



SDC
Democratisation, Decentralisation
and Local Governance

Parliamentary Support

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challenges

parliaments are slow

parliaments are complex

working with parliaments is inherently political

advantages

legitimacy to democratic processes

accountability

Increased topical knowledge, inspiration & thematic competence

Guidance

corrective to executive

Examples of application

introduce legislation

amend, approve, reject legislation

capacity in legal drafting and legislative review

parliamentary research / analytical services, library & information systems

thematic parliamentary committee work

expert databases and procedures for external expertise

open up parliamentary work to relevant expertise

law-making

Guidance

Examples of application

legitimacy

dialogue with citizens

representation

constituency relations and development

outreach capacity, communication strategies and tools

civic education on active citizenship and the role of parliaments

regional and international networking

Guidance

Examples of application

oversight

monitoring of government activities

monitoring implementation and impact of government policies

financial accountability

access to government information

accountability relationships with government

capacity to conduct inquiries

anti-corruption

**dialogue with constituency – social
accountability**

Examples of application

**support
to
parliament
administration**

recruiting, monitoring & evaluation, and management processes

institutional development plans

ICT systems

management and research skills

continuous on-the-job training

research centres

cooperation with CSOs, think tanks, research institutes etc.

stakeholders

speaker or president of parliament

political party leaders

committee chairs

influential backbenchers or "champions"

secretary general / clerk of the parliament

heads of key parliamentary directorates

IPU principles

General Principle:

Effective parliaments are essential to democracy, the rule of law, human rights, gender equality, and economic and social development. Parliaments require access to excellent technical support in order to contribute fully in these areas

Specific Principles:

1. Parliamentary support partners are guided by the needs of parliament
2. Parliamentary support partners are attentive to the multiple, overlapping social, economic, and political contexts in which parliaments operate
3. Parliamentary support aims for sustainable outcomes
4. Parliamentary support is inclusive of all political tendencies
5. Parliamentary support is grounded in emerging international democratic parliamentary standards
6. Parliamentary support addresses the needs and potential of women and men equally in the structure, operation, methods and work of parliament
7. Parliamentary support utilizes locally and regionally available expertise
8. Parliamentary support partners and parliaments commit to excellent co-ordination and communication
9. Parliamentary support partners act ethically and responsibly

and SDC?

national level: Armenia, Cambodia, Laos, Macedonia, Ukraine

regional level: Niger, Afghanistan

local level: Armenia, Georgia, Macedonia, Mongolia, Mozambique, Niger

legislative function: Mongolia, Nicaragua, Ukraine

oversight - accountability: Serbia, Burkina Faso, Southern Africa

representation - dialogue, outreach: Serbia, Georgia

lessons

better contextualization

long-term commitment

demand-driven donor support

integrated approach

target-group specific support

policy issues as entry point

connecting national and supra-national programs

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Franklin de Vrieze

issues to be covered:

- 1. opportunities**
- 2. context, target group specificity**
- 3. where are we and where can we go from here?**
- 4. systemic approach and complementarity to other interventions**

expert talk