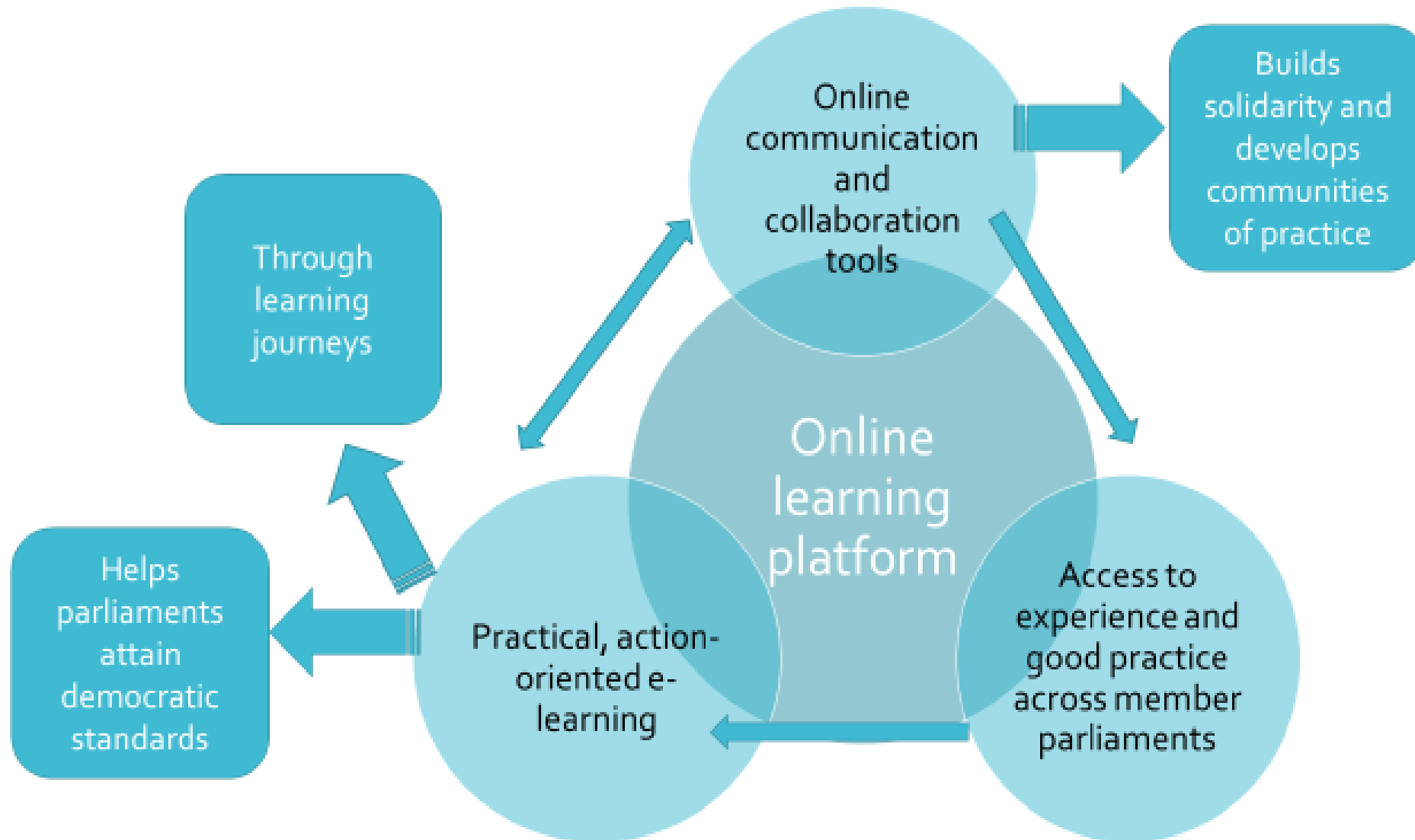
[Learn about the IPU's work on gender equality.](#)



Plan of action for
gender-sensitive parliaments

Modular learning:

IPU facilitates access for MPs, parliamentary staff, other stakeholders to:





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Thank you