



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

143rd IPU Assembly

Madrid, Spain
26-30 November 2021



Public engagement in the work of parliaments: Challenges, opportunities and good practices

*Session jointly organized by the IPU and the ASGP in partnership with UNDP
Monday, 29 November 2021, 3.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.
Hall Paris, 1st floor, Palacio Municipal (IFEMA)*

Concept note

At the 141st IPU Assembly in Belgrade in October 2019, parliamentarians and Secretaries General met to discuss contemporary challenges to parliament. The gap between parliaments and the people as the leading issue to address.

Taking up this challenge, “*Public engagement in the work of parliament*” is the theme of the next IPU-UNDP Global Parliamentary Report. Scheduled for publication in March 2022, the report takes stock of the experience of the past decades and sets out future orientations for public engagement. Enhancing opportunities for meaningful engagement closely by working with youth, listening to voices from all sectors of society, harnessing digital tools and encouraging innovation in parliamentary work are at the forefront of the issues discussed in the report.

This joint session at the 143rd Assembly will be the next milestone in the process of supporting more and better public engagement with parliament. Parliamentarians and Secretaries General will share and confront their views on what the public expects and how parliaments are responding.

The joint session will begin with an overview of key findings from the Global Parliamentary Report on *Public engagement in the work of parliament*.

The main part of the session will be an interactive exchange of good practices in three areas of public engagement. Parliamentarians and Secretaries General will discuss recent developments in their parliaments on:

- Education: Increasing understanding of parliaments and their work
- Consultation: Using collective knowledge to inform legislation and oversight
- Participation: Involving the public in decision-making processes

The session will conclude with discussion of proposals for ongoing inter-parliamentary cooperation to exchange knowledge and develop practical tools for public engagement in the work of parliament.

About the Global Parliamentary Report

The Global Parliamentary Report (GPR) is a flagship IPU-UNDP publication that contributes to realizing the vision of better parliaments and stronger democracies. The GPR offers findings and recommendations based on parliamentary experiences and good practice.

The target audience of the GPR is first and foremost the parliamentary community. This includes the members and staff of parliaments as well as people and organizations working to enhance the effective functioning of parliaments, such as parliamentary-strengthening practitioners, researchers and civil society organizations.

The first edition, published in 2012, focused on "[The changing nature of parliamentary representation](#)". The second edition in 2017, entitled "[Parliamentary oversight: Parliament's power to hold government to account](#)", shone the spotlight on another of parliament's critical functions. More than 150 parliaments have contributed to both reports, giving it a unique global perspective and considerable authority.

For more information, please contact gpr@ipu.org

