# Strengthening Parliamentary Accountability, Citizen Engagement and Access to Information:

# A Global Survey of Parliamentary Monitoring Organizations



# **Strengthening Parliamentary Accountability, Citizen Engagement and Access to Information:**

A Global Survey of Parliamentary Monitoring Organizations

Andrew G. Mandelbaum September 2011

National Democratic Institute and World Bank Institute

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# **Table of Contents**

Fable of Contents    i	
Table of Abbreviations	vi
Executive Summary	1
1. Introduction	5
The Research Project on Parliamentary Monitoring Organizations Definition of "PMO" and Methodology	
2. International Context	
Parliamentary Informatics International Donor Assistance for Parliamentary Strengthening The Convergence of Parliamentary Strengthening and Parliamentary Informatics	13
3. Characteristics of PMOs	
Survey Participation PMO Functions and Activities Who PMOs Monitor Challenges Facing PMOs Sources of PMO Funding Factors That Determine Activities Conducted by PMOs 4. Monitoring Individual MPs	
Background Information.	
Parliamentary Attendance and Participation	
Parliamentary Debate and Public Statements	
Oversight Tools	
Legislation and Voting Records	
Constituency Service and Constituency Development Funds	
MP Financial Disclosures and Political Finance Summarizing Performance Data for Individual MPs	
5. Monitoring Parliaments	
Parliamentary Background Information	
Assessing Parliamentary Activity and Functioning	
Comprehensive Parliamentary Performance Monitoring Legislative Tracking and Explanation	
Transparency and Openness	

6. Good Practices in Parliamentary Monitoring	65
Increasing Transparency of Parliamentary Information	65
Sustaining Funding for PMOs	67
Overcoming Parliamentary Resistance to Monitoring	68
Effective Use of Parliamentary Informatics for Monitoring Parliaments	71
Using Parliamentary Monitoring to Support Reform and Reinforce Public Activism	73
Developing Effective Outreach to the Media	75
Using Sound Methodologies and Reporting Practices	76
7. Preliminary Recommendations for the Donor Community	79

Appendix 1: List of Interviews	
Appendix 2: List of PMOs by Region	89
Appendix 3: Selected Parliamentary Monitoring Resources	101
Appendix 4: Profile Sheets for Selected PMOs	111
Appendix 5: Sample PMO Survey Questionnaire	

# **Table of Abbreviations**

	American Bar Association Europe and Eurasia Program
ADC	Asociación por los Derechos Civiles
AFLI	African Leadership Institute
ALP	African Legislatures Project
ANSA	Affiliated Network for Social Accountability
APF	Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie
BTD	Balkan Trust for Democracy
CAPC	Centre for Analysis and Prevention of Corruption
CDD	Ghana Center for Democratic Development
CDF	Constituency Development Funds
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
COMFREL	Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia
CPA	Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
CRS	Congressional Research Service
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DFID	UK Department for International Development
EC	European Commission
FES	Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
FNS	Friedrich Naumann Stiftung
FAFEN	Free and Fair Election Network
FOI	Freedom of Information
FOICA	Freedom of Information Center of Armenia
FDC	Fundación Directorio Legislativo
FDsF	Fundación Democracia sin Fronteras
IBP	International Budget Partnership
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDEA	International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
IPP	Institute for Public Policy
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
IRI	International Republican Institute
KAS	Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
KDI	Kosova Democratic Institute
LALT	Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency
CRTA	Center for Research, Transparency and Accountability
MANS	Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector
MEP	Member of the European Parliament
MEPI	Middle East Partnership Initiative
MKSS	Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan
MP	Member of Parliament
MUHURI	Muslims for Human Rights
NDI	National Democratic Institute
NED	
NGO	National Endowment for Democracy
UUU	Non-governmental Organization

Development Assistance CommitteeOSCEOrganization for Security and Co-operation in EuropeOSIOpen Society InstituteOSIEAOpen Society Institute of East AfricaPACPublic Accounts CommitteePILDATPakistan Institute of Legislative Development and TransparencyPMGParliamentary Monitoring GroupPMOParliamentary Monitoring OrganizationPRSPRS Legislative ResearchRIPTRegional Index of Parliamentary TransparencySAHRSouth Asians for Human RightsSIDASwedish International Development Cooperation AgencySDCSwiss Agency for Development and CooperationTITransparency InternationalTIBTransparency International BangladeshTIGTransparency International GeorgiaTISAThe Institute for Social AccountabilityUKUnited KingdomUNDEFUnited Nations Development FundUNDPUnited States of AmericaUSAIDUnited States Agency for International DevelopmentWBWorld BankWBIWorld Bank Institute	OECD DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development,
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UNDPUnited Nations Development ProgrammeUSUnited States of AmericaUSAIDUnited States Agency for International DevelopmentWBWorld Bank	UK	United Kingdom
USUnited States of AmericaUSAIDUnited States Agency for International DevelopmentWBWorld Bank	UNDEF	United Nations Development Fund
USAID United States Agency for International Development WB World Bank	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WB World Bank	US	United States of America
	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WBI World Bank Institute	WB	World Bank
	WBI	World Bank Institute

# **Executive Summary**

#### Background

During the past decade, parliaments have received increasing attention from the international development community. Citizens and civil society organizations have also realized the importance – or, in some instances, the *potential* importance – of parliaments to democratic governance, due to their roles in lawmaking, conducting executive oversight, and representing citizens and their interests. As a consequence, citizen-based groups have begun to monitor or assess the functioning of parliaments or their individual members, often seeking to facilitate and promote public knowledge of, and participation in parliamentary processes. These parliamentary monitoring organizations (PMOs) have shown promise in strengthening a number of components of democratic governance, including the accountability of parliaments to the electorate, citizen engagement in the legislative process and access to information about parliaments and their work. To a lesser extent, they have shown the capacity to encourage parliamentary reform.

Given the lack of research on PMOs, the <u>National Democratic Institute</u> (NDI) and <u>World Bank</u> <u>Institute</u> (WBI) undertook a joint project to: 1) identify PMOs worldwide and collect basic information regarding their activities; 2) document good practices in parliamentary monitoring, and; 3) suggest recommendations for the international donor community regarding PMOs. To meet these objectives, the project conducted a survey of PMOs, analyzed their websites and other outputs, and interviewed a range of individuals at organizations involved in conducting or supporting parliamentary monitoring activities.

#### **Project Findings**

- Over 191 PMOs monitor more than 80 national parliaments worldwide. These organizations are scattered throughout the world, but most are found in Latin America (42) and Central and Eastern Europe (28). According to project survey results, most PMOs (94 percent) monitor national parliaments, while 24 percent monitor sub-national legislatures. Many of these PMOs focus on monitoring the activities and performance of individual MPs, although many also monitor parliaments as institutions, or the components of the parliamentary institution, such as parliamentary party groups or parliamentary committees.
- While a wealth of good practice information exists, the overall quality of PMO methodologies and interventions remains mixed, and sharing good practices among PMOs is limited. Some PMOs focus on monitoring the limited information that they can access, regardless of relevance, rather than advocating for transparency of more significant parliamentary information. Regional networking has commenced in Latin America, with support from the World Bank, and in the Middle East and North Africa, but represents a recent development.

- Major challenges facing PMOs include limited access to information, insufficient financial support from local and international sources, and parliamentary resistance to their activities. Access to parliamentary information remains a common challenge for PMOs globally. Although parliaments often hesitate to support PMO activities questioning their political allegiances or the methodologies used to assess parliamentary performance or functioning some PMOs have successfully advanced monitoring through a more collaborative model that is supportive of the institution or through participating in international monitoring activities. In countries receiving international development assistance, donor support is a critical source of funding for 86 percent of PMOs. Although a handful of PMOs in these countries have succeeded in developing other sources of sustainable funding, few PMOs offer funding models that appear transferable to organizations in other countries.
- The application of information and communications technologies (ICTs) to parliamentary work, known as "parliamentary informatics," is a rapidly growing trend in parliamentary monitoring. These tools can automatically aggregate and organize information from parliamentary websites and other information sources, generate visualizations (such as political finance maps), and create new platforms for citizens to interact with MPs or participate in parliamentary monitoring and policy analysis. Parliamentary informatics, which are used by approximately 40 percent of PMOs surveyed, are oftentimes delivered through user-friendly and visually attractive websites. While they have proven effective in many instances, the most useful informatics tools require the availability of parliamentary data in machine-readable or "open data" formats, which remains a challenge in many contexts.
- The impact of some PMOs has been limited by a lack of capacity to translate monitoring into greater public awareness or advocacy. While the act of monitoring is valuable in itself, its impact can be muted if quality information fails to improve citizen understanding of parliaments, or stimulate or inform parliamentary reform efforts. Some PMOs have invested more in monitoring than in developing an advocacy strategy or public awareness campaign based on their monitoring results, with many of these limiting their outreach or advocacy strategy to printing of a report and conducting a press conference announcing its release.
- PMOs vary in their approaches to parliamentary monitoring, with some taking more adversarial stances toward parliaments and others choosing a more collaborative course. Some PMOs have found it helpful to complement monitoring activities with more constructive approaches that support legislative development. PMOs, as well as donor organizations that support them, should consider whether monitoring activities are designed

to stimulate democratic reform and improved governance, or whether they may serve instead to increase public cynicism of politics and government.

- The international donor community can encourage effective parliamentary monitoring by:
  - continuing medium- to long-term investments in PMOs that allow them time to develop their approaches and methodologies by forging credible and effective working relationships with MPs;
  - working with PMOs to help them translate quality parliamentary monitoring into successful advocacy for reform and constructive parliamentary engagement;
  - supporting networking and peer-to-peer sharing among PMOs to consolidate effective activities and tools, and encourage the use of good practices throughout the PMO community;
  - supporting and engaging PMOs in efforts to improve parliamentary transparency, including the development of minimum transparency standards for parliaments, indices of parliamentary transparency and open data standards;
  - engaging the parliamentary informatics community to improve sharing and encourage development of common tools; and
  - including PMOs in the continued development of international norms and standards for democratic parliaments to reinforce these efforts and encourage consensus around the normative approach.

# 1. Introduction

During the past decade, parliaments have received increasing attention from the international development community.<sup>1</sup> Some scholars have gone so far as to suggest that "[t]he strength of the national legislature may be a – or even *the* – institutional key to democratization."<sup>2</sup> In many nascent and developing democracies, the parliament may be the only institution capable of providing checks and balances that prevent the executive from monopolizing power. Parliaments, particularly when combined with periodic alternation in power, can be an important mechanism for government oversight, and addressing both grand and petty corruption. Moreover, effective parliaments can facilitate the development of political parties. In theory, parliaments are forums in which citizen preferences are aggregated by political parties and expressed as public policies. How parliaments function influences the quality of citizen influence on decision making.

Parliamentary monitoring organizations (PMOs) monitor and assess the functioning of parliaments or their individual members, often seeking to facilitate and promote public knowledge of, and participation in parliamentary processes. Over 190 of these organizations monitor more than 80 national parliaments worldwide. PMOs have shown promise in strengthening a number of components of democratic governance, including the accountability of parliaments to the electorate, citizen engagement in the legislative process and access to information about parliaments and their work. Where democratic norms of accountability are weak, PMOs have helped stimulate demand for improved parliamentary functioning and



Image 1.1: A video by <u>Fundación Ciudadano</u> <u>Inteligente</u> educates citizens about the legislative process in Chile. Source: <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fovPgBS2FK</u> <u>M</u>. Accessed: 09.28.11

nurtured a culture of respect for the active contribution of citizens in the political process – both during and in-between elections. In more open political environments, PMOs have reinvigorated citizen engagement by developing new platforms for political expression and policy discussion. In all societies, PMOs have often provided legislators and citizens alike with greater access to information and policy ideas, and helped forge stronger, more constructive relationships between MPs and citizens by simplifying lines of communication.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this paper, "parliament" is a common term for a representative legislature and, except as otherwise indicated, includes national legislatures regardless of the type of governmental system. Similarly, "Member of Parliament" (or "MP") is used as an all-inclusive term for legislator, deputy, representative, senator,

assemblyperson, or other names for members of legislative bodies.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Fish, M. Steven, "Stronger Legislatures, Stronger Democracies," *Journal of Democracy*, Volume 17, Number 1 January 2006.

PMOs take a variety of approaches to meet these objectives. Some gather information about the functioning of parliaments and MPs, reorganize it and redistribute it in ways that citizens may easily understand and reuse. For instance, these PMOs may create MP profiles that describe MPs' performance or level of activity, or develop advanced websites that provide visitors with an MP's background information, voting record and plenary floor speeches at the click of a button. Other PMOs, in the mold of a parliamentary research organization, study issues facing the parliament and provide analysis and policy recommendations – on parliamentary reform, transparency and other policy areas – to stimulate debate inside and outside of parliament. Still other PMOs, describing themselves as "watchdogs," evaluate MPs and parliaments based on international standards for parliamentary reform or promote citizen engagement in, and understanding of, the legislative process. They may do so by developing virtual or face-to-face opportunities for citizens and MPs to interact, or by training the media to better report parliamentary processes.

Despite the potential of PMOs to strengthen democratic parliaments, and the increased international support for their efforts, little research has been undertaken about PMOs and their activities.<sup>3</sup> Although PMOs tend to face similar challenges, few initiatives have facilitated the sharing of best practices and exchange of ideas among them. This situation has impeded peer-to-peer learning, and prompted many PMOs to invent their own tools and methodologies, rather than build upon the good practices already developed by their counterparts. In the broader parliamentary development community, it has led to the repetition of anecdotes about a few successful parliamentary monitoring initiatives,<sup>4</sup> as well as anecdotes about less successful activities. The latter have fueled MP suspicions about civil society in general. MP grievances about PMO bias or poor methodologies can sometimes overshadow positive contributions and impacts of monitoring initiatives.

Some PMOs, however, have joined parliamentary development professionals and MPs in expressing concern that parliamentary monitoring activities may, when conducted without sufficient rigor or caution, do more to increase cynicism of political processes than to stimulate reform. They often point to PMO efforts to assess MP "performance" using tools to measure attendance and other simplistic indicators that capture a small fraction of MP participation. Others point to the hostile language used and actions taken by some PMOs in highlighting parliamentary shortcomings. This report echoes concerns that some PMO activities may, at

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Two efforts to understand the impact of PMO activities are: Macartan Humphreys and Jeremy Weinstein. March 15, 2010. *Policing Citizens: Citizen Empowerment and Political Accountability in Uganda*. Colombia University. Available at: <u>http://www.columbia.edu/~mh2245/papers1/scorecard2010.pdf</u>. Accessed: 08.05.2011; and: Benrjee, Abhijit V. et al. *Do Informed Voters Make Better Choices? Experimental Evidence from Urban India*. Unpublished.

Report written for the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See: "Data and Transparency: of Governance and Geeks," *The Economist*, February 4, 2010, Washington DC. Available at: <u>http://www.economist.com/world/international/displaystory.cfm?story\_id=15469415</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011

times, validate citizen distrust of parliaments rather than encourage them to play a greater role in the political process. Both PMOs and international organizations can play a greater role in developing tools and strategies that incentivize positive behaviors among MPs and encourage systemic reform, while minimizing tactics that may further degrade a parliament's reputation. The sixth section of this report shares several good practices along these lines.

This report also posits that such concerns should not overshadow the conditions that lead many PMOs to rely on less-than-perfect indicators. In societies where critical information about the work of parliaments – such as voting records, legislation under consideration, "Parliaments are not exactly popular... If the discourse of the [PMO] is similar to what the feeling of the people is – and doesn't question the negative image that people have about the Congress – then we are not doing much... If citizens don't realize that Congress is a very important branch for a political system to work, then we're not going to be a democracy."

– Mónica Pachón, <u>Congreso Visible</u> (Colombia)

transcripts of proceedings, etc. – is not publically available, PMOs and citizens are deprived of the opportunity to effectively assess the stances of MPs and parties, and contribute to policymaking. While recognizing that a measure of privacy may, for example, facilitate deal-making between political groups, parliaments have an obligation as representative institutions to ensure public access to basic information about the work that they conduct. The lack of availability of such information about many parliaments confirms the need for PMOs to bolster monitoring activities, particularly with respect to parliamentary transparency and openness, as well as to redouble efforts to facilitate citizen engagement in parliamentary processes.

### The Research Project on Parliamentary Monitoring Organizations

To advance an understanding of PMOs and the activities they conduct, the <u>National Democratic</u> <u>Institute</u> (NDI) and the <u>World Bank Institute</u> (WBI) initiated a joint project to: 1) identify PMOs worldwide and collect basic information regarding their activities; 2) document good practices in parliamentary monitoring, and; 3) suggest possible recommendations for the international donor community regarding PMOs.<sup>5</sup> The results of that effort are presented in this paper, which:

- describes the international context for parliamentary monitoring (Section 2);
- shares the results of a global mapping and survey of PMOs (Section 3);
- highlights effective tools and practices for individual MP monitoring (Section 4) and parliamentary monitoring (Section 5); and
- presents good practices in parliamentary monitoring collected through the project (Section 6) and makes recommendations to the international community regarding effective ways to support PMOs (Section 7).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> NDI: <u>http://www.ndi.org/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011. WBI: <u>http://wbi.worldbank.org/wbi/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

Appendices include a list of PMOs by region (Appendix 2), a list of parliamentary monitoring resources identified through the project (Appendix 3) and profile sheets for PMOs that contributed to the project (Appendix 4) by completing the project's survey questionnaire (a sample of which is provided in Appendix 5) or participated in interviews (Appendix 1).

# **Definition of "PMO" and Methodology**

Given the goals of collecting good practices and facilitating learning among PMOs, the project sought to include all organizations and initiatives that monitor or assess the functioning and performance of parliaments or their individual members. During the course of the project, this broad definition of "PMO" was refined to incorporate the following qualifications:

- *Type of Organization*. Most PMOs are non-profit organizations, although some may have for-profit affiliates. Yet, the advent of parliamentary informatics has allowed informal civil society actors volunteers to constitute a substantial portion of parliamentary monitoring initiatives (particularly in more developed democracies). The project included initiatives by individuals and informal groups that may not be officially registered as non-profit entities if they demonstrated a degree of sustainability.
- *Regional, National and Sub-National Parliaments*. The project sought to be as comprehensive as possible with respect to PMOs that monitor national parliaments. It also included groups that monitor sub-national parliaments, as well as groups that monitor regional or international legislative bodies (such as the European Union and United Nations General Assembly).
- *Level of Country Development*. The project sought to be as comprehensive as possible in mapping PMOs in countries receiving donor assistance, since one of the purposes of the study involves understanding the role of international assistance in supporting PMOs. However, to facilitate information sharing and exchange of good practices among PMOs, many PMOs in donor countries were also included without necessarily attempting to be fully comprehensive of all PMOs in donor countries.
- Additional Exclusions. The project has excluded organizations whose monitoring is limited to specific issue areas unrelated to parliamentary development (*e.g.*, education policy). It has excluded monitoring conducted directly by externally funded and externally administered parliamentary support projects, such as those implemented by NDI. It has also excluded monitoring conducted by the media in the course of normal reporting on parliaments. Organizations that solely monitor budget processes and engage parliaments in this context

have not been included unless their activities also comprise other forms of monitoring related to parliamentary processes, functions or performance.<sup>6</sup>

For the mapping component of the project, initial outreach efforts began in October 2009. To identify PMOs, the project contacted existing networks of individuals and civil society organizations engaged in democracy assistance work (such as NDI country office directors and the National Endowment for Democracy's Network of Democracy Research Institutes'), conducted interviews with representatives of international institutions and organizations engaged in supporting parliamentary monitoring initiatives (including Transparency International, the Open Society Institute, and others), and liaised with PMOs themselves.<sup>8</sup> Many PMOs were identified through the "Parliamentary Informatics" page on Wikipedia.<sup>9</sup>

To learn about PMO activities and identify good practices, the project created a questionnaire in English, French and Spanish - that asked PMOs a range of questions related to their basic roles and functions, the activities they conduct and problems they face. Formal, written responses were received from 63 PMOs of the approximately 170 contacted, for a response rate of 37 percent. The survey was available in Microsoft Word format and online, at www.surveymonkey.com. In addition to the survey, a document and website review was also conducted. To identify good practices and common challenges in parliamentary monitoring, the project used survey information, reviewed documents and websites developed by scores of PMOs,10 and interviewed more than 25 PMO representatives and members of international organizations that support PMOs. Information was also collected through second-hand sources, including interviews, newspaper articles, and scholarly literature about PMOs and their activities, as well as case studies from the Technology for Transparency Network and other parliamentary monitoring-related websites.<sup>11</sup>

Although the survey was conducted in English, French and Spanish, PMOs were identified in more than 80 countries, including countries that do not speak one of the survey languages. Despite efforts to identify PMO activities and websites in an array of foreign languages, the limitations of this initial survey meant that many helpful and useful PMO initiatives did not

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The International Budget Partnership, an initiative that has worked with both NDI and WBI, has been effective in supporting and building a community of practice among groups that conduct applied budget monitoring. See: http://internationalbudget.org/. Accessed: 09.15.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The Network of Democracy Research Institutes is an association of organizations that researches topics related to democracy and democratization; find information at: http://www.ndri.ned.org/. Accessed: 09.15.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Transparency International: http://www.transparency.org/. Open Society Institute: http://www.soros.org/. Both accessed: 09.25.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> See: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary informatics. Accessed: 09.20.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Because good practices were identified through a document and website review in addition to the survey and interviews, all PMOs mentioned in the body of the report do not have profile sheets in Appendix 4. Although the project sought to include all PMOs identified during the research period, not all PMOs could be reached to develop <sup>11</sup> Technology for Transparency Network: <u>http://transparency.globalvoicesonline.org/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

receive the attention that they deserve. As a result, this report is intended to serve as a starting point for an ongoing discussion about PMO good practices, rather than as a final word.

# 2. International Context

During the past decade, two global trends have emerged with particular relevance to parliamentary monitoring. The "parliamentary informatics" trend involves the use of advanced information and communications technologies (ICTs) to monitor parliaments in both the developed and the developing country contexts. The "parliamentary strengthening" trend, which refers to the increasing focus of the international community on strengthening parliaments as a means to enhance democracy worldwide, serves as an important source of funding for PMOs in developing countries, as well as a provider of technical assistance and developer of resources that can help inform monitoring activities. This chapter examines these trends in turn, concluding with a discussion of opportunities for greater synergy between the two.

### **Parliamentary Informatics**

A rapidly growing trend in parliamentary monitoring is the use of e-democracy and eparticipation tools, often referred to as "parliamentary informatics," to aggregate information, generate visualizations, and facilitate citizen participation in parliamentary processes.<sup>12</sup> and political monitoring Parliamentary informatics are used by approximately 40 percent of PMOs surveyed for this project.<sup>13</sup> While their use remains more commonplace in developed democracies in Europe and North America, application of informatics has increased significantly in Southeast Asia and Latin America, as well as in parts of Africa, Asia and the Middle East.



**Image 2.1:** OpenCongress.org, a popular parliamentary monitoring website in the U.S., uses ICTs to aggregate information about MPs, bills, issues, and more. Analysis is available on the OpenCongress blog. Source: www.opencongress.org. Accessed: 09.07.2010.

One effective parliamentary informatics tool automatically aggregates publically available information from parliamentary websites, databases and other sources, and then organizes that data into formats that are easy for citizens to understand, search and analyze. A well-known example of a website powered (in part) by such a tool is <u>OpenCongress.org</u>, developed by the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Parliamentary informatics is defined as the "application of information technology to the documentation of legislative activity" and also refers to the use of ICTs by parliaments themselves. The Parliamentary Informatics page on Wikipedia currently acts as a reference point for organizations and individuals participating in such activities to identify themselves. Wikipedia entry for "Parliamentary Informatics:" http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary informatics. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> This figure was derived from an analysis of tools used by survey respondents, although it was not specifically asked on the survey.

U.S.-based <u>Sunlight Foundation</u>.<sup>14</sup> Visitors can access voting records and recorded speeches in plenary and committee hearings, and an array of other information about Members of Congress.

Some informatics websites create visualizations, such as maps indicating where MPs receive the most votes or charts of campaign contributions, to facilitate citizen understanding of available – and sometimes complex – data. Such visualizations can be updated automatically when new information is released on parliamentary websites. "Crowdsourcing" techniques, another feature of parliamentary informatics, can also be used to facilitate public participation in the political process by allowing citizens to comment on legislation or converse with their MPs. Websites using wikis and other similar tools may allow users to build or collaborate on content development more broadly.

Websites, when paired with parliamentary informatics, are often user-friendly and visually attractive, reflecting a trend within the informatics community toward creating "beautiful, compelling content."<sup>15</sup> Informatics facilitate the sharing of this content through the use of "widgets," which allow visitors to post content on their own websites or social networking pages – like Facebook – thereby expanding the reach of PMOs to new audiences. However, PMOs without in-house technical expertise sometimes caution that, despite these benefits, informatics can be expensive and often require numerous adaptations once the website comes into use and visitor preferences become clear.

The use of parliamentary informatics presents other challenges. Parliaments that do not present substantive information about their work on their websites limit the utility of the most effective informatics tools. Even when this information is available, it

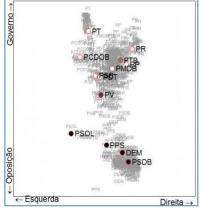


Image 2.2: A depiction by <u>Congresso Aberto</u> of Brazilian political parties' ideology (xaxis) and allegiance to the government (y-axis), according to roll call votes (in grey). Source: <u>http://bit.ly/i9T5aU</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

must be posted in machine-readable formats. Differences in the formats, standards and the basic structure of information provided by parliaments prevent the development of software that can be applied, in most cases, to parliaments other than the one for which it is originally designed. More work must be undertaken by PMOs and international organizations to address these problems so that the most effective parliamentary monitoring tools can be used around the world.

To date, the parliamentary informatics community has benefited from few international networking opportunities. The <u>eDemocracy Summit</u>,<sup>16</sup> which was held annually from 2007 through 2009, is one forum where a major discussion topic focused on parliamentary

<sup>15</sup> The Sunlight Foundation has expressed this as a principle for its national transparency campaigning. See: <u>http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2010/02/08/guiding-principles-for-a-national-campaign/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>16</sup>For information on the 2009 eDemocracy Summit, see: <u>http://berlininoctober.e-</u> <u>demokratie.org/index.php?title=Main\_Page</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Sunlight Foundation: <u>http://sunlightfoundation.com</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

informatics. The most recent event took place in Berlin in October 2009. Among its hosts and supporters were <u>mySociety</u>, a prominent UK-based developer of parliamentary monitoring and open government websites, and the Sunlight Foundation. Each conference produced a conference wiki and several resources, including best practices documents and some useful recommendations related to parliamentary informatics.<sup>17</sup> Global Voices Online's Technology for <u>Transparency Network</u>, with support from the <u>Open Society Institute</u> (OSI) and others, is an effort to "[map and evaluate] technology projects that promote transparency, accountability, and civic engagement around the world."<sup>18</sup> It includes a number of PMOs that use informatics and is a useful source for information on these and other technology initiatives.

Funding opportunities for PMOs developing parliamentary informatics have increased, with international donors beginning to play a larger role in supporting the use of these tools for parliamentary monitoring. A partnership between OSI's Information Department and mySociety represents one effort to fuse international donor support and ICT expertise. The organizations have issued a call for proposals "to help people in Central and Eastern Europe build transparency and democracy websites suited to the needs and realities of their countries."<sup>19</sup> More recently, mySociety received a grant from the <u>Omidyar Network</u> to conduct a similar project in Africa.<sup>20</sup>

## **International Donor Assistance for Parliamentary Strengthening**

In recent years, the international community<sup>21</sup> has increased its assistance for parliamentary strengthening based on the premise that effective democratic governance depends on a professional, accountable and responsive legislature. Areas where the international community has begun to focus its attention and resources include technical assistance programming designed to bolster parliamentary institutions and administrations. The activities have also included the provision of financial and technical assistance to PMOs (oftentimes bilaterally, but occasionally multilaterally), and the development of tools to assess the quality of democracy and other values within legislatures and the societies in which they operate.

The international community is an important source of funding for PMOs in developing countries. According to the project survey, 86 percent of survey respondents from developing countries rank grants from international donors among their top three funding sources (67 percent as their principal funding source). The most frequently cited international donors include

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> mySociety: <u>http://www.mysociety.org/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Global Voices Online's Technology for Transparency Network: <u>http://transparency.globalvoicesonline.org/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> mySociety: <u>http://cee.mysociety.org/</u>. OSI: <u>http://www.soros.org/</u>. Both accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Omidyar Network: <u>http://www.omidyar.com/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> "International community," in this context, refers to international organizations and institutions that fund and conduct democracy assistance activities. They include funders, such as the World Bank Institute and the U.S. Agency for International Development; democracy assistance organizations, such as U.S. and European party foundations; international parliamentary associations, such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and others.

the National Endowment for Democracy, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and OSI and Soros Foundation Network, each of which was cited by 10 or more PMOs. The European Commission (EC), U.K. Department for International Development, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and several trusts of the German Marshall Fund are also cited by multiple organizations.<sup>22</sup> PMO donors include a number of embassies; a main funding source from Scandinavian states.

International support also comes in the form of direct technical assistance. Apart from providing financial assistance for parliamentary monitoring activities, the National Democratic Institute and OSI work with a number of PMOs on such issues as methodology development, project management and reporting.<sup>23</sup> A wide range of organizations, including the International Republican Institute and several of the German political party foundations, also provide technical assistance to PMOs.<sup>24</sup> Meanwhile, a number of country chapters of Transparency International are among the PMOs included in this report.<sup>25</sup> These organizations often take on parliamentary monitoring activities after conducting National Integrity System Assessments that identify their parliaments as needing strengthening.<sup>26</sup>

Until recently, the international community's support for international networking and sharing of good practice on parliamentary monitoring has been largely limited to specific activities, such as budget monitoring. Two nascent parliamentary monitoring networks, however, show potential for sharing information and developing common tools on a regional level. The Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency (LALT Network),<sup>27</sup> led by Fundación Directorio Legislativo (Argentina) and Fundar (Mexico), comprises 15 organizations in five countries, several of which have adopted parliamentary informatics.<sup>28</sup> The LALT Network is in the process of developing a legislative transparency assessment tool that is to be applied biannually by partnering organizations in five countries. Support for the network, provided by the Affiliated

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> National Endowment for Democracy: http://www.ned.org/; U.S. Agency for International Development: http://www.usaid.gov/; European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/; U.K. Department for International Development: http://www.dfid.gov.uk/; United Nations Development Program: http://www.beta.undp.org/; German Marshall Fund: http://www.gmfus.org/. All accessed: 09.27.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> National Democratic Institute: <u>http://www.ndi.org/</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> International Republican Institute: <u>http://www.iri.org/</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> It is worth noting that national chapters of TI were included in the study as these are typically indigenous organizations that become affiliated with TI on the merit of their own success. See: http://www.transparency.org/. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> For more information on TI's National Integrity System Assessments, see:

http://www.transparency.org/policy\_research/nis. Accessed: 09.28.2011. <sup>27</sup> LALT Network: www.transparencialegislativa.org. Accessed: 9/27/2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Chile: Pro Acceso, Chile Transparente, Ciudadano Inteligente; Peru: Ciudadanos al Día, Reflexión Democrática, Transparencia por Perú; Mexico: FUNDAR, Consorcio parlamentario para la Equidad; Argentina: Fundación Directorio Legislativo, Poder Ciudadano, Asociación por los Derechos Civiles, Centro de Implementación de Políticas Públicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento; Colombia: Congreso Visible, Transparencia por Colombia, Fundación Instituto de Ciencia Política.

<u>Network for Social Accountability</u> and the <u>World Bank Institute</u>,<sup>29</sup> was initiated through a call for proposals, a mechanism that has helped put the PMOs in the drivers' seat. The second network, the Civic Network for Parliamentary Monitoring in the Arab World, is led by the <u>Al-Quds Center for Political Studies</u> (Jordan) and was established in March 2010.<sup>30</sup>

PMOs can also benefit from the lessons learned from parliamentary strengthening initiatives undertaken by the international community. During the past five years, inter-parliamentary organizations have led efforts to devise international benchmarks and self-assessment tools to improve the democratic functioning of parliaments. While primarily designed for use by a parliament in assessing its own performance, such a useful set of norms and standards could also be adopted and applied by PMOs. Standards frameworks and assessment tools have been developed by the <u>Commonwealth Parliamentary Association</u>, <u>Southern African Development</u> <u>Community Parliamentary Forum</u>, <u>Assemblée parlementaire de la francophonie</u>, and the <u>Inter-Parliamentary Union</u>, among others.<sup>31</sup> The development of self-assessment frameworks by parliamentary associations has complemented similar instruments developed by academics. The Parliamentary Powers Index, developed by M. Steven Fish and Matthew Kroenig, ranks the world's national parliaments in terms of "the parliament's ability to monitor the president and the bureaucracy, parliament's freedom from presidential control, parliament's authority in specific areas, and the resources that it brings to its work."<sup>32</sup>

# The Convergence of Parliamentary Strengthening and Parliamentary Informatics

Trends in parliamentary strengthening and parliamentary informatics have begun to converge despite their somewhat distinct roots. Some informatics developers have recognized the need to focus more broadly on parliamentary strengthening and democratic governance, and have taken steps to more deliberately engage MPs in monitoring activities. The international community, which has long supported the use of informatics by parliaments, has gradually increased its support for the use of informatics into their programming. The process developers inhouse have begun to adopt informatics for strengthening synergies between the parliamentary informatics and parliamentary strengthening trends to support parliamentary development include:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Affiliated Network for Social Accountability: <u>http://www.ansa-eap.net/;</u> World Bank Institute: <u>http://wbi.worldbank.org/wbi/</u>. Both accessed: 09.27.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Al-Quds Center for Political Studies: <u>http://www.alqudscenter.org/english/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Many standards frameworks can be found on AGORA: <u>http://www.agora-parl.org/node/2705</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Fish, M. Steven. January 2006. "Stronger Legislatures, Stronger Democracies." *Journal of Democracy*, Volume 17, Number 1. National Endowment for Democracy and The Johns Hopkins University Press. The complete version is available in: M. Steven Fish and Matthew Kroenig, *The Handbook of National Legislatures: A Global Survey* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009)

*International Networking and Sharing of Good Practices.* With limited networking opportunities available to PMOs, new efforts are underway to share good practices, including the AGORA Portal for Parliamentary Development,<sup>33</sup> a joint project by WBI, NDI, UNDP, EC and International Institute for Democratic and Electoral Assistance.<sup>34</sup> A social networking website focused on parliamentary development with broad support from the international community, AGORA is a resource for MPs, parliamentary staff and parliamentary development practitioners worldwide. It also assists with the exchange of information among members of the parliamentary monitoring community as well. Yet, there remain a number of opportunities to engage PMOs in efforts to broaden the use of parliamentary informatics and to develop these tools to better meet the needs of PMOs. Increased support for regional parliamentary monitoring common monitoring tools.

*Standards for Democratic Parliaments and Parliamentary Transparency*. As discussed above, inter-parliamentary organizations have engaged MPs and parliamentary staff in a process to develop standards for parliamentary development. PMOs can play a potentially important role in joining these discussions and monitoring the standards that MPs have themselves created and ratified. Largely independent of these efforts, some organizations have also developed frameworks and tools related to parliamentary transparency. For example, the IPU's *Guidelines for Parliamentary Websites*<sup>35</sup> provides the basis for a survey on the content of parliamentary websites that received responses from over 100 parliaments worldwide as part of the *World e-Parliament Report 2008*, which was updated in 2010.<sup>36</sup> The Global Centre for ICT in Parliament,<sup>37</sup> a contributor to the annual World e-Parliaments, as have a number of PMOs themselves (see Section 5 of this report). Consolidating these efforts and developing common tools for addressing the lack of parliamentary information provided by many parliaments remains an important area for future engagement.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> AGORA: <u>www.agora-parl.org.</u> Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> International Institute for Democratic and Electoral Assistance: <u>http://www.idea.int/</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Guidelines for Parliamentary Websites: <u>http://www.ictparliament.org/en/node/691</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

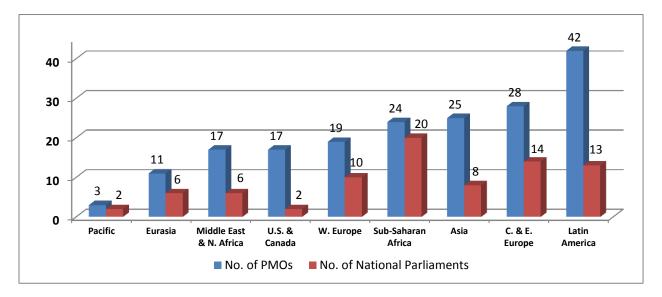
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Find the *World e-Parliament Report 2008* at: <u>http://www.ictparliament.org/node/695</u>. Find the *World e-Parliament Report 2010* at: <u>http://www.ictparliament.org/en/wepr2010</u>. Both accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Global Centre for ICT in Parliament: <u>http://www.ictparliament.org/wepc2010/</u> and <u>http://www.ictparliament.org/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=418</u>. Both accessed: 09.28.2011.

# 3. Characteristics of PMOs

PMOs comprise a subset of organizations that monitor political processes, including public budgets and expenditures, campaigns, and government implementation.<sup>38</sup> This project identified 191 PMOs monitoring 82 national parliaments, a number of sub-national parliaments, the European Parliament and the United Nations' General Assembly.<sup>39</sup> Chart 3.1 illustrates that PMOs are widespread in countries with democratic parliaments and strong parliamentary or legislative traditions, particularly Europe (47 identified, of which 19 are in Western Europe and 28 are in Central and Eastern Europe) and Latin America (42). They are also common in the U.S. and Canada, where at least 17 PMOs monitor parliaments. Latin America also includes a number of countries with a robust presence of PMOs, including: Colombia (9), Chile (5), Argentina (5), Brazil (5), Mexico (4) and Guatemala (3). However, the existence of PMOs is by no means limited to developed countries. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 24 PMOs have been identified, in part due to the advent of civil society monitoring of constituency development funds, while 16 are found in the Middle East and North Africa.<sup>40</sup>

Chart 3.1: Number of PMOs and Number of National Parliaments Monitored by PMOs by Region



 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> For more information on tools, strategies and techniques for CSOs conducting other forms of political-process monitoring, see: Kourtney Pompi and Lacey Kohlmoos. March 2011. *Political-Process Monitoring: Activist Tools and Techniques*. National Democratic Institute. Available at: <u>http://www.ndi.org/node/17257</u>. Accessed 05.20.2011.
 <sup>39</sup> Several PMOs monitor semi-autonomous parliaments. These parliaments, which have not been included among the 82 quoted here, include those in: Hong Kong, Taiwan, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

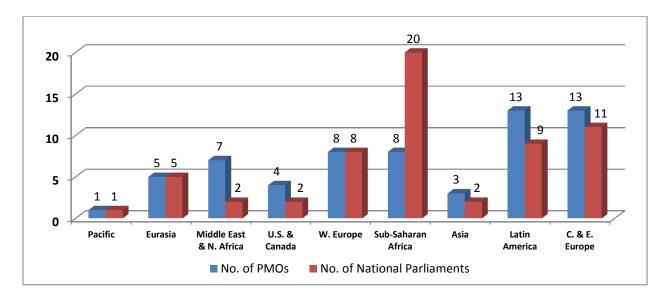
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Five PMOs that monitor international legislative institutions exclusively are excluded from this chart. The other four PMOs that monitor an international legislative institution in addition to a national parliament are included in the region of its national parliament. No PMOs monitor parliaments in more than one region.

Although Sub-Saharan Africa ranks as the region where most parliaments are monitored, the results are skewed by the inclusion of the African Legislatures Project (ALP), a project at the University of Cape Town that conducts both academic and applied monitoring aimed at learning "everything important there is to know about how African legislatures function."<sup>41</sup> ALP aspires to monitor 20 parliaments, while the remaining 23 PMOs in the region monitor parliaments in 12 countries.

# **Survey Participation**

Sixty-three PMOs completed the project's survey. Chart 3.2 shows the number of PMOs that completed the survey and the number of national legislatures that they monitor roughly correlate with the trend seen in Chart 3.1.<sup>42</sup>

Chart 3.2: Number of PMOs and Number of National Parliaments Monitored by PMOs by Region



According to the survey, most PMOs monitor national parliaments (94 percent). Twenty-four percent monitor sub-national parliaments, while 19 percent monitor both sub-national and national parliaments. The survey also found that eight percent of PMOs monitor regional or supra-national legislative institutions (such as the European Parliament), with 1 percent doing so exclusively.

Among other characteristics, the survey revealed that nearly all PMOs consider themselves to be non-partisan organizations. Ninety-five percent of PMOs maintain a website, while 62 percent

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> African Legislatures Project. <u>http://africanlegislaturesproject.org/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> Seven of the eight PMOs in Sub-Saharan Africa monitor six national parliaments. One PMO, the African Legislatures Project, monitors all 20. Asia is somewhat underrepresented in the survey data.

devote websites specifically to parliamentary monitoring. Approximately 40 percent of respondents use parliamentary informatics as an important component of their parliamentary monitoring activities.<sup>43</sup> While most PMO respondents in advanced democracies are using such tools, nearly 50 percent of respondents that use informatics monitor parliaments in developing countries.

#### **PMO Functions and Activities**

The activities of PMOs generally fall into five broad functional categories that provide a useful framework for assessing the main approaches that PMOs take when monitoring parliaments and advancing parliamentary reform. These functions are interrelated and most PMOs utilize more than one. These functions are described below with data from the survey to help illustrate the variety of activities that PMOs conduct.

#### 1. Information Aggregation and Dissemination

PMOs that primarily aggregate and disseminate information typically seek to promote access to parliaments by gathering information about their activities and functioning, and reorganizing it in ways that citizens may more easily understand and reuse. Many accomplish this goal by developing MP profiles (49 percent) that may include data about the backgrounds of individual MPs and their work in parliament. Twenty-nine percent of PMO respondents track legislation and some may provide brief descriptions of bills, or even summaries, which help citizens understand a bill's contents. Forty-one percent of PMO respondents publish summaries of a parliament's activities in a session or year, while



*Image 3.1:* Sample screenshot of the website of the <u>Parliamentary Monitoring Group</u>. Source: <u>http://www.pmg.org.za/</u>. Accessed 09.28.2011.

22 percent aggregate information related to the finances of parties and MPs. These organizations typically seek to present information without political bias, because the impartiality of their work is critical to their ability to build a credible reputation among MPs and citizens.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Informatics refers to the development of e-democracy or e-participation tools that automatically aggregate, organize, or generate data and visualizations, or rely on user generated content, through the use of tools like wikis, as important components of their parliamentary monitoring activities. Organizations that use blogs, external social networking tools (such as Facebook and Twitter), webcasts, or freeform comment areas on their websites are not necessarily considered to use informatics. The use of ICTs by PMOs was assessed by the researcher.

According to the survey, 56 percent of PMOs consider information aggregation and dissemination an important function. PMOs in more advanced democracies and those that use parliamentary informatics tools are particularly inclined toward this function. The website of the Parliamentary Monitoring Group (PMG – South Africa), shown in Image 3.1, provides recordings of committee meetings, committee reports and briefing documents and other information, along with e-mail alerts about activities of specific committees.

#### 2. Assessment and Evaluation

Another 56 percent of survey respondents consider the assessment and evaluation function to be among their primary functions. PMOs playing this role – that of a parliamentary "watchdog" – assess or evaluate the performance of MPs or other parliamentary actors, or some aspect of the parliament's functioning or values. Approximately 30 percent of survey respondents create scorecards based on indicators of individual MP activity (attendance, number of questions asked, etc.) or indicators grouped into indices. On the committee or parliamentary level, 65 percent of PMO respondents assess parliamentary performance, while 32 percent evaluate parliament's institutional capacities. Twenty-five percent develop evaluations based on methodologies developed by international organizations. Empirically, PMOs have developed methodologies for monitoring parliaments on any number of issues or values, including: transparency, availability of information on parliamentary websites, openness to citizens and civil society, integrity, adherence to its own internal rules, and more. As part of its "Parliament Watch" program, Transparency International Bangladesh, a local chapter of Berlin-based Transparency International, assesses the performance of the Bangladesh Parliament using quantitative and qualitative methods after each session.<sup>44</sup>

#### 3. Research and Analysis

Forty-eight percent of PMO respondents conduct research and analysis similar to that of parliamentsponsored research organizations, such as the <u>Congressional Research Service</u> in the U.S.<sup>45</sup> Their activities may include drafting summaries (40 percent) of specific pieces of legislation or other types of briefs or analyses that seek to reveal how a bill or policy idea might affect society if implemented. Thirty-eight percent of PMOs conduct polls to provide MPs and citizens alike with an idea of how citizens view the parliament among other topics. While some PMOs initiate



Image 3.2: Sample screenshot of the website of <u>PRS Legislative Research</u>. Source: <u>http://www.prsindia.org/</u>. Accessed: 09.10.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Transparency International Bangladesh: <u>http://www.ti-bangladesh.org/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> Congressional Research Service: <u>http://www.loc.gov/crsinfo/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

such efforts themselves, 44 percent of PMO respondents provide research and analysis upon request from MPs or other parliamentary and political actors.

#### 4. Advocacy

For 40 percent of PMO respondents, parliamentary monitoring is seen as a component of their advocacy work. Many PMOs decide to monitor parliaments after concluding that parliamentary reform is essential to their efforts to, for instance, combat corruption or promote transparency within the broader political system. The advocacy function may be conducted by lobbying MPs and others utilizing some of the tools cited above. Additionally, nearly half of PMOs surveyed develop policy recommendations aimed at improving the functioning of parliament and 22 percent have proposed a code of conduct for MPs. In conjunction with the commonly held goal of PMOs to promote transparency and access to parliament, 49 percent of PMOs make requests through freedom of information laws, which, in many countries, ensure access to government records. Twenty-nine percent, as p art of their efforts to advance government accountability, engage in public interest litigation.

#### 5. Citizen Engagement

Many PMOs promote citizen engagement and understanding of legislative processes by developing virtual and face-to-face mechanisms for interaction among legislators and citizens. PMOs that use ICTs often create mechanisms for citizens to comment on bills or MP statements, submit annotations within bills or communicate with MPs either publically or privately. Some

engage citizens in the monitoring process by allowing them to post evidence as to the veracity of an MP's statement, or to monitor an individual MP's activities and report on them. Other PMOs conduct civic outreach activities (35 percent) that include convening meetings between MPs and civil society organizations to engage in debate on specific issues. In the case of monitoring constituency development funds (CDFs), or monitoring other development funds that MPs are responsible for implementing (22 percent), PMOs help citizens conduct "social audits" of development projects managed by MPs. Other PMOs, such as the National Youth Movement for Transparent Elections



**Image 3.3:** A Liberian Senator speaks at a school. Source: NAYMOTE<sup>46</sup>

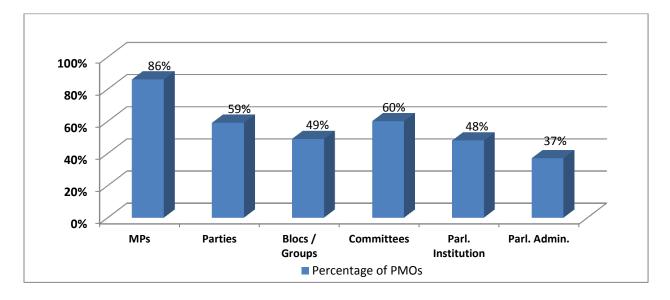
(NAYMOTE – Liberia), conduct "youth legislative engagement" activities where MPs visit local schools to engage students in discussions about the legislative process.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> NAYMOTE. 2009. "Press Release: NAYMOTE Launches Youth Legislative Engagement."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> National Youth Movement for Transparent Elections: <u>http://www.naymote.ushahidi.com/</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

#### Who PMOs Monitor

PMOs tend to concentrate their efforts on monitoring the performance of MPs and political parties, but many also focus on committees and the institution of parliament. Of the parliamentary actors monitored by PMOs, MPs (86 percent) are the most frequently cited. As shown in Chart 3.3, around 60 percent of PMOs report monitoring parliamentary committees and political parties; around 50 percent monitor party groups or blocs and the parliament as an institution. Thirty-seven percent of PMOs monitor the administration of parliament.



#### Chart 3.3 Who PMOs Monitor

# **Challenges Facing PMOs**

According to the survey conducted for this project, Chart 3.4 lists the most frequently cited challenges facing PMOs.

#### Chart 3.4 Challenges Facing PMOs

Difficulty gaining access to desired information	63%
Lack of financial support from local funding sources	62%
Lack of international donor support	54%
Resistance to the activity's goals by MPs, parties and/or parliamentary staff	35%
Lack of interest from local citizens and organizations	27%

The two most prominent challenges facing PMOs concern access to information and funding. Sixty-three percent of respondents suggest that they have difficulty gaining access to information, and similarly, 35 percent report resistance to their activity's goals by parliamentary and political actors. The funding problem, which is seen as a challenge by a substantial majority of PMOs, is manifest in a lack of local funding sources for 62 percent of respondents and lack of international donor support by 54 percent, which is discussed in further detail in the sub-section below. Finally, approximately 25 percent of respondents suggest difficulty attracting interest and engagement from other civil society organizations.

### **Sources of PMO Funding**

The lack of financial support from local and international sources represents the second (62 percent) and third (54 percent) most frequently cited challenges facing PMOs. Yet, the types of obstacles faced with respect to obtaining funding differ between PMOs monitoring parliaments in foreign assistance donor countries and partner countries.<sup>48</sup> Among the latter, 67 percent rank grants from international donors as their primary source of funding, while 86 percent list international donor support among their top three funding sources. The next most frequently

cited funding source for these PMOs is grants from local donors, which represent the primary funding source for six percent of PMOs and a top three funding source for 20 percent of PMOs.

PMOs in donor countries have fewer opportunities to receive international donor assistance; none of those surveyed mention international donor assistance as a funding source. Instead, these PMOs cited a more diverse range of funding sources. Many are selfEighty-six percent of PMOs monitoring parliaments in assistance recipient countries rank international donor assistance as a top funding source; 50 percent of PMOs in donor countries cite individual contributions as a top funding source. – NDI/WBI Survey Finding

funded, at least in part; 29 percent cite their primary funding source as contributions from individuals, while 50 percent rank individual contributions among their top three funding sources. Other PMO funding sources in more developed countries include advertisements on their websites, and grants from local donors and governments.

Funding challenges manifest themselves in different ways. According to a survey respondent that develops informatics, "Access to at least some start-up funding from local (or international) donors would help us provide better services sooner, thus allowing us to reach our goal of being

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> The term "donor countries" refers to those participating in the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development's Development Co-Operation Directorate (OECD DAC), which represents the major foreign assistance donor countries. These countries may also be referred to as "developed" countries, while countries that do not participate in the OECD DAC may be referred to as "partner" or "developing" countries. Find a list of OECD DAC members here: <a href="http://www.oecd.org/document/38/0,3343.en\_2649\_34603\_1893350\_1\_1\_1\_1,00.html">http://www.oecd.org/document/38/0,3343.en\_2649\_34603\_1893350\_1\_1\_1\_1,00.html</a>. Accessed: 09.28.2011. One PMO, EP Vote.eu, which is based in Luxembourg and monitors the European Parliament exclusively, was included among the PMOs monitoring parliaments OECD DAC countries.

financially self-sustaining sooner." In developing countries, the challenges can be more severe, as one survey respondent stated: "Due to financial constraints, professional staff cannot be hired for [information and technology] problems. This also results in not having the capacity to renew technological infrastructure necessary for public communication through [the] website... Due to financial limitations, staff which has expertise in project [proposal] writing cannot be hired."

Funding challenges also constrain the potential benefits of parliamentary monitoring in other ways. One PMO in the Central and Eastern European region noted the challenges of finding funding in new democracies. International funding is often unavailable after a country is viewed as having reached a certain level of democratic stability, even though domestic funding sources may be extremely limited. The PMO also noted that, despite recognizing the need for parliamentary monitoring and parliamentary strengthening activities, the organization was compelled to cut its parliamentary programming because of the unavailability of funding to monitor the executive.

Finally, it should be noted that it takes time for civil society organizations to forge credible and effective working relationships with parliaments and MPs. Sustained and reliable funding is necessary for parliamentary monitoring activities to realize their potential. One PMO noted that the lack of long-term funding often makes it difficult for the organization to accomplish its mission.

# **Factors That Determine Activities Conducted by PMOs**

The discussion above highlights a number of the characteristics of PMOs and the variety of roles that they play in a political system. There has been less discussion, however, of factors that may influence the types of activities that PMOs conduct. A statistical analysis of the survey results suggests that operating environments of PMOs and their use of parliamentary informatics may affect how PMOs engage parliaments.

To assess the impact of the operating environment, the data was analyzed according to whether or not the parliaments monitored by PMOs are in foreign assistance donor countries or partner countries. The relative strength of democracy among donor countries vis-à-vis democracy in partner countries may influence the needs identified by PMOs, as well as the approaches and tools used for meeting these needs.<sup>49</sup> For example, the PMOs monitoring parliaments in developing countries are more likely to make freedom of information requests<sup>50</sup> and engage in public interest litigation. They are also more likely to monitor constituency development funds and similar funds managed by MPs that are intended to support local development projects.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Differences reported between PMOs based on OECD DAC member country status and use of parliamentary informatics are statistically significant at the 95 percent confidence level unless otherwise specified.
 <sup>50</sup> Making freedom of information requests is significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

PMOs monitoring parliaments in donor countries appear more likely to use parliamentary informatics.

In some instances, whether or not a PMO uses parliamentary informatics may have an independent influence on a PMO's approach and activities. For example, PMOs that use informatics appear more likely to monitor the work conducted by an individual MP.<sup>51</sup> Meanwhile, PMOs that do not use informatics seem more inclined to engage MPs in their activities, such as testifying in parliament, fulfilling requests, and proposing MP codes of ethics.

Yet, in other instances, PMOs using parliamentary informatics and those monitoring parliaments in donor countries appear inclined toward certain activities or approaches, relative to PMOs that do not use informatics and are located in assistance partner countries. PMOs in the first categories seem more likely to view the aggregation and dissemination of information as a primary function, while those in the latter categories are more likely to see parliamentary monitoring as contributing to a broader advocacy effort. Furthermore, PMOs in the latter categories appear more likely to monitor parliamentary committees, develop assessments of legislative performance, propose legislation, and conduct analyses of the broader political system that include the parliament.

While it is important not to overestimate differences among PMOs based on these two factors, the distinctions may carry some useful implications. Parliamentary informatics, because of their capacity to organize and make accessible large amounts of information, are particularly useful for collecting and redistributing information. Yet these tools appear to be used most frequently for analyzing the work of individual MPs, perhaps due to the large amounts of data that they may produce, rather than for macro-level analysis of parliamentary committees or parliaments as institutions. Increasing focus of informatics designed to address broader analysis levels beyond the individual MP may provide greater utility for many of the PMOs that do not use informatics and those in developing countries, both of whom tend to focus their monitoring efforts on committees and parliaments in addition to individual MPs.

The analysis also appears to suggest that the styles of interaction preferred by PMOs in developing countries and those that do not use parliamentary informatics differ with those preferred by their counterparts. Organizations that do not use parliamentary informatics appear more inclined toward activities that engage and support the parliament directly. Similarly, PMOs in developing countries seem to incorporate activities that engage parliaments as well as other institutions of government. To the extent that the objectives of these PMOs seek to provide support to MPs and engage directly in the legislative process, it is important, as parliamentary informatics are adopted by a broader range of PMOs, that these tools enable PMOs to meet their monitoring objectives, rather than to drive PMO behavior. Parliamentary monitoring should be technology-enabled, rather than technology-driven.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> This difference is significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

# 4. Monitoring Individual MPs

Individual MPs are a primary focus of parliamentary monitoring activities for 86 percent of PMOs surveyed. Many PMOs view individual MP monitoring as a means to develop a "culture of accountability" within parliament. Their tools are generally aimed at helping citizens better understand the work of MPs – both to facilitate their decision making at the polls and to

encourage their participation in the political process in-between elections. This type of monitoring also helps MPs recognize that they are subject to public scrutiny as well as conveys the expectation that MPs honorably conduct the duties of their office, although PMOs often seek to balance "naming and shaming" tactics with support for broad-based parliamentary reform. Many PMOs also, somewhat more obliquely, "try to establish a link between citizens and elected people<sup>52</sup> by building mechanisms to facilitate citizen input to their MPs on legislation or other types of expedite constituent requests, and to MP responsiveness.

"We want to influence them to take their jobs more seriously...
Constituents have no tools to follow their MPs. There are no structures to help that interaction between citizens and MPs. So at least now, we are trying to use the Scorecard to structure this relationship and make MPs more accountable."
David Pulkol, African Leadership Institute (Uganda)

PMOs have developed a variety of tools to "score" performance or level of activity of MPs, or simply to track their work and contributions to the legislative process. In particular, the advent of e-democracy and e-participation tools to the field of parliamentary monitoring has contributed many new and creative techniques to the monitoring of individual MPs. These tools allow PMOs to aggregate information about MPs and to organize it in ways that ease citizen access to this information. However, these tools remain most effective when information about MPs is available on a parliament's website.

This section looks at the areas of MP monitoring on which PMOs tend to focus their efforts, including: background information; parliamentary attendance and participation; parliamentary debate and public statements; oversight tools; legislation and voting records; constituency service and constituency development funds; and MP asset disclosures and political finance. It concludes with a discussion of ways that PMOs have sought to summarize performance data across these various areas.

### **Background Information**

MP profiles typically include background information on individual MPs. The content of these profiles often depends on the types of data and information available – or obtainable – in a given

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> Benjamin Ooghe-Tabanou, Regards Citoyens. Interview. 01.26.2010.

country. The disclosure of information about MPs can be governed by freedom of information laws, parliamentary rules of procedure, or a mix of these and other laws. In addition, irrespective of the legal framework for information about MPs, PMOs can sometimes obtain information about MPs by conducting surveys, contacting political party or local MP offices, or attending plenary or committee meetings, among other means. The background information included in individual MP profiles is also influenced by the way in which the information is disseminated. For example, PMOs using printed publications face higher costs and less space than those using websites, even though publications may be more preferable because of low levels of Internet access and usage in a given country.

### Common types of background information collected about MPs

- Educational background information
- Professional background information
- Personal statistics (age, marital status, children)
- Contact information (email address, telephone/fax numbers, physical address)
- Party affiliation
- Photos of MPs (for MP facebooks)
- General statistics related to legislative work and performance in parliament (percentage of votes the representative votes with/against party, number of bills sponsored, etc.)
- Top campaign contributors or sponsors

- For incumbents, information on previous legislative service (committee assignments, leadership positions, etc.)
- Areas of legislative interest or expertise (position or voting record on controversial issues, etc.)
- Electoral district information (size, location, basic demographic data)
- Election results in past elections (in the aggregate or broken down by precinct)
- Career accomplishments
- Links to other sources of information about MPs (official/personal websites, Wikipedia entry, etc.)

Image 4.1 is taken from *Directorio Legislativo: Quiénes son nuestros legisladores y cómo nos representan*, a "who's who" guide of MPs from both houses of the National Congress of Argentina developed by <u>Fundación Directorio Legislativo</u>.<sup>53</sup> It includes basic background information about the MP and how he or she can be contacted. It also offers information about each MP's legislative activities, roll call votes and personal finances, as well as information about elected officials from the MP's region and the MP's political party's distribution in the National Assembly. The information is obtained through a survey that Fundación Directorio Legislativo sends to members every two years after elections, to reflect the composition of the new National Congress.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> Fundación Directorio Legislativo: <u>http://www.directoriolegislativo.org/publicaciones-2/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.



Bloque: Frente para la Victoria-PJ Partido: Alianza Frente para la Victoria Distrito: Catamarca Mandato: 2007-2011

#### Acosta, María Julia

Fecha de nacimiento: 27/04/1948 Lugar de nacimiento: Santa Fe Capital Estado civil: Viuda Hijos: 2 (dos) Títulos Académicos: Profesora Superio

Títulos Académicos: Profesora Superior en Historia (Universidad Católica de Santa Fe, 1982); Posgrado en Historia Argentina (Universidad Católica de Santa Fe, 1983); Posgrado en Historia Argentina (Universidad Nacional de La Pampa, 1993); Especialista en Didáctica (Universidad Nacional de Catamarca (Sede UBA), 2001)

	VOTACIONES NOMINALES				
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Especialización: Educación; Minería; Presupuesto; Presupuesto					
Comisiones: Mineria (Vice 2 <sup>e</sup> ); PyMEs (Sec.); Ciencia y Tecno. (V);	3-JGM-2010 Comunicación del DNU 298/10				
Cultura (V); Econ. y Desarr. (V); Educación (V); Energía y Comb. (V);	por el cual se crea el Fondo de Desendeuda-	Atmative Atmative			
Flia, Mujer, Niñez y Adolesc. (V); Legisl. Penal (V); Presupuesto (V)	mianto Argantino (14/04/2010)				
Equipo de trabajo según especialidad: Alica D'Amato (Educa-					
ción); Roberto Damboriana (Derecho Penal); Pablo Gordillo (Mineria);	COMO COMUNICARSE				
Enrique Viego (Minería)	EN EL CONGRESO DE LA NACIÓN				
Empleados a cargo: No responde	Dirección: Riobamba 25, Piso 139				
Proyectos presentados: 4060-D-2009 Creación del Régimen Previ- cinad Esperiel para las tabaiadores minemas: 1227.D.2010 Internet.	Oficina: 1314				
sional Especial para los trabajadores mineros; 1227-D-2010 Intangi- bilidad de los haberes jubilatorios docentes	Teléfono: (011) 6310-7100, int. 3314				
Iniciativas transparentes: Presentación de proyectos de ley para	e-mail: macosta@diputados.gov.ar				
la implementación de un Código de Ética en el ejercicio de la función	Página web: No tiene				
pública y para la creación de oficinas de gestión educativa!	Secretario/a: Andrea Rodriguez				
hannes I have a superson as automatical features concerning	Teléfono directo: (011) 6310-7314				
OTRAS ACTIVIDADES	Asesor/a de prensa: Alicia D'Amato				
	Teléfono celular: (011) 15 5011-1080	) / (011) 15 6858-6390			
Actividad pública previa: Diputada Provincial, Catamarca (2003-	EN SU DISTRITO				
2007]; Concejal, Belén, Catamarca (1999-2003); Secretaria de Cultu-	Caseros 635 (4700) San Fernado del Vi	alle de Catamarca			
ra, Belén, Catamarca (1987-1989)	Teléfono: (03833) 435792				
Actividad partidaria previa: Dirigente, FPV, Congresal Provincial,					
FPV, Catamarca (1999-2006)					
Actividad privada previa: Docente, UCA, Santa Fe (1984-2007)					
Donaciones: No responde					
Trabajo solidario: No responde					
Ingresos: Sueldo bruto: \$12,466,50 (dieta: \$3.739,95 + gastos de representación: \$8.726,55) + Desarraigo: \$4.363,27 + 32 órdenes de					
pasajes oficiales (20 aéreos + 12 terrestres)					
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bood disponible: ver www.directonolegislativo.org					
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	Cantidad de bancas en la Câmara: 29	ส			
	Cantidad de bancas para quorum: 12	9			
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*Image 4.1:* Sample MP profile from Fundación Directorio Legislativo. See: <u>http://www.directoriolegislativo.org/fotos/2011/06/Diputados-Nacionales.pdf</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

Fundación Directorio Legislativo published its first legislative directory in 2000 at a time when little information about Argentina's legislators was shared and was not expected to be available in the public domain. But this has changed, according to Noel Alonso Murray, general coordinator of programs at Fundación Directorio Legislativo, who notes that legislators in Argentina "now realize that this information is public and should be made known to citizens.

Every time we do [the legislative directory], it becomes easier to get the information."<sup>54</sup> Whereas

approximately half of Argentina's legislators responded to the survey when creating the first legislative directory, it is estimated that more than 95 percent responded to the 2010-2011 version.

Apart from the availability of data, the presentation of MP background information depends on the tools used. <u>Congresso Aberto</u>, a PMO that monitors the National Congress of Brazil, has developed a number of attractive ways for displaying information about MPs (and parliaments more broadly).<sup>55</sup> Among the features in the organization's MP profiles are simple, yet informative electoral maps developed with the use of Google Maps (see Image 4.2).

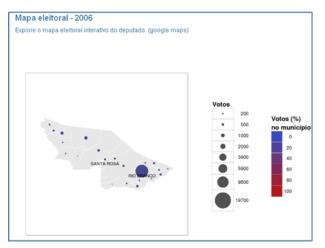


Image 4.2: An electoral map by Congresso Aberto demonstrates where a Brazilian MP received the most votes. Source: <u>http://www.congressoaberto.com.br/deputados-</u> <u>federais/ac/fernando-melo/</u>, Accessed: 09.28.2011.

### Parliamentary Attendance and Participation

Analyzing the attendance records of MPs represents one of the simplest ways to determine their level of participation in the legislative process. MPs who regularly miss votes or rarely attend committee hearings and plenary sessions are less likely to be effective in performing their legislative duties. The issue has particular importance in some developing parliaments where obtaining a quorum has been a problem. However, like many other indicators of MP performance or activity, this statistic does not accurately portray the quality of an MP's participation. Many PMOs address this shortcoming by acknowledging it in their printed or web materials.

Most PMOs report the quantity of parliamentary sessions attended as a percentage. Although procedures vary, many PMOs seek to take into account excused absences when this information is available. In some instances, often after consulting with MPs, PMOs take more nuanced approaches to reporting attendance by, for example, comparing committee attendance records of only those who are on the same committee, which takes into consideration that MPs on foreign affairs committees, for instance, may travel more than other colleagues. Given the importance that MPs often attach to their PMO ratings, it is essential that PMOs clearly state their

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> Noel Alonso Murray, Fundación Directorio Legislativo. Interview. 01.14.2010.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> Congresso Aberto: <u>http://www.congressoaberto.com.br/</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

methodology and data sources, even for statistics as relatively straightforward as attendance. This transparency is important to enhancing the credibility of PMO scorecards.

### When Attendance Records Are Unavailable or Unreliable

Some PMOs have adopted indicators to approximate attendance when circumstances have required them. In Romania, where MPs often sign in for their colleagues, the <u>Institute for Public Policy</u> (IPP) has counted the presence of MPs at votes instead:<sup>56</sup>

Some politicians have legitimate exemptions, which we record, but we also wanted an accurate record of how many of them are present when votes happen. So let's say you have 20 votes in a day. If the name of the MP Mr. X shows up only in 14 of them then he is present only 70%. Furthermore, if, say, only 204 voted out of a possible 322, we deduce from our database the 118 who didn't show up, and add that to their record.<sup>57</sup>

IPP has also video-taped sessions of the Romanian parliament to raise awareness of the illegal practice of MPs voting for their absentee colleagues.

### **Parliamentary Debate and Public Statements**

Measuring participation in parliamentary debate requires either physical access to parliament or access to audio or visual recordings or transcripts of parliamentary debate. Where plenary and/or committee sessions are open, but access to transcripts is delayed or unavailable, PMOs, such as <u>Parliamentary Monitoring Group</u> (PMG – South Africa), may send trained volunteers or staff to record minutes.<sup>58</sup> Indicators for MP participation often rate MPs by the amount of time spoken or the number of lines recorded by the *Hansard*, or transcription system. These can be presented as raw data or converted into percentiles or rankings, which are easier to interpret.

Both MPs and PMOs have noticed that rating MP participation can stimulate a perverse incentive that encourages increased quantity, rather than quality, of debate. In some instances, frequently participating MPs may speak beyond the norm simply to bolster their rankings. On its TheyWorkForYou.com website, mySociety manages this tendency by assigning MPs grades, such as "average" or "above average," as opposed to ranking them.<sup>59</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> Institute for Public Policy: <u>http://www.ipp.ro/pagini/index.php</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> Adrian Moraru interviewed by Tom Steinberg. 10.04.2007. Available at: <u>http://www.mysociety.org/2007/10/04/interview-with-romanian-edemocracy-site-builder-adrian-moraru/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> Parliamentary Monitoring Group: <u>http://www.pmg.org.za/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> For example, see: <u>http://www.theyworkforyou.com/mp/nigel\_adams/selby\_and\_ainsty#numbers</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011

### Organizing Parliamentary Debate with "Word Clouds"

The "word cloud" is another effective mechanism for tracking and comparing debate online. Word clouds are search tools that offer visual depictions of keywords, called "tags," generated by users or from the content of a website. The word clouds pictured below, from <u>NosDeputes.fr</u>, a website by <u>Regards Citoyens</u> that monitors the French National Assembly, grow as MPs say the tagged words in parliamentary debate.

<b>Image 4.3:</b> Infrequent Participant <sup>60</sup>		<b>Image 4.4:</b> Frequent participant <sup>61</sup>				
Champ lexical tourisme touristique	Tous ses mots	Champ lexical architectes atelier aéroport burga capitale CD clients CNDP consulta dimanche directoire développement territorial électricité				
3		infrastructure Île-de-france locaux logement modifié photovoltaïque port périmètre pôle pôle emploi repos repos dominical réseau saclay schéma scientifique sop solaire STIF surveillance taxe tend touristique voile véhicule				
		Tous ses				

Word clouds at NosDeputes.fr allow the visitor to instantly search all of the available comments made by an individual MP. Clicking on the word brings the visitor to a page with clips of the discussions in which the MP used the word.

Qualitative assessments of statements in parliamentary debate or to the press are difficult to assess and any such statement may be highly subjective. Some PMOs, however, seek to evaluate the truthfulness of statements made by politicians, albeit often from a particular political perspective. For example, the <u>Center for Research</u>, Transparency and Accountability (CRTA –

Serbia) evaluates the accuracy of MP statements using a "<u>truth-o-meter</u>."<sup>62</sup> CRTA selects statements by MPs and other political actors in Serbia and conducts research to verify their accuracy. In Image 4.5, the editorial team for CRTA's website, <u>www.istinomer.rs</u>,

found that the leader of the Serbian Progressive Party accurately stated his party's position to withdraw from a law



*Image 4.5:* CRTA staff analyze statements made by public officials to determine their veracity. Source: <u>http://www.istinomer.rs</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2010

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>60</sup> Regards Citoyens. <u>http://www.nosdeputes.fr/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>62</sup> Center for Research, Transparency and Accountability: <u>http://www.crta.rs/wp/en/</u>. Find CRTA's truth-o-meter at <u>http://www.istinomer.rs/</u>. Both accessed: 09.28.2011.

on information (the statement shows up as green on the truth-o-meter). Articles on Istinomer.rs are equipped with widgets<sup>63</sup> allowing them to be easily shared on social media websites, such as Facebook and Google Buzz, thereby reaching out to audiences that may not be inclined to obtain this information through traditional sources.

Another model for assessing MP discussion qualitatively is the <u>OpenData Network's</u> website Wahlversprechen.info (Germany), which serves as a "collective memory" aimed specifically at tracking the campaign pledges of Germany's elected officials.<sup>64</sup> The website allows citizens to record pledges made by officials and



Image 4.6: SPD Chancellor candidate Frank-Walter Steinmeier promises that his party will not form a coalition with the Left. The promise was found "Hinfällig," or, "invalid." Source: <u>http://wahlversprechen.info/promises/56-keine-koalition-mit-</u> <u>duldung-durch-die-linke.</u> Accessed: 09.28.2010.

provide evidence related to whether or not these pledges were kept. The website stipulates that all posted information must be accompanied by links or citations to the original information sources, which bolsters the quality of the information and the credibility of the website. Moreover, campaign pledges may not solely be rated as "valid" or "broken," but also as "controversial," which may also help prevent their incorrect categorization. Whether or not a PMO monitors MP promises using parliamentary informatics, sound sourcing and labeling practices can help strengthen the legitimacy of a PMO's work.

### **Oversight Tools**

An individual MP's oversight options and techniques depend on the parliament's oversight powers as stipulated in its internal rules or in the constitution. PMOs typically attempt to count how often MPs use available oversight tools. Parliamentary oversight activities may include: oral and written questions; interpolations; requests to government for action; site visits; taking testimony from government and public officials; and issuing investigative reports, among others.

In general, PMOs have been less creative in tracking MP oversight than they have been in monitoring parliamentary debate or voting records. In many instances, PMOs count questions asked by MPs without considering their impact. For example, PMOs may not consider how many questions are in fact answered by government, and how the information is then used in legislation or in successfully changing government policy. Oftentimes, governments are required to reply to questions within a stated timeframe. A failure to meet these deadlines – either because

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>63</sup> A widget is an application that can be embedded into a third-party website by a user who has authorship rights to that site. For example, by clicking on the Facebook widget provided by Istinomer.rs, one can share the story about the Serbian Progressive Party above on his or her own Facebook page.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>64</sup> Open Data Network: <u>http://opendata-network.org/</u>. Accessed: 09.15.2011.

of the poor quality of the questions or because of neglect by government ministries – is oftentimes overlooked by PMOs.

Monitoring the extent to which governments are responsive to MP questions represents one way that PMOs may be able to build trust with MPs and nurture a stronger relationship with parliament. This activity affords PMOs an opportunity to assist MPs in defending parliament as an institution. Moreover, utilizing websites to highlight questions that result in successfully conveying important information can benefit the parliament, while at the same time providing PMOs a new avenue for forging closer ties with MPs. Developing positive incentives for MPs to work with PMOs can raise a PMO's profile and increase MP interest in PMO activities.

### **Legislation and Voting Records**

PMOs have used a variety of techniques for monitoring how MPs have engaged in the legislative process – from the relatively simple to the complex.

*Quantifying Legislative Items.* Some PMOs assess how many pieces of legislation that a particular MP has sponsored or co-sponsored, while others develop an "efficiency" rating for MPs based on the number of pieces of legislation that are ratified during a term.<sup>65</sup> Depending on the context, a number of nuances related to legislative items make them difficult to capture quantitatively. Legislation and amendments may be of varying levels of substance, quality and importance, and are likely to be more difficult to ratify for members of the opposition than the majority. Moreover, MPs may introduce legislation to influence the policy agenda or please constituents, and may meet their objective without its ratification.

Although complex and impractical for PMOs in many contexts, the <u>Openpolis Association</u> (Italy), creators of the website <u>Openparlamento.it</u>, conducted a survey that sought MP input in a new "activity index."<sup>66</sup> Some of the 140 respondents pointed out that MPs may present thousands of amendments to block or delay a bill and that bills proposed without consensus from other parliamentary groups in the proposer's coalition require far less effort than bills that achieve consensus. To account for these findings, the Openpolis Association has decided to assign different values to legislative items (and other activities as well, when appropriate) along two criteria: the "consensus" achieved in support of a bill (depending on the number of cosigners and their coalition affiliation) and its "path to approval" (*i.e.*, whether it has been discussed in committee, passed by one chamber, enacted as law).<sup>67</sup> Other measures have also

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>65</sup> For an example, see: <u>http://www.ipp.ro/eng/pagini/monitoring-report-of-parliamentary-activ.php</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>66</sup> Openpolis Association: <u>http://www.openpolis.it/</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>67</sup> Celata, Guglielmo. 09.09.2010. *The New Index of Parliamentary Activity—Part Two: The Criteria*. Available at: <u>http://guglielmo.posterous.com/the-new-index-of-parliamentary-activity-part-0</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

been taken to ensure that MPs proposing thousands of amendments to block bills are not rewarded too heavily for such deeds.

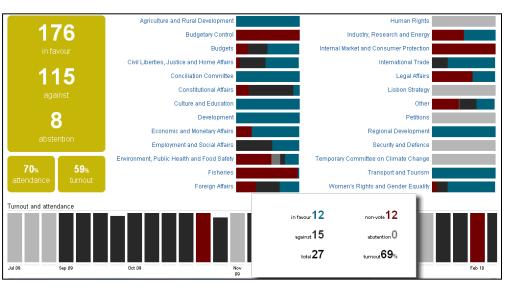
*Voting Records*. Separate from the introduction of legislative proposals or amendments, PMOs also often turn to voting records to provide information about an MP's performance. In some cases, voting records are inaccessible either in full or in part. In these situations, PMOs have an important role to play in advocating for greater transparency of parliamentary information. Where voting records are fully (or mostly) available to the public, a number of effective tools have been developed to monitor, evaluate and facilitate citizen knowledge and understanding of MP voting patterns. Some are aimed at evaluating an MP's voting record on specific subjects, while others may seek to assess specific phenomena, such as the extent to which an MP votes against his/her party. Websites have also been developed to allow visitors to compare the votes of individual MPs.

The examples in this section are taken from PMOs using parliamentary informatics. The ease of counting, depicting and comparing votes when using these tools has led to a number of innovations that warrant attention.

*Improving Access to Voting Record Information*. PMOs often provide a valuable service by facilitating citizen access to voting record information, without attempting to make a normative assessment of the voting record itself. By reorganizing voting data in a variety of ways, or developing tools that permit citizens to select how they would like to view the data, PMOs

empower citizens to scrutinize MP voting records more effectively. Select a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) at EPvote.eu,<sup>68</sup> for example, and а series of bars appears that shows how the MEP voted in 26 policy areas. Hovering the mouse over a category name prompts the

appearance



*Image 4.7:* Hovering over a vote category causes an MEP's votes on foreign affairs bills to be displayed along with his turnout percentage for votes in this area. Source: <u>www.EPvote.eu</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

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of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>68</sup> See: <u>www.epvote.eu</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

table with statistics about the MEP's voting record in that area. Image 4.7 illustrates an MEP's votes on foreign affairs bills along with his voter turnout percentage in this area. Clicking on a category displays another window that lists all of the bills on which votes have been taken and whether the MEP voted in favor or against, abstained or did not vote. Clicking on the bill name brings up a page with details about the bill itself.

Other PMOs, like the Openpolis Association, have developed tools to facilitate comparison of voting records between MPs or political parties. <u>Politools.net</u> (Switzerland), the <u>Qvorum Institute</u> (Romania), <u>CA "Why Not"</u> (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and others have developed "smart voting" tools that allow visitors to take a questionnaire and compare their votes or policy positions to those of MPs or candidates.<sup>69</sup> The most effective voting comparisons provide flexibility to users so that they can easily find the information that they seek. On MP profile pages at <u>OpenParlamento.it</u> (Italy), visitors can view how the MP has voted on all bills, or filter the data by type, rating or result. Visitors can view key bills or select to view only the bills upon which the MP voted against his/her party. In addition, one can compare the voting records of two MPs to see where they overlap or diverge, which is depicted visually in Image 4.8.



**Image 4.8:** A tool at the Openpolis Association's <u>Openparlamento.it</u> compares the voting records of two MPs who vote similarly 26.1 percent of the time. Source: <u>http://parlamento.openpolis.it/parlamentare/comparaDeputati/283/335/1</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

*"Policy Scorecards."* Some PMOs (as well as an increasing number of single-issue advocacy organizations) seek to not only improve the transparency and accessibility of a particular MP's voting record, but also to pass a normative judgment on the MP's voting record in relation to a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>69</sup> Politools: <u>http://www.politools.net/;</u> Qvorum Institute: <u>http://www.qvorum.ro/;</u> CA "Why Not": <u>http://glasometar.ba/</u>. All accessed: 09.28.2011.

particular policy agenda. Policy scorecards are used with frequency in some countries; however, they are not common practice in many contexts and can be regarded by MPs as confrontational. In the U.S., where hundreds of such policy scorecards exist, Members of Congress are frequently rated by organizations based on key votes in a specific issue area.<sup>70</sup> The *2009 Conservation Report Card* by Defenders of Wildlife Action Fund, for example, rated a legislator's dedication to wildlife conservation based on four votes.<sup>71</sup> The treatment of missed votes and abstentions on scorecards varies among organizations, with some treating these as votes against the issue area and others taking a more nuanced approach. Among the services provided by <u>Voter Information Services</u> and <u>Project Vote Smart</u> are aggregations of information by a range of U.S. interest groups about votes by Members of Congress and the results of scorecard projects.<sup>72</sup>

Sometimes the methodology for calculating a policy scorecard can be fairly complicated. For example, the <u>Public Whip</u> (UK), an independent website that shares data and information with mySociety's <u>TheyWorkForYou.com</u>, developed the "Policy Agreement Ratio" to suggest a rating for an MP's voting record on a specific policy.<sup>73</sup> This rating is based on a given MP's voting record on a sample of bills related to that policy. Points are assigned based on the way the MP votes and the importance of each bill within the designated policy area. The data is entered into a formula to calculate the MP's position, which may range from "voted very strongly for" to "never voted for" the policy. Thus, to determine how an MP's votes are related to a policy on transparency in parliament, for example, each bill brought to a vote in the issue area is ranked in terms of importance. Up and down votes on each bill are also ranked on whether or not voting in favor or in opposition supports parliamentary transparency. The final result is then calculated. Importantly, the votes and calculation for each MP's policy rating accompanies the rating.

Voting record (from PublicWhip)	
How John Redwood voted on key issues since 2001:	
Voted very strongly against more EU integration.	votes
Voted moderately against equal gay rights.	votes
Voted strongly for greater autonomy for schools.	votes

*Image 4.9:* Example of an MP's voting record calculated by the PublicWhip.org's Policy Agreement Ratio. Source: <u>http://www.theyworkforyou.com/mp/john\_redwood/wokingham</u>. Accessed: 02.15.2010.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>70</sup> Some Members of Congress integrate policy scorecards ratings into their own websites as another way to inform constituents about where they stand on issues. For example see:

http://www.brady.house.gov/index.cfm?sectionid=72&sectiontree=5,72. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>71</sup> See: <u>http://www.defendersactionfund.org/2009reportcard.pdf</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>72</sup> Voter Information Services: <u>http://www.vis.org/;</u> Project Vote Smart: <u>http://www.votesmart.org/</u>. Both accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>73</sup> The Public Whip: <u>http://www.publicwhip.org.uk/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>37</sup> National Democratic Institute | World Bank Institute

### **Constituency Service and Constituency Development Funds**

In many countries, MPs consider their work in constituencies to be as important, if not more important, than their purely parliamentary functions. Several PMOs have responded by developing mechanisms to monitor the constituency work of MPs. In recent years, an increasing number of parliaments in developing countries have set aside portions of the state budget for financing public socio-economic development projects that are managed or overseen by MPs. These constituency development funds (CDFs), although their names may differ, have been controversial, with opponents citing instances of corruption and poor oversight of CDF projects and with proponents citing the expectations that citizens in many developing countries have for MPs to deliver development projects for their district. Recently, CDFs have expanded as a practice and, given their potential for abuse, they have come under increasing scrutiny by PMOs.

*Constituency Service*. A number of PMOs monitor constituent services by contacting the local offices of MPs to learn about their activities within their constituencies and publishing the results. Some evaluate the ease with which constituents can contact their MP's local staff. This type of monitoring is labor intensive and can be costly. Ensuring the accuracy and legitimacy of the findings also poses challenges given the difficulties of accessing information, and verifying that all reported activities occurred and that all activities were reported. These activities, however, can also assist MPs and parties with publicizing the positive aspects of their constituent services.

<u>The Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia</u> (COMFREL – Cambodia) monitors field visits of MPs in the country's 23 provinces.<sup>74</sup> Observers in each province liaise with MPs, their staff, and provincial MP and political party offices, to collect data on all field visits. The observers also attend a sample of the field visits and fill out checklists (available in the *Parliament Watch* report) that include questions related to the purpose of the visit, promises made to constituents, and other information.<sup>75</sup> The findings are collected in a database and reported by party (see Image 4.10) along with brief case studies.<sup>76</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>74</sup> Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia. October 2007. *Parliamentary Watch.* 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Report, October 2006-September 2007, No. 3.2.4. Available at:

http://www.comfrel.org/images/others/1216632818PWR\_kh\_Oct2006\_Sept2007\_shorter%20version%202\_Eng\_Final\_1.pdf. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>75</sup> The checklist also seeks to probe the emotional reactions of constituents to the MP's statements, which invites a level of subjectivity that may not be appropriate in many contexts.
 <sup>76</sup> *Ibid.*

Table 3: Number of Parliamentarians' Field Visits by Each Party. by Purpose							
	Pe	Political Party					
Purposes of 1,757 Field Visits to Constituencies of 108 MPs	69 MPs	Q 24 MPs	() 15 MPs	Total			
Visiting, gift giving and inaugurations	537	176	44	757 (43%)			
Strengthening party network	338	172	35	545 (31%)			
Accompanying (as a group) their leaders	223	48	6	277 (16%)			
Participating in public forums	44	41	38	123 (7%)			
Intervention in people's concerns	15	38	2	55 (3%)			
Total	1,157	475	125	1,757 (100%)			

*Image 4.10:* A table compiled by COMFREL displays the purposes of constituency field visits by Cambodian MPs, aggregated by political party affiliation.

COMFREL's analyses are intended to be neutral; yet, when the project was initially implemented, the organization experienced difficulties with persuading MP field offices to provide data on the conduct of their activities. Once the initial results were published, COMFREL received some criticism from MPs and political party leaders for allegedly underreporting their constituency visits. However, from COMFREL's perspective, an incentive had been created for MPs and parties to improve their reporting on field visits. In addition to an increase in reported constituency visits, COMFREL noticed an increase in the attention paid by MPs to the issues faced by citizens during the course of this monitoring.

<u>The African Leadership Institute</u> (AFLI – Uganda) developed a "constituency performance" box on its scorecard that includes four indicators: attendance at local council meetings; whether or not the MP accounted for the CDF monies that he/she spent, the existence of local offices and assistants; and citizen accessibility to the MP.<sup>77</sup> The scorecard also provides an area for MPs to report how they spent their CDF funds during the previous year. These indicators are combined to produce an overall score for an MP's constituent service performance. AFLI has taken a number of measures – based on feedback from MPs – to ensure conscientious and accurate reporting. For instance, "special interest MPs" who represent the military, do not have geographic constituencies and "it would be difficult to know where to look or who to ask about their political assistants" and local offices. If these MPs did not respond to AFLI's survey, the score was recorded as "N/A."[Not Applicable]<sup>78</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>77</sup> African Leadership Institute. May 2009. *Parliamentary Scorecard 2007-2008: Assessing the Performance of Uganda's Legislators*. Kampala, Uganda. Find more information on AFLI at: <u>http://www.aflia.org</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>78</sup> Ibid.

*Constituency Development Funds*. The "social audit" is a commonly used technique for monitoring CDFs. During a social audit, citizens investigate government-financed projects and subsequently share their findings and recommendations with authorities. This process of directly engaging the public to provide oversight of their elected officials was pioneered by <u>Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan</u> (MKSS) in India, which has worked, in cooperation with the <u>International Budget Partnership</u>, to train organizations in other countries (including Kenya and Tanzania) in the implementation of social audits.<sup>79</sup>

According to the CDF Social Audit Guide, developed by the Open Society Institute for East (OSIEA) and supported by Africa the International Budget Partnership, a social audit "... is the process through which all details of a public project are scrutinised at a public meeting. A social audit seeks to evaluate how well public resources are being used and how to improve performance. It also aims to ensure participation."<sup>80</sup> maximum community Typically, a social audit team comprising local community members is organized to gather, analyze and verify information related to the implementation of CDF projects in its



Image 4.11: Image from the film "It's Our Money. Where Has it Gone?" about social audits by <u>Muslims for Human Rights</u>' (MUHURI – Kenya), produced by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Source: <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2zKXqkrf2E</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

neighborhood or district. This data collection effort is followed by a report-drafting period and awareness-raising campaign that culminates in a public meeting with the MP and other public officials to discuss the findings of the social audit and measures to improve the process. The final step includes a written report and other mechanisms for petitioning public authorities if required. The *CDF Social Audit Guide* was developed specifically for the Kenyan context, and contains a detailed account of the process of project implementation and mechanisms for redress within Kenyan law. Although many countries do not possess CDFs, the social audit methodology could be applied to other contexts for purposes of increasing civic engagement in monitoring the expenditure of public funds.

### **MP Financial Disclosures and Political Finance**

In a number of countries, laws requiring disclosure of MP assets or campaign contributions or expenditures provide additional data for PMOs to monitor. In many instances, PMOs make this information available in a simplified format that increases its public accessibility. In countries

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>79</sup> Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan: <u>http://www.mkssindia.org/;</u> International Budget Partnership: <u>http://internationalbudget.org/</u>. Both accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>80</sup> *CDF Social Audit Guide: The Popular Version*, OSIEA, February 2008, p. 25. <u>http://www.soros.org/initiatives/osiea/articles\_publications/publications/cdf\_20080201</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

with freedom of information laws, PMOs oftentimes request information and analyze it to ensure its accuracy, and reveal conflicts of interest and instances of corruption.

For example, although MPs in Slovakia are required to submit asset declarations, these declarations lack detail. At election time, the <u>Fair-Play Alliance</u> conducts a multifaceted campaign, including its own festival, to encourage electoral candidates to submit more complete online asset declarations to a publically accessible database developed by the organization.<sup>81</sup> The Fair-Play Alliance combines this data with other public information sources, including results of freedom of information requests, and conducts analyses to reveal how public monies are expended or conflicts of interest among MPs and the political elite. The Fair-Play Alliance has developed creative means for publicizing its asset declaration campaign and the findings of its investigations to maximize media coverage and its Internet presence. It also liaises with politicians, political effects of its work. These characteristics helped the Fair-Play Alliance's director, Zuzana Wienk, earn consideration for the U.S. Secretary of State's International Woman of Courage Award in 2009.<sup>82</sup>

MAPLight.org is a public database that "… illuminates the connection between campaign donations and legislative votes in unprecedented ways" in the U.S. Congress, California state legislature and Los Angeles city governing authorities.<sup>83</sup> Combining data sets on legislative voting, campaign finance (from the Center for Responsive Politics and the National Institute of Money in State Politics), and the positions of interest groups, MAPLight.org allows the visitor to explore various relationships between money and politics. The webpage of a bill, for instance, displays the interest groups that support and oppose it; the vote summary; information related to contributions made to Members of Congress within three days of the vote; and a timeline of contributions, among other information. Maplight.org conducts studies on specific subjects, such as *How Money Watered Down the Climate Bill*,<sup>84</sup> publishes a bi-annual newsletter and dedicates a specific section of its website for media outreach. Its innovative methods for bridging complex relationships in politics and money have earned Maplight.org a number of honors and 2,019 media citations between January 2008 and February 2011.<sup>85</sup>

### Summarizing Performance Data for Individual MPs

A number of PMOs that use indices or scorecards report having enjoyed a measure of success in encouraging MPs to become more active legislators. Some have reported increases in the overall score of MPs, indicating an increase in the conduct of parliamentary work, while others have

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>81</sup> Fair-Play Alliance: <u>http://www.fair-play.sk/index\_en.php</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>82</sup> See: <u>http://transparency.globalvoicesonline.org/project/fair-play-alliance.</u> Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>83</sup> MAPLight.org: <u>http://maplight.org/about.</u> Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>84</sup> Find this study at: <u>http://maplight.org/how-money-watered-down-the-climate-bill</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>85</sup> Maplight.org: <u>http://maplight.org/maplightorg%E2%80%99s-impact</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

suggested that their reporting has led to resignations of some of the poorest performing MPs. In some instances, however, these same indices and scorecards have provoked significant pushback from MPs and compromised the capacity of PMOs to engage parliament in reform discussions. While some PMOs have been able to salvage their parliamentary ties by engaging MPs in the redesign of their instruments, others have been less successful.

When summarizing and reporting performance data, PMOs must at once present information that is readily understandable to the average citizen, but that is also sufficiently comprehensive to accurately portray an MP's work. Performance data summaries must consider the knowledge level of citizens who they aim to inform, many of whom have little understanding of the legislative process or time to learn about it. On the other hand, performance data summaries should be designed to accurately reflect an MP's work; a complex task due to the difficulty of quantifying the qualities of a good MP. Inaccurate performance data summaries may create incentives for MPs to improve their scores without necessarily encouraging them to improve their democratic performance.

While some strong models exist, their development oftentimes required significant time and financing. The most effective performance data summaries are also routinely produced and distributed (web-based summaries are often updated instantaneously) for MPs to accept them as an institutionalized part of a broader accountability framework to which they are subject. This recognition can help give MPs a stake in working with PMOs to strengthen their frameworks, particularly when these tools are evaluative.

*Indices*. Indices summarize an individual MP's performance data using a single value to facilitate comparison with other MPs. Indices may be included on a scorecard that presents additional data, or they may be presented as a component of an MP profile. While algorithms that summarize the many components of an MP's activity profile into a single score may appear straightforward, they may involve complex mathematical underpinnings. Consequently, they can be difficult to both explain and interpret, and may be more appropriate for use in societies with higher education levels.

The new and more complex index of parliamentary activity developed by the Openpolis Association, as described in the earlier subsection on Legislation and Voting Records, is notable for efforts made to capture each MP's level of activity, which included fielding input from 140 MPs. "The index," according to Guglielmo Celata of Openpolis, "tries to account for the amount of political parliamentary work that a single MP has been doing, in relation to the effective changes brought by her work."<sup>86</sup> Each countable action for which an MP is responsible (including products they submit and data related to participation and speeches) is assigned a different value depending on the outcome of the action. For instance, an MP may receive fewer

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>86</sup> Guglielmo Celata. 09.09.2010. *The New Index of Parliamentary Activity—Part Two: The Criteria*. Available at: <u>http://guglielmo.posterous.com/the-new-index-of-parliamentary-activity-part-0</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

points for contributing to a bill that is discussed in committee and voted down than for a bill that is enacted into law. The point total for drafting a bill that comes to a vote or passes is higher than the point total for an MP in the majority who is responsible for the same activity "because the amount of political work needed to have one of your bills passed or even discussed is of course greater."<sup>87</sup> Openpolis also seeks to weight points depending on legislation type, recognizing that some bills (such as the national budget), are more important than others.<sup>88</sup>

<u>Kohovolit.eu</u>, which monitors the European Parliament as well as parliaments in Slovakia and the Czech Republic, has developed a less complex index. Although lacking the nuances incorporated into the Openpolis index, it has the advantage of being based on an MP's rankings in the various activity areas as opposed to a theoretical point system. The Kohovolit.eu Index ranks each MP in 11 areas – ensuring that no single activity area could influence an MP's ranking too significantly – and subtracts the rankings from the total number of MPs.<sup>91</sup> The MP with the highest score retains the highest ranking. In some contexts, this type of tool may be

presented as a single piece of data along with other information about an MP's work.

MP Scorecards. PMOs use scorecards to aggregate information about individual MPs across several areas of parliamentary activity. The work conducted by AFLI on parliamentary scorecards is instructive from a number of perspectives. The scorecard itself is designed to rate an MP's performance three arenas of in parliamentary work: plenary, committee and constituency.<sup>92</sup> The plenary performance MP score combines rankings for attendance and "debate performance, influence," an indicator that counts how many responses an MP's comments receive. Committee performance is simply based on

### An Alternative Way to Monitor MPs: "Adopt a Congressman"

Adote um Vereador (Brazil) is among a handful of efforts to enlist citizens to monitor MPs; in this case, the focus is on local council members or aldermen. The site is a wiki, which allows citizens to sign up and edit the website's content themselves, through drafting articles, providing links to newspaper articles, and more. Adote um Vereador was developed after Milton Jung, a well-known radio journalist, called on listeners to blog about the aldermen in Sao Paolo as a means of providing oversight. Lacking a common framework to organize the disparate efforts, web developer Everton Zanella created Adote um Vereador,<sup>89</sup> which by early 2010, spanned nine cities and contained nearly 284 articles.<sup>90</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>87</sup> Guglielmo Celata. Email. 08.04.2010.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>88</sup> Find more information on the Openpolis Association's index at: <u>http://guglielmo.posterous.com/the-new-index-of-parliamentary-activity-part</u> and <u>http://guglielmo.posterous.com/the-new-index-of-parliamentary-activity-part-0</u>. Both accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>89</sup> "Adote um Vereador" on the Technology for Transparency Network.

http://transparency.globalvoicesonline.org/project/adote-um-vereador. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>90</sup> Adote um Vereador. <u>http://vereadores.wikia.com/wiki/Página\_principal</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>91</sup> Kohovolit.eu, see: <u>http://kohovolit.eu/eu/parl/activity</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

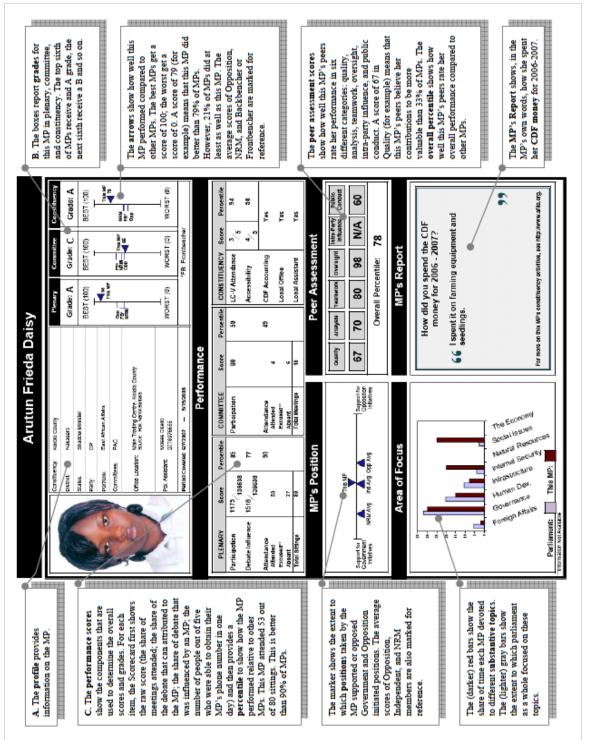
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>92</sup> Find the 2007-2008 Parliamentary Scorecard, the basis for this discussion, and the 2008-2009 Parliamentary Scorecard here: <u>http://aflia.org/publications.php</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

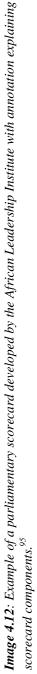
attendance and participation, while constituency performance was discussed earlier in this section.

Apart from the rigorous scorecard development process, which is explored in the introductions of recent scorecards and other available documents,<sup>93</sup> the project stands out for its incorporation of a peer assessment, one of few tools that evaluate the intangible aspects of parliamentary work – such as quality – that are so essential to successful conduct of the job. To obtain this data, AFLI asked MPs to rate 15 other randomly selected MPs in six areas: quality, analysis, teamwork, oversight, intra-party influence and public conduct. The scores reported, including an overall score based on the averages of the six listed areas, are percentiles that are adjusted to account for party bias.<sup>94</sup> To help readers to interpret the final results, they are charted along with the averages of the opposition and governing parties. Through its analysis, AFLI has discovered that MPs within these coalitions, as well as frontbenchers and backbenchers, face different opportunities and constraints that affect their overall performance scores. As a result, it has developed design features to encourage accurate comparison.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>93</sup> See the publications section of the AFLI website: <u>http://www.aflia.org/publications.html</u>. Also, see: *Strengthening the Uganda Parliamentary Scorecard*. Available at SSRN: <u>http://ssrn.com/abstract=1280756</u>. Both accessed: 09.28.2011.

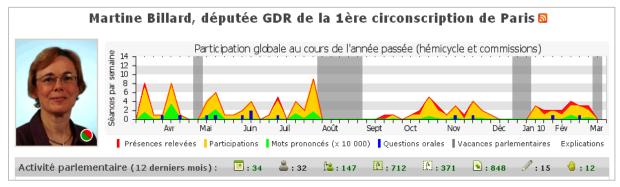
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>94</sup> African Leadership Institute. 2007-2008 Parliamentary Scorecard: <u>http://aflia.org/publications.php</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.





# <sup>95</sup> Ibid.

*Using Creative Graphics to Help Visualize Performance*. Some PMOs display MP activities in graphs and charts. <u>Regards Citoyens</u>, creators of NosDeputes.fr, has plotted MP attendance, participation, questions asked, and a few more indicators on charts, such as Image 4.13 below. These charts are situated at the top of all MP pages, which also include word clouds (described earlier), background information about the MP's responsibilities in parliament, lists of oral and written questions, legislative work, and more. Although the numbers are provided, the visual image creates a vivid portrayal of an MP's activities that is more powerful than using numbers or other data alone.



*Image 4.13:* A "global participation chart" developed by Regards Citoyens. Source: <u>http://www.nosdeputes.fr/martine-billard</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

# 5. Monitoring Parliaments

Although some PMOs tend to focus their monitoring and assessment tools on the work of individual MPs, many take a broader approach by also monitoring or assessing political parties, party groups or blocs, committees, and the parliament as an institution. Whereas monitoring MPs is more effective when greater amounts of information about their work is available, broader parliamentary monitoring does not necessarily require the same level of detail. For example, whether or not MP voting records are publicly accessible can serve as an indicator for assessing overall parliamentary performance or transparency. Monitoring the work of political parties or party groups may be more appropriate, for instance, where parliamentary elections are conducted via proportional representation systems in which citizens do not vote directly for MPs. Many PMOs have found that MP monitoring can positively affect the behavior of individual MPs, but that such changes do not necessarily translate into collective or institutional reform. Institution-level monitoring, on the other hand, can help PMOs identify shortcomings within a parliament's overall framework that may reveal reasons why MPs do not perform more effectively.

The tools and techniques used to monitor a parliament and its functions are as varied as those for monitoring individual MPs. Many PMOs monitor the performance or productivity of a parliament within the previous session, year or term, while others develop indicator frameworks to assess the work of political parties, party groups or committees. PMOs concerned with citizen engagement in the legislative process may provide background information on parliamentary functioning and legislative tracking or research services. Others may monitor specific areas of parliamentary functioning, such as transparency, openness or voting behavior. Analyses of the composition of parliament may reveal inadequacies related to parliament's representative function, while assessments of the capacity of the parliamentary administration may expose broader weaknesses that may otherwise go undetected.

This section begins by examining tools for presenting parliamentary background information, before discussing methods for assessing common parliamentary activities and functional areas. It later outlines several mechanisms for conducting comprehensive parliamentary assessments, followed by techniques for legislative tracking and explanation.

### **Parliamentary Background Information**

For PMOs, explaining how parliament functions is key to providing citizens with greater access to the political process and, ultimately, to encouraging public participation in decision making that affects their lives. To this end, PMOs have developed a variety of tools. <u>PRS Legislative</u> <u>Research</u> (PRS – India) provides explanations of various parliamentary functions in the

"primers" section of its website.<sup>96</sup> For example, PRS describes the budget process from beginning to end, the budget timeline and important budget concepts. It also incorporates photos of budget bills to better illustrate how they are to be read. On the website <u>Monitoreo y Vínculo</u> <u>con el Poder legislativo</u>, created by <u>Fundar</u> (Mexico) to monitor three parliamentary committees, visitors can learn their "Legislative ABCs."<sup>97</sup> More advanced visitors may read how to solicit Congress for information through Mexico's freedom of information act. <u>Fundación Ciudadano</u> <u>Inteligente's</u> designed a creative silent video that explains Chile's legislative process, which it posted on <u>YouTube</u> (See Image 1.1 in the Introduction section of this paper).<sup>98</sup>

### **Assessing Parliamentary Activity and Functioning**

Just as with monitoring MPs, PMOs are inclined to monitor a finite number of parliamentary activities and functions. With the exception of vote analysis, which can provide important insights into parliamentary functioning and political party dynamics on its own, assessments of parliamentary activities and functions are most revealing when treated as pieces of a whole. When combined, or viewed over time, holistic approaches to monitoring can reveal trends in parliamentary functioning that could otherwise be difficult to expose.

A common challenge faced by those monitoring parliamentary performance through the combination of indicators is an overreliance on quantitative methods. Irrespective of the indicators employed, quantitative methods are severely restricted in what they can reveal about a parliament; either failing to capture essential nuances with respect to parliamentary work (*i.e.*, not all ratified bills carry the same significance) or becoming so complicated that citizens cannot easily interpret their meaning. Qualitative analysis provides essential context to any quantitative portrait of a parliament; the most effective parliamentary assessment tools make strong use of both.

**Parliamentary Presence and Attendance**. When assessing the level of activity in which a parliament engages, many PMOs begin by considering the amount of time a parliament is in session, MP attendance and the percent of MPs participating in discussions. For some PMOs, these indicators are used to determine whether or not the parliament convenes for the minimum amount of time required by law or to encourage the enforcement of quorum rules. Yet these indicators may also reflect deeper implications: if MPs from the ruling party or coalition dominate the plenary or committee debate, this circumstance could demonstrate weaknesses in the rights of the opposition. As a general rule, these statistics are more meaningful when

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>96</sup> PRS Legislative Research, see:

http://prsindia.org/index.php?name=Sections&id=5&parent\_category=&category=49&action=bill\_details&bill\_id= 484. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>97</sup> Monitoreo y Vínculo con el Poder legislativo: <u>http://www.legislativoatualcance.org.mx/;</u> Fundar: <u>http://fundar.org.mx/index.html/</u>. Accessed: 11.17.2010 and 09.27.2011, respectively.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> See: <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fovPgBS2FKM</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

compared to statistics from previous legislative sessions and to other parliaments in similar systems; such comparisons, however, must take care to explain factors that may lead to differences in the findings. Methods for collecting data vary, with some organizations – including the <u>Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector</u> (MANS – Montenegro) and <u>Parliamentary</u> <u>Monitoring Group</u> (PMG – South Africa) – assigning trained observers to plenary sessions or relying on first-hand media accounts, and others using *Hansard* recordings or television.<sup>99</sup>

**Parliamentary Composition**. Identifying "who" conducts parliamentary work is important for understanding the degree to which a parliament is representative. The composition of a parliament reflects the composition of its political parties; the parliamentary leadership; the ruling or governing coalition and the opposition; and the percentage of seats held by women and minorities. Often PMOs present statistics that summarize changes in the composition of parliament relative to the previous parliament. Less frequently, but occasionally, **PMOs** analyze the occupational background of parliamentarians to contrast the membership

### The Financial Impact of Parliamentary Presence

Concerned that precious time and resources were being squandered due to parliament's tendency for convening sessions late, <u>Transparency International Bangladesh</u> (TIB), a chapter of Transparency International, began to calculate the approximate cost of the wasted time to taxpayers. After several years, the calculation caught the attention of the media, and, according to TIB Director Iftekhar Zaman, caused embarrassment to the ruling party. "[MPs] said that TI is undermining democracy... but almost every session [afterward], the Speaker would tell new members: 'Come back on time or [TIB] will catch you.""<sup>100</sup>

with the rest of society. Information on parliamentary composition, in combination with analyses of parliamentary debate, voting records and oversight data, may provide insight into the effectiveness of various coalitions of MPs in representing their ideologies and parties, and other constituencies within parliament.

Legislation and the Legislative Process. PMOs often report the number of pieces of legislation passed or the number of amendments incorporated as basic ways of determining the amount of work a parliament conducts during a legislative session or year. To better understand the legislative process, these figures may be sorted by political party, gender or any number of variables. This data may point to inequalities in the legislative process or potential attributes of a legislature's behavior that may not otherwise be evident. Yet, there are inherent limitations to merely counting legislative items because pieces of legislation vary considerably in length, complexity, significance, and the degree to which their passage is controversial. Accounting for these and other nuances, such as whether a bill originates within the parliament or the executive,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>99</sup> Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector: <u>http://www.mans.co.me/en/;</u> Parliamentary Monitoring Group: <u>http://www.pmg.org.za/</u>. Both accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>100</sup> Iftekhar Zaman, Transparency International Bangladesh. Interview. 11.25.2009.

or the possibility that a rejected bill strongly affects parliamentary debate, make simple quantitative analyses of legislative items most suitable for identifying "rubber stamp" parliaments. While quantitative analysis may also help identify long-term changes in a parliament's behavior, many PMOs adopt qualitative methods to provide insight into quantitative indicators of legislative performance.

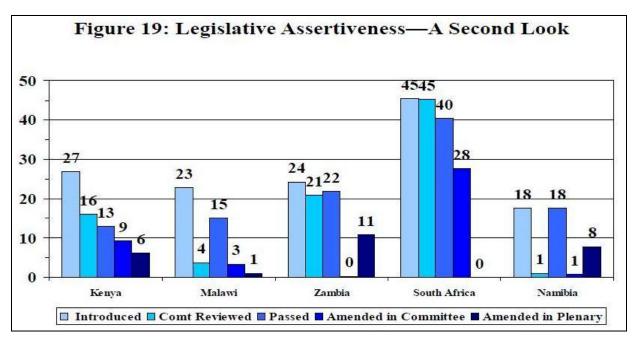
Some PMOs may incorporate scheduling or timing information into their legislative analyses, such as the amount of time it takes for draft legislation to be considered in committee, reach a vote in committee, and come to vote in plenary. The process and timing by which important pieces of legislation, such as the national budget, move through a parliament can provide important insights into the quality of legislative review to which laws are subject.

At <u>Vota Inteligente</u>, Fundación Ciudadano Inteligente (Chile) is developing a model of legislative analysis that considers the quantity and percentage of bills in the Chilean Congress, the composition and result of each vote and the processing time of different legislation, among other factors. Similarly, <u>Fundación Democracia sin Fronteras</u> (Honduras) and the <u>Al-Quds</u> <u>Center for Political Studies</u> (Jordan), which operates the <u>Jordanian Parliamentary Monitor</u>, offer detailed studies of the legislative processes in their countries.<sup>101</sup>

As the level of analysis becomes more involved, the line between applied monitoring can blur with that of political science research. The <u>African Legislatures Project</u> (ALP), based at the University of Cape Town, is undertaking a comparative effort spanning 20 countries to "learn *everything* important there is to know about how African legislatures function."<sup>102</sup> In its <u>*First Findings*</u>, ALP provides several ways of thinking about legislative processes that PMOs can adapt to their own context. For example, in Image 5.1 below, the report considers legislative assertiveness and how legislative powers are employed in five parliaments by counting the number of bills introduced; reviewed, passed and amended in committee; and amended in plenary.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>101</sup> Vota Inteligente: <u>http://www.votainteligente.cl/index.php</u>; Fundación Democracia sin Fronteras: <u>http://www.fdsf.hn/</u>; Jordanian Parliamentary Monitor: <u>http://www.jpm.jo/</u>. All accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>102</sup> Barkan, Joel D., Robert Mattes *et al.* January 7, 2010. *The African Legislatures Project: First Findings.* Available at: <u>http://www.africanlegislaturesproject.org/node/243</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.



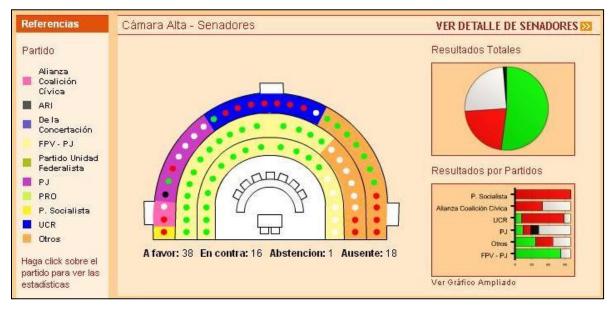
*Image 5.1:* A chart developed by the African Legislatures Project assesses the "legislative assertiveness" of some African parliaments.<sup>103</sup>

These calculations provided a number of insights into the strength of committees in the countries studied, as well as the roles of the parliaments in shaping legislation. Among the findings, the report noted that committees in the Kenyan and South African legislatures receive a majority of bills introduced, while they also amend high percentages of these bills. Conversely, Zambian committees receive nearly all of the bills introduced, but virtually play no role in the amendment process, which occurs wholly in the plenary session. In Namibia, on the other hand, committees continue to play a weak role in the legislative process, but the parliament itself amends 44 percent of the bills that come before it.

*Voting Behavior*. Exploring parliamentary and political party behavior through the assessment of votes is a fertile area for quantitative analysis. In many parliaments, studying voting patterns by party, party coalition or even institutionally provides more understanding about how a country's public policies are made than any other analysis. Moreover, voting patterns may furnish an array of important insights into the way that parties and parliaments function when facing specific policy issues and pressures, or during routine voting. Unfortunately, the meaningfulness of votes is the precise reason why many parliaments and MPs take measures to conceal this information from the public. Where plenary voting records are unavailable or tainted, PMOs may increase their impact on the legislative process by focusing on parliamentary transparency, particularly as it relates to the vote.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>103</sup> *Ibid*.

The website <u>Cada Voto con su Nombre</u>, developed by <u>Asociación por los Derechos Civiles</u> (ADC – Argentina) tracks votes in the National Congress of Argentina and 10 provincial legislatures by highlighting voting trends where a party may not regularly vote as a single bloc. In addition to tracking how MPs vote on each bill, the website features votes on each bill by party or district. In a display of the vote by party, an image of the parliament appears with colored dots representing how an individual voted (green for "yes," red for "no," etc.) and a bar chart indicating each party's collective vote total. For the vote in the Senate, shown in Image 5.2, three of the parties split on the issue as indicated in the "Resultados Totales" pie chart.<sup>104</sup>



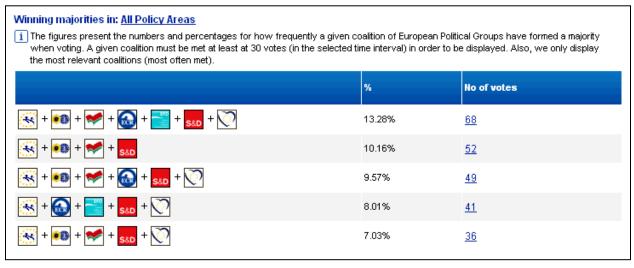
*Image 5.2:* The Cada voto con su Nombre website allows users to see votes by party. Source: <u>http://www.adclegislativo.org.ar/verley.php?iddocumento=9254</u>. Accessed: 11.23.2011.

ADC successfully advocated for recorded votes in the National Assembly, which the legislature had not chronicled in the past despite the existence of a sufficient legal framework and technical capacity to do so. It also urged recorded voting in the authorities governing the city of Buenos Aires and several provincial assemblies, and continues to work with others to do the same.

In countries where voting information is readily available, PMOs organize data in various ways to explore relationships between and among political parties and party groups. The website <u>VoteWatch.eu</u>, a collaborative effort by the London School of Economics and Université Libre de Bruxelles, exhibits the votes of political parties in the European Parliament since 2004. The website also displays attendance and activity records (including questions, speeches and reports) of Members of the European Parliament for all of the European Union's 27 member states. Its innovative "voting trends" section analyzes votes by party group, issue, coalition or voting bloc

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>104</sup> Cada Voto con su Nombre: <u>http://www.adclegislativo.org.ar/</u>. Accessed: 11.23.2010.

during a period of time specified by the web viewer. Image 5.3 below shows the frequency of specific winning majorities.<sup>105</sup>



*Image 5.3:* In the image above, VoteWatch.eu depicts the frequency of winning majorities for specific coalitions in the European Parliament. Source: <u>http://www.votewatch.eu/cx\_epg\_coalitions.php</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

*Oversight Activities*. Just as they may monitor individual MPs, PMOs may also examine oversight activities of parliaments, parties and party blocs, which they can compare over time, to one another or to other parliaments. Indicators of oversight activity may include any of the following: the number of oral and written questions or interpolations; the number of appearances by ministers or the prime minister to answer questions; the number of requests to government for action or the number of requests for information that are (and are not) answered by government; and the extent to which these responses meet required deadlines provided in rules of procedure, law or the constitution. Including indicators that measure the executive's responsiveness to parliament can provide parliament with a stake in the monitoring activity and can, in some cases, temper a natural inclination by MPs to view parliamentary monitoring as a mechanism to criticize only parliament, rather than a tool to hold the executive accountable for its failure to respond to parliamentary requests for information.

Oversight actions taken in committees represent another context for measuring parliamentary oversight. Committee-level information may include the number of committee site visits outside of the capital, the number of non-governmental organizations or governmental officials that testify before committees on oversight issues, or the number of committee investigative or oversight reports. In countries with public accounts committees, PMOs may want to monitor the promptness of the committee's review of government accounts as well as timeliness of submittal of information to the committee.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>105</sup> VoteWatch.eu, see: <u>http://www.votewatch.eu/cx\_epg\_coalitions.php</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) conducted a detailed examination to determine "...if and to what extent the Parliamentary Committees of the Bangladesh Parliament have been effective in playing their vital role of holding the Government accountable so that corruption could be effectively controlled."<sup>106</sup> Both this study, as well as TIB's broader Parliamentary Watch program, were conducted to help reach TIB's goal of improving governance in Bangladesh as part of the National Integrity System framework (noted in Section 2 of this report). The report discusses the legal framework governing committee work in Bangladesh and compares it to frameworks in a range of other countries. It then discusses committee, etc.) and oversight activities, focusing on the work of the Public Accounts Committee.

Administrative Capacity. PMOs devote less attention to monitoring and assessing parliamentary administration. While many onlookers tend to view functional inadequacies, such as a lack of transparency, as evidence of parliamentary corruption or deliberate obfuscation, oftentimes these shortcomings are caused by administrative deficiencies or a lack of capacity. In many parliaments, the number of staff members supporting a parliamentary committee may be more indicative of committee strength than many other indicators. In addition, procedures for hiring personnel are critical to ensuring that nonpartisan parliamentary staff is hired based on merit and competence, rather than political connections or other considerations unrelated to required skills for the position.

While PMOs only occasionally include parliamentary administration within their monitoring and assessment efforts, a South African PMO, <u>Idasa</u>, participated in an independent study of the Parliamentary Service, an administrative arm of the South Africa Parliament.<sup>107</sup> A panel was commissioned by the legislature to "inquire into, report and make recommendations regarding the extent to which Parliament is evolving to meet the expectations outlined in the Constitution and also to assess the experience and role of Parliament in promoting and entrenching democracy." <sup>108</sup> The study questioned MPs, parliamentary staff and others about the functioning of the Parliamentary Service, ultimately seeking to determine "its effectiveness in providing research to Members, assistance to committees, language services and other forms of support in its mandate." The results were published in the <u>Report of the Independent Panel Assessment of Parliament.</u><sup>109</sup>

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>106</sup> Alamgir, Fahreen, Tanvir Mahmud and Iftekharuzzaman. December 2006. *Corruption and Parliamentary Oversight: Primacy of the Political Will*. Presented at a seminar to mark the International Anti-Corruption Day, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Available at: <u>www.ti-bangladesh.org/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.
 <sup>107</sup> Idasa: http://www.idasa.org/. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>108</sup> Parliament of the Republic of South Africa. Undated. *Report of the Independent Panel Assessment of Parliament*. Available at:

http://www.idasa.org/media/uploads/outputs/files/Report\_of\_the\_independent\_panel\_assessment\_of\_parliament.pdf. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>109</sup> *Ibid*.

In many instances, PMO activities supplement administrative capacity. For example, PRS Legislative Research's legislative briefs and bill summaries, and <u>Directorio Legislativo's</u> (Argentina) directories of MPs, featuring their photos, biographies and contact information, represent resources that parliamentary staff would routinely prepare and distribute in other legislatures.<sup>110</sup> In Moldova, the <u>Centre for Analysis and Prevention of Corruption</u> (CAPC) supports a team of lawyers that analyzes laws for "corruptibility elements," playing a role that a dedicated legislative drafting service would render unnecessary.<sup>111</sup> Devoting more energy to monitoring parliamentary administration could help PMOs raise awareness of the need to strengthen critical institutional resources.

# **Comprehensive Parliamentary Performance Monitoring**

While assessments of individual indicator areas listed above can provide useful information in a given country, more comprehensive approaches to parliamentary monitoring can often yield more than the sum of separate indicators. Comprehensive performance monitoring often tries to analyze how successfully a parliament performs its core functions (lawmaking, oversight, and representation), as well as assess the status of the qualities that lead to improved democratic functioning (transparency, independence, etc.). Approaches to parliamentary performance assessments vary, with PMOs focusing on parliamentary rules of procedure, international parliamentary assessment tools or their own assessment frameworks. The methodologies employed may mix public opinion research and methods to collect MP opinions with more traditional data sources. Irrespective of the approach, assessments that incorporate both quantitative and qualitative analyses tend to produce the most useful results.

*Examples from Pakistan.* In <u>Performance of the 13<sup>th</sup> National Assembly: The First</u> <u>Parliamentary Year</u>, the <u>Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency</u> (PILDAT) combines a micro-level analysis of quantitative indicators with macro-level qualitative discussion of the National Assembly within the broader political context.<sup>112</sup> The first section focuses on "Key Performance Indicators" and compares the National Assembly's current performance to its performance during the first year of the previous parliament. Indicators include: Working Days, Working Hours, Legislation, Legislations versus Ordinances, Questions, Attendance, The Budget Session, Committees Formation and Meetings, The Public Accounts Committee and Foreign Trips.

55 National Democratic Institute | World Bank Institute

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>110</sup> Directorio Legislativo: <u>http://www.directoriolegislativo.org/</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>111</sup> Center for Analysis and Prevention of Corruption: <u>http://www.capc.md/en/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>112</sup> Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency. March 2009. *Citizens' Report: Performance of the 13<sup>th</sup> National Assembly: The First Parliamentary Year: March 17, 2008-March 16, 2009.* State of Democracy in Pakistan series. Islamabad, Pakistan. Available at:

http://www.pildat.org/Publications/publication/Democracy&LegStr/Performanceofthe13thNationalAssemblyofPakis tanthe1stParliamentaryYear.pdf. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

The paper's second section discusses "Positive Initiatives" during the 13<sup>th</sup> National Assembly. Included in this section are five points highlighting positive changes in the legislature from the previous term, such as awarding the chair of the public accounts committee to the opposition and increasing transparency on the National Assembly's website. The final section, "Key Areas of Concern," highlights several critical issues, including: "National Assembly Plays No Role in Addressing National Crises" and "Unconstitutional Action by the Chief of Army Staff on November 3, 2007 was Not Rejected by the National Assembly."<sup>113</sup>

### **Conducting Assessments Using International Tools**

International assessment frameworks that have been developed through collaborative processes with MPs and parliamentary staff offer an additional degree of legitimacy that may benefit PMO monitoring efforts and facilitate MP participation. In addition to its legislative session reports, the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT) also conducted an evaluation of the Pakistani National Assembly in cooperation with MPs, analysts and members of the media using the framework of the Inter-Parliamentary Union's Evaluating Parliament: A Self-Assessment Toolkit for Parliaments.<sup>114</sup> The 28 participants (half of whom were MPs) were asked to rate the National Assembly on questions posed in the six sections of the IPU's toolkit using a 10point scale. The final report, State of Democracy in Pakistan: Evaluation of Parliament 2008-2009, states the results and recommendations developed by participants to improve the parliament's effectiveness. A similar evaluation has been carried out by PILDAT for the Provincial Assembly of the Punjab analyzing its performance over the first two years <u>Score Card of the 15<sup>th</sup> Provincial</u> Assembly of the Punjab: The First Two Years: April 09, 2008 to April 08, 2010.

While many of the recommendations have yet to be implemented, the Assembly's Secretary credits the evaluation with prompting the decision to allow an opposition leader to chair the public accounts committee and with encouraging the Assembly's continued efforts at self-assessment. Commenting on the Assembly's recent adoption of a private member bill to establish an internal research organization, PILDAT Joint Director Aasiya Riaz stated that it "...took us years to sensitize MPs that this is something they need to undertake their work. It's still in the teething stage, but an act of parliament has been passed."<sup>115</sup> PILDAT's experiences working with the Assembly have demonstrated the benefit of utilizing international tools; the organization subsequently implemented International IDEA's State of Democracy assessment framework.<sup>116</sup>

Also in Pakistan, the Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN) developed a project that "... deploys trained observers to the National and Provincial Assemblies in order to monitor their performance using a detailed, standardized checklist and reporting forms covering all types of parliamentary business. The information gathered is measured against the neutral and objective

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>113</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>114</sup> Access the IPU toolkit, as well as a range of other information on standards, through the AGORA webpage on parliamentary standards at: <u>http://www.agora-parl.org/node/474</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011. <sup>115</sup> Aasiya Riaz, PILDAT. Interview. 12.22.2009.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>116</sup> Available at: <u>http://www.idea.int/sod/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

framework of the rules of parliamentary procedure."<sup>117</sup> The structure of the initial report, which contains five sections (shown below with subsections), provides a useful framework for addressing the National Assembly's work within the broader context of political development.

	v o		0
1.	Transparency	3.	Representation and Responsiveness
	1.1. Accreditation to Observe National		3.1. Calling Attention Notices (CANs)
	Assembly Proceedings		3.2. Question Hour
	1.2. Orders of the Day	4.	Outputs
	1.3. Accessibility of Other Parliamentary		4.1. Legislation
	Information		4.2. Resolutions
2.	Participation	5.	Order and Institutionalization
	2.1. Session Duration		5.1. Orders of the Day
	2.2. Attendance of Members		5.2. Conduct of Members
	2.3. Quorum		5.3. Points of Order (PoS)
	2.4. Member Participation in Discussion		5.4. Adjournment Motions
			5.5. Protests, Boycotts, and Walkouts
			5.6. Questions of Privilege (QoPs)
			5.7. Party-wise Break-up of QoPs
			_

Box 5.1 Overview of Categories Covered in FAFEN Monitoring Framework

*Compliance with Parliamentary Rules*. Parliaments are highly procedural institutions; their internal rules typically aim to ensure that both governing and opposition members have sufficient opportunity to contribute to parliamentary work. Several PMOs, such as MANS and <u>Citizen's Association MOST</u> (Macedonia), monitor a parliament's adherence to its own rules of procedure to help assess whether they are being effectively upheld and to identify modifications that can improve parliamentary functioning and adherence to democratic norms.<sup>118</sup> Monitoring parliamentary rules can be an effective method of encouraging debate about a crucial topic that may otherwise receive little attention. In political systems in which rules are often ignored, highlighting this problem, and articulating it clearly and simply can educate MPs and citizens alike about the rules and potential areas for reform. Like other assessments, these exercises can turn into a listing of transgressions that does not accurately reflect improvement in the parliament's performance or appropriately credit those who respect parliamentary rules. It remains a challenge to frame these assessments as efforts to offer constructive advocacy –

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>117</sup> Free and Fair Election Network. Undated. *Parliamentary Performance Update –VII: Seventeenth Session: National Assembly of Pakistan (November 2-November 16, 2009).* Pakistan. See: <u>http://www.fafen.org/site/v4/</u>. Accessed 09.27.2011

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>118</sup> See: Citizen's Association MOST. March 2008. *MP's Performance 3*. Skopje, Macedonia. Available at: <u>www.most.org.mk/index.php/en</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

helping parliament recognize areas in need of improvement – rather than as a tool to "name and shame."

*Opinion Polling.* Thirty-eight percent of PMOs conduct public opinion polling and many, including <u>Transparency International Georgia</u> the <u>Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies</u> <u>Center</u> (Azerbaijan) and the <u>Arab Center for the Development of Rule of Law and Integrity</u> (Middle East regional), have done so as a component of their parliamentary monitoring work.<sup>119</sup> When methodologically sound, polls may reveal important information about the perspectives of citizens and voters that many MPs and political parties appreciate for their political value in understanding public opinion.

The <u>Center for Strategic Studies</u> at the University of Jordan has developed an excellent reputation for political polling within the kingdom.<sup>120</sup> A 2009 poll focused on the perspectives of "public opinion leaders," including high-ranking government officials, journalists, political party leaders and others, on the functioning of the Chamber of Representatives. The 623 respondents were queried on broader issues related to their satisfaction with the performance of the Chamber of Representatives in conducting its "fundamental constitutional duties," as well as more specific issues related to the independence of MPs, the extent of MP communication with citizens and the effectiveness of the women's quota system.<sup>121</sup>

### Legislative Tracking and Explanation

PMO engagement in the legislative process can involve more than using data about legislation to assess parliamentary performance. Nearly one-third of PMOs track legislation to facilitate public participation in the process. These and other PMOs oftentimes develop tools to help explain complex pieces of legislation and to increase understanding among citizens, as well as MPs, especially when parliament or political parties fail to provide such useful interpretations.

*Legislative Tracking*. For parliaments, developing effective tools for informing citizens about the status of legislation and events surrounding its consideration remains a challenge. The reasons are varied, with some parliaments lacking the capacity or resources to create and maintain legislative tracking software, and others lacking the political will to open up the process to citizens. Often, a number of these challenges are in play simultaneously, and the timing and release of legislative information – at least components that are not required explicitly by law – can become political decisions. Where the issue may not be the inability to access information

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>119</sup> Transparency International Georgia: <u>http://transparency.ge/en/;</u> Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center: <u>http://www.smdt.az/;</u> Arab Center for the Development of Rule of Law and Integrity: <u>http://www.arabruleoflaw.org/</u>. All accessed: 09.27.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>120</sup> Center for Strategic Studies: <u>http://www.jcss.org/</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>121</sup> Al-Masri, Mohammad. June 2009. *Public Opinion Leaders' Evaluation of the Performance of the Current Lower House Since Its Election*. Center for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan. Available at: <u>http://www.jcss.org</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

about bill status, but simply accessibility of the information to the public, PMOs may seek to improve the ease with which this information can be accessed, in a user-friendly way, by the average citizen. These services do not necessarily require informatics tools, although they may speed up the process and require less human intervention.

The "Bill Track" feature developed by <u>PRS Legislative Research</u> (PRS – India) contains all bills and their status, and documents related to each bill. Bills can be searched by their status, which ranges from "To be Introduced" to "Passed" by one or both chambers. Available documents may include the text of the bill and committee reports, as well as legislative briefs, committee report summaries and analyses produced by PRS. In addition, PRS posts daily updates on activities in the Indian Parliament on the home page of its website and through bimonthly legislative updates.

One PMO innovation involves proactively "pushing" relevant information to interested parties, which can make parliamentary observation a much easier task in which citizens can engage. The <u>Parliamentary Monitoring Group</u> (PMG – South Africa), for instance, allows website users to sign up to receive emails about the activities of specific committees. Among the tools offered at <u>Govtrack.us</u> (US), a website created by <u>Civic Impulse, LLC</u>, are a weekly legislative agenda and agenda updates, and what it calls "Trackers," which allow visitors to receive immediate updates about the bill(s) of their choice – through an RSS feed – on their own computers or web pages.<sup>122</sup> An overview of each bill includes its sponsor, text, status, last action, related bills and votes, and a description prepared by the Congressional Research Service, the nonpartisan research arm of the U.S. legislative branch housed in the Library of Congress.<sup>123</sup>

*Legislative Explanation*. PMOs can also play a valuable role in translating complicated legal terminology into plain language that is understandable to MPs and citizens of various education levels. PRS developed several tools to simplify legislation and describe its intended impact in plain words, including its well-known legislative briefs, which are "…prepared based on Bills that are pending in Parliament. These are easy-to-understand 4-6 page documents providing a jargon-free, non-partisan overview of the issues and implications of Bills."<sup>124</sup> PRS sends the briefs to all Members of Parliament, journalists, and other interested groups and individuals. It also provides oral briefings to MPs upon request.

A more advanced tool, developed by <u>Regards Citoyens</u> at <u>NosDeputes.fr</u>, seeks to simplify legislative texts.<sup>125</sup> The tool links the law to an explanation of why it was proposed and separates the law by section and article, linking all references to other laws with the original text and explaining changes required by the new law. Web visitors can leave comments under each article, amendment and reference.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>122</sup> Govtrack.us: <u>http://www.govtrack.us/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>123</sup> Find Govtrack.us tracking and sharing tools at: <u>http://www.govtrack.us/tools.xpd</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>124</sup> PRS Legislative Research. <u>http://www.prsindia.org/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>125</sup> Find an example of the tool at: <u>http://www.nosdeputes.fr/loi/2760</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

One goal of many PMOs involves strengthening public engagement in the legislative process and many PMOs seek citizen participation in the explanation of legislation. For example, <u>WashingtonWatch.com</u> (U.S.) is a wiki that allows visitors to sign in and contribute to a detailed summary of each bill, assign points in favor or against each bill and join a discussion about a bill, among other user-generated activities. A discussion on WashingtonWatch.com in 2010 attracted more than 100,000 comments.<sup>126</sup> Another commonly used tool is annotation, which allows users at websites such as the <u>Open Data Network's Bundestagger.de</u> (Germany) and <u>mySociety's TheyWorkForYou.com</u> (UK) to comment directly on the text of a bill or transcript of parliamentary debate.<sup>127</sup> These annotations are visible to all website visitors. While this method is unlikely to receive the quantity of comments found in unstructured formats, it tends to encourage more substantive comments and discussion.

### **Transparency and Openness**

Parliamentary monitoring is most effective when parliaments are transparent and open. Many PMOs perceive a lack of parliamentary transparency as a primary challenge and become advocates for increased transparency as a result. Others monitor parliamentary transparency due to the parliament's important role in developing freedom of information legislation that affects society as a whole. The tactics used by PMOs for encouraging transparency and openness may be confrontational or constructive, and many PMOs incorporate both into their approaches. On the confrontational side, for example, the Institute for Public Policy (Romania) is prepared to sue the parliament when its freedom of information (FOI) requests are denied, late or returned only partially completed.<sup>128</sup> The Freedom of Information Center (FOICA – Armenia), Mjaft! Movement (Albania) and Poder Ciudadano (Argentina) also resort to FOI and public interest litigation to obtain information related to an MP's assets, party campaign finances or use of public finances.<sup>129</sup> On the constructive side, FOICA trains National Assembly staff in properly applying FOI laws to help ensure parliamentary transparency. GONG (Croatia) has conducted an internship program for the Croatian Parliament, which facilitated citizen access to the actual parliamentary building by providing tours of the site.<sup>130</sup> It has also advocated for and contributed to the Rulebook for Transparency of Parliament's Work, which the parliament subsequently adopted.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>126</sup> WashingtonWatch.com: <u>http://www.washingtonwatch.com/blog/2010/02/11/a-whopping-100000-comments/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>127</sup> Open Data Network: <u>http://opendata-network.org/;</u> mySociety's: <u>http://www.mysociety.org/</u>. Both accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>128</sup> See: mySociety's interview with IPP's Adrian Moraru at: <u>http://www.mysociety.org/2007/10/04/interview-with-romanian-edemocracy-site-builder-adrian-moraru/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>129</sup> Freedom of Information Center: <u>http://www.foi.am/en;</u> Mjaft! Movement: <u>http://www.mjaft.org/en/index1.php;</u>
 Poder Ciudadano: <u>http://www.poderciudadano.org.ar/;</u> All accessed: 09.28.2011.
 <sup>130</sup> GONG: <u>http://www.gong.hr/</u>. All accessed: 09.28.2011.

In recent years, academics and practitioners have begun to pay greater attention to the potential negative impact of transparency with respect to government information, in some cases how much and under what conditions transparency leads to increased accountability.<sup>131</sup> With respect to parliaments, it has been understood that a measure of privacy may facilitate negotiations on difficult political issues. In environments where MPs could face persecution for their votes on particular issues, transparency of the vote may not necessarily be advised. While further research is needed, particularly with respect to parliamentary transparency, the representative duty of these institutions places a burden upon them to provide information about their work to citizens in a timely fashion and to be publicly accessible. But it is also understood that increased transparency may produce unintended consequences or harmful drawbacks. Before advocating for parliamentary transparency, PMOs should consider the potential ramifications of measures they propose and engage MPs to understand their concerns.

*Monitoring Transparency and Transparency Related Information*. Many PMOs monitor transparency issues, whether with respect to parliament or society more generally. On its website, <u>Projeto Excelências</u>, <u>Transparência Brasil</u> monitors information available for all national and provincial legislatures, including law projects, plenary and committee attendance records, and indemnity and travel funds (see Image 5.3 below).<sup>132</sup> It also lists the budgets for each parliament and their budgets per capita.

Casas Legislativas									Judiciários	
	Projetos	Presenças		Verbas		Orçamento 2009			2.2	
Estado		Plenário	Comissões	Indenizatória	Viagens	Por parlamentar	Per capita	2a Instância	Acórdãos	Decisões
Senado	Sim	Não	Não	Sim	Não	33.863.899,44	14,47			
Câmara	Sim	Sim	Sim	Sim	Sim	6.886.571,33	18,63			
AC	Sim	IN BRO.	Não	Não	Não	3.435.188,53	121,23	Sim	Sim	Não
AL	Sim	INE	Não	Não	Nião	4.200.000,00	36,26	Sim	Sim	Não
AM	Não	Sim	Não	Não	Não	5.947.166,67	42,72	Sim	5im.	Sim
AP	Sim	Niin	Não	Não	Näe	3.786.946,88	148,23	Não	Sim	Não
ва	Sim	Sim	Não	5im	Nilles	4.149.567,38	18,03	Sim	-Nille	Sim
CE	Sim	Sim	Sim	Não	Não	5.030.075,02	27,38	Não	Sim	Sim
ES	Sim	Sim	Sim	Não	Sim	3.300.080,07	28,67	Sim	Sim	Sim
GO	Não	Sim	Não	Sim	Não	3.645.024,39	25,57	Não	Sim	Sim
ма	Sim	Sim	Não	Não	Não	3.159.317,14	21,04	Sim	Sim	Sim
MG	Sim	Sim	Sim	Sim	Nião	10.777.722,74	41,81	Sim	Sim	Não
MS	Sim	Não	Não	Não	Não	6.814.166,67	70,01	Sim	Sim	Sim

*Image 5.3:* On its website Projecto Excelências, Transparência Brasil lists budget and per capita budget information for parliaments. Source: <u>http://www.excelencias.org.br/</u>. Accessed 11.23.2011.

<sup>131</sup> See, for example: Jonathan Fox. August 2007. *The Uncertain Relationship between Transparency and Accountability*. Development in Practice, Volume 17, Numbers 4-5; and Frank Bannister and Regina Connolly. *The Trouble with Transparency: A Critical View of Openness in e-Government*. Available at:
 <u>http://microsites.oii.ox.ac.uk/ipp2010/system/files/IPP2010\_Bannister\_Connolly\_Paper.pdf</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.
 Projeto Excelências: http://www.excelencias.org.br/. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

*Freedom of Information (FOI) Laws and Related Laws and Compliance Issues.* Freedom of information laws are one element of an effective transparency system. Where these laws are applicable to parliamentary information, PMOs have incorporated them into monitoring activities in a variety of ways. <u>MANS</u> (Montenegro) publishes the results of some FOI requests (it has submitted more than 17,000 such requests to date using customized software it created for this purpose)<sup>133</sup> in its parliamentary monitoring reports to demonstrate the parliament's compliance with the law. <u>Congreso Visible</u> (Colombia) hired more than 80 volunteers to seek to access Congress and make information requests. The resulting report, which documented their success and failures, was presented, with the results of a public opinion poll conducted by <u>Transparencia por Colombia</u>, to the presidents of the Colombian and Latin American Congresses, among others. <u>WhatDoTheyKnow.com</u>, a mySociety (UK) project, assists citizens with completing freedom of information requests online, including requests made of parliament and of other legislative bodies. All of the requests and responses are posted on the website.

PMOs also engage in advocacy efforts on behalf of FOI legislation. The <u>Sunlight Foundation</u> (U.S.) advocates for adoption of a public on-line information act, which is intended to reduce the need for FOI act requests by making public data available automatically online, subject to a number of exceptions. Similarly, <u>Chile Transparente</u> monitors all bills related to transparency, and prepares technical reports with analysis and recommendations that are sent to the committees considering the bills.<sup>134</sup>

**Regional Indices and Comparative Assessments.** PMOs have also engaged in a number of efforts to research and evaluate parliamentary transparency and openness. The <u>Regional Index of</u> Parliamentary Transparency (RIPT)<sup>135</sup> was a joint effort by <u>Corporación Participa</u> (Chile), <u>Fundación Poder Ciudadano</u> (Argentina), and <u>Acción Ciudadana</u> (Guatemala)<sup>136</sup> to test parliamentary transparency by assessing the concepts of access to information and accountability along four dimensions (comprising 62 variables) of work in which the legislature is involved. Each dimension was weighted according to the percentage of time the legislature devotes to it (See Box 5.2 on following page).

This framework is accompanied by an analysis of laws regulating legislative transparency. Charts containing the final results of the study are color coordinated to demonstrate where a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>133</sup> See a video of Vanja Calovic, MANS director, on the organization's work:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWXPwgiUkew&NR=1. MANS: http://www.mans.co.me/en/. Both accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>134</sup> Find information on Chile Transparente's work related to the law on access to public information, at: <u>http://www.chiletransparente.cl/home/acceso\_info\_publica.html</u>. Accessed: 02.21.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1135</sup> Corporation Participa, Poder Ciudadano and Acción Ciudadana. August 2008. *Regional Index of Parliamentary Transparency*. First edition, Santiago, Chile. Available at:

http://www.bibliocivica.org/images/d/d9/Regional Index of Parliament Transparency.pdf. Accessed: 09.28.2011. <sup>136</sup> Corporación Participa: <u>http://www.participa.cl/</u>; Fundación Poder Ciudadano: <u>http://poderciudadano.org/</u>; Acción Ciudadana: <u>http://www.accionciudadana.org.gt/</u>. All accessed: 09.27.2011.

parliament is fulfilling its legal obligations, where it is not fulfilling such obligations, and where it is making information available in excess of legal requirements. In presenting the results of each dimension, special attention is given to parliamentary websites.

### Box 5.2 Weighting System for Dimensions of Parliamentary Transparency Covered in RIPT Report<sup>137</sup>

Dimension	Definition	Weight
Legislative Management	"The work in committees and in Congress that is carried out by the legislators."	50%
Administrative Management	" resources, the hiring of personnel and services, and much of the technical/logistical support that allows the representatives to carry out their legislative work is managed."	30%
Work of the Legislators	Work of MPs within their districts	15%
Congressional Consultants	" Consulting groups hired by the Congress or by legislators to enable the public to know the quality and characteristics of the technical proposals that our representatives feed off of."	5%

Another tool related to civic participation in parliamentary transparency and openness is <u>A Plea</u> for Open Parliaments in the Black Sea Region, <sup>138</sup> a comparative initiative conducted by the Institute for Public Policy (Romania), Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (Viitorul -Moldova), Centre for Liberal Strategies (Bulgaria) and Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy, and Development (Georgia).<sup>139</sup> The Open Parliaments report is based on three methods: "[An examination of] the legal framework for parliamentary openness, then the practices and perceived obstacles in using transparency instruments expressed by various categories of civil society actors (NGOs, trade unions, media, etc.) and last, but not least, we assessed the present situation of the openness of the Parliament based on common agreed, scientific, and measurable criteria."140 To obtain the perspectives and experiences of civil society organizations, questionnaires collected qualitative information related to transparency and accountability. Basic indicators of "perceived transparency" (scaled from one to five) were also included.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>137</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>138</sup> Institute for Public Policy, *et al.* December 2008. *A plea for Open Parliaments in the Black Sea Region: the case* of Romania, Republic of Moldova, Bulgaria and Georgia. Bucharest, Romania. Available at: http://www.ipp.ro/eng/pagini/a-plea-for-open-parliaments-in-the-black.php. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>139</sup> Institute for Development and Social Initiatives: http://www.viitorul.org/index.php?l=en; Centre for Liberal Strategies: http://www.cls-sofia.org/en/; Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy, and Development:

http://www.cipdd.org/. All accessed: 09.27.2011. <sup>140</sup> *Ibid*.

South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR – Sri Lanka) developed a tool to analyze parliamentary transparency regionally.<sup>141</sup> Its report, *Transparency in Parliament: A Review of the Procedures* and Practices in South Asia, covers parliaments in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and seeks to "identify the extent of openness in the functioning of Parliaments that is required by their rule books and [compare] it with what is found in actual practice."<sup>142</sup> The report analyzed five areas of parliamentary transparency:

- 1. Calendar of Sessions and Business of Parliament;
- 2. Record of Business Conducted;
- 3. Papers laid on the Table of Parliament;
- 4. Declaration of Financial and Criminal Antecedents and Entitlements of MPs; and
- 5. Functioning of Parliamentary Committees.<sup>143</sup>

In addition, the SAHR report offered recommended guidelines for increasing openness. Through its Parliament Watch program, SAHR plans to continue monitoring transparency, accountability, integrity and independence with assistance from Transparency International.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>141</sup> South Asians for Human Rights: http://www.southasianrights.org/. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>142</sup> Nayak, Venkatesh. 2009. Transparency in Parliament: A Review of the Procedures and Practices in South Asia. South Asians for Human Rights. Sri Lanka. Available at: http://www.southasianrights.org/wpcontent/uploads/2009/10/Tranparency-in-Parliament-Final2.pdf. Accessed: 09.28.2011. <sup>143</sup> Ibid.

# 6. Good Practices in Parliamentary Monitoring

As this report has demonstrated, PMOs have developed a variety of innovative and effective techniques and approaches to monitor parliaments. However, despite facing common challenges, PMOs have few opportunities to share the methods and tools that they have created. This section highlights approaches developed by PMOs for addressing common challenges, as well as some of the qualities embodied by PMOs that – according to PMO representatives themselves – have led to their successes. Since parliamentary monitoring is a continuously evolving field, the good practices reviewed in this chapter, together with the associated recommendations to the international donor community in the next section, should be considered tentative and preliminary. They may, however, provide the basis for future research and discussion.

#### **Increasing Transparency of Parliamentary Information**

One of the most common challenges faced by PMOs is limited access to parliamentary information. In some countries, parliamentary overuse of voice voting, rather than roll call voting, means that parliamentary organizations have difficulty accessing the most basic types of parliamentary information. In others, committee hearings may be conducted in private and committee reports only selectively shared with the public, if at all. PMOs have employed a range of creative solutions to try to overcome these obstacles, including directly observing plenary sessions, working with accredited journalists to obtain information on the proceedings, and hiring former staff members and parliamentary interns with relationships inside the parliament to gain information from colleagues. Such ad hoc methods of collecting parliamentary information are oftentimes less-than-ideal solutions to the lack of parliamentary information, which hinders PMO monitoring activities and public participation in parliamentary processes. Moreover, reliance on informal sources of information can expose PMOs to criticism if the quality and veracity of their data cannot be publicly verified.

PMOs have developed a number of good practices for improving the transparency of parliamentary information. The impacts of regional indices of parliamentary transparency suggest the possibility that donors may wish to explore support for a broader index of parliamentary transparency. <u>Acción Ciudadina</u> (Guatemala), a chapter of Transparency International and a partner in the Latin American Regional Index for Parliamentary Transparency (RIPT) project, believes that RIPT, in conjunction with its own cooperative approach to engaging the Congress of Guatemala, successfully encouraged the Congress to improve the pubic availability of parliamentary information.<sup>144</sup> Although the Congress was found to be the least transparent of the three parliaments included in the index, the fact that the Guatemalan

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>144</sup> Acción Ciudadina: <u>http://www.accionciudadana.org.gt/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

Congress provided information as part of the RIPT assessment process was viewed as helping improve confidence in, and the credibility of, the institution.<sup>145</sup>

#### Approaches for Increasing Parliamentary Transparency

Opaque parliaments do not lend themselves to effective monitoring. PMOs monitoring such parliaments may need to start with basic advocacy regarding the transparency of parliamentary information. Developing MP profiles and publishing a parliamentary directory can help to build a culture of transparency and openness. The number of parliamentarians responding to a survey compiled by <u>Fundación Directorio Legislativo</u> (Argentina) increased from around 50 percent to 95 percent since the advent of the first legislative directory.<sup>146</sup> Compiling regional rankings, which compare the availability of information among neighboring parliaments, represents another way to create pressure for additional parliamentary openness. On the specific issue of parliamentary website transparency, a PMO can compare the websites of its own parliament to those in the <u>World e-Parliament Report 2010</u> survey of parliamentary websites worldwide.<sup>147</sup>

Another effective approach to increasing transparency involves enlisting the support of parliamentary candidates to sign a "good governance pledge" that serves as a public commitment on the part of the candidate to improve parliamentary transparency and openness if elected. The <u>Al-Quds Center for Political Studies</u> used Jordan's 2010 elections to secure candidate signatures on an "Agreement with Jordan" that included a pledge to develop a parliamentary code of conduct once elected.<sup>148</sup> The <u>Fair-Play Alliance</u> (Slovakia) has organized elaborate advocacy campaigns to encourage candidates to volunteer more detailed asset declarations than required by law.<sup>149</sup> Similarly, <u>TUMIKOM</u> (Turkey) and <u>mySociety</u> (UK) have used parliamentary elections to advocate that political parties and individual MPs provide information that can be monitored once the election season has ended and governing begun.<sup>150</sup>

Freedom of information (FOI) laws have also been used to increase transparency of parliamentary information. Forty-nine percent of PMO respondents to the NDI/WBI survey indicated that they request information under a freedom of information law. A number of PMOs file lawsuits when requests are denied, late or only partially complete. While each country stipulates its own requirements for making FOI requests, some good practices are universal. For example, many PMOs have suggested that FOI requests be brief, succinct and targeted to specific information so that they do not overwhelm parliamentary staff with limited resources or capacity. Fundar (Mexico) goes a step further on its website Monitoreo y Vínculo con el Poder

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>145</sup> Acción Ciudadina. Parliamentary Monitoring Organization Questionnaire. 09.28.2011`.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>146</sup> Fundación Directorio Legislativo: <u>http://www.directoriolegislativo.org/</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>147</sup> See: Document's third chapter: <u>http://www.ictparliament.org/wepr2010</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>148</sup> Al-Quds Center for Political Studies: <u>http://www.alqudscenter.com/english/</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>149</sup> Fair-Play Alliance: <u>http://www.fp-alliance.com/index.php</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>150</sup> TUMIKOM: <u>http://www.tumikom.org/english/index.php;</u> mySociety: <u>http://www.mysociety.org/</u>. Both accessed: 09.27.2011.

<u>legislativo</u> by explaining the process for accessing parliamentary information, thus enabling citizens to conduct their own research.<sup>151</sup> The effective use of FOI laws is one area where PMOs can benefit from peer-to-peer sharing of information on good practices. Also, developing a common platform for freedom of parliamentary information could help bolster PMO advocacy activities on this issue in individual countries.

## **Sustaining Funding for PMOs**

Many PMOs across the world struggle with issues of funding. In donor countries, PMOs are often supported through philanthropy or through committed activists who self-finance their activities. Competition can be intense for limited e-democracy and e-participation grants. Many PMO websites seek donations directly from users, sell memberships or host third-party advertisements as methods of supplementing their revenues, but these efforts have, for the most part, met with limited success.

In a few instances, PMOs have grown from basic civic projects into self-sustaining enterprises. mySociety has developed a for-profit website development business to help fund its non-profit websites. In the words of Tom Steinberg, the director of mySociety, it is like "being our own Foundation."<sup>152</sup> mini-Gates In mini-Microsoft to create our own Germany, Abgeordnetenwatch.de has undertaken a concerted fundraising campaign and its donors are listed in a public database on the website.<sup>153</sup> With sponsorships from German media outlets, including Der Spiegel, Abgeordnetenwatch.de is searchable directly from articles about the Bundestag that are hosted by these outlets.<sup>154</sup> Its popularity has allowed Abgeordnetenwatch.de to profit by charging MPs for premium profile pages hosted on the website.

According to the NDI/WBI PMO survey, 67 percent of PMOs in countries receiving international assistance rank grants from international donors as their primary source of funding, while 86 percent rank international donor support among their top three funding sources. Among these PMOs, only a handful has found sustainable income sources beyond donor assistance. For example, <u>Parliamentary Monitoring Group</u> (South Africa) sells subscriptions for its monitoring services to businesses.<sup>155</sup> However, the lack of viable income sources for PMOs beyond international and local donors means that it is particularly important for those donors to provide funding that allows for sustained operation over a significant period of time.

Many PMOs attempt to sustain the organization by engaging in multiple donor-funded activities in addition to parliamentary monitoring. For example, many nonpartisan domestic election

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>151</sup> See: <u>http://www.legislativoatualcance.org.mx/solicitainformacionalcongreso.php</u>. Accessed: 02.22.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>152</sup> Tom Steinberg, mySociety. Interview. 02.19.2010.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>153</sup> Abgeordnetenwatch.de: <u>http://www.abgeordnetenwatch.de/</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>154</sup> Gregor Hackmack, Abgeordnetenwatch.de. Interview. 04.08.2010.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>155</sup> Parliamentary Monitoring Group: <u>http://www.pmg.org.za/</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

observation organizations may receive substantial donor funding during a pre-election period that decreases dramatically in the post-election period. The combination of election monitoring and parliamentary monitoring can also be considered a good practice – both activities can be complementary in terms of their timing (parliaments often do not meet as frequently during the pre-election campaign period) and in terms of organizational compatibility (both activities can benefit from political savvy, nonpartisan credentials and capacity to analyze political process data with methodological vigilance).

## **Overcoming Parliamentary Resistance to Monitoring**

Just as the executive branch may not encourage robust parliamentary oversight, parliamentarians may not be accepting of rigorous civic oversight of their work individually or as an institution. PMOs have developed a broad range of strategies for overcoming this initial resistance. At its core, neutralizing hostility to monitoring requires a PMO to strengthen its organizational credibility with parliamentary actors; many PMOs have cited "credibility" as a particularly important quality. The nature of their work can expose PMOs to criticism by political leaders who are unhappy with the results of a PMO's scorecard or other monitoring instruments. A PMO's ability to maintain its credibility with parliamentary actors and the public is critical to withstanding these complaints. PMOs have suggested a range of good practices in this area that are described below.

**Providing Accurate, Verifiable Information**. Iftekhar Zaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), believes that credibility rests with accurate information.<sup>156</sup> "Corruption is very bad here, but it is improving," says Zaman. "To combat it, we need information that is impeccable and defendable, because we need to bring out the corruption in the media. Whatever we say and do, we must have information to back it up."<sup>157</sup> Fundación Democracia sin Fronteras (FDsF – Honduras) has found that "working with accurate and objective information" prevents the organization's work from "[giving] rise to speculation, hearsay, subjective comments or value judgments that favor or disadvantage the deputies."<sup>158</sup> An essential aspect of this effort involves using publically available information, which would permit anyone to verify the results.

*Combining Monitoring Activities with Parliamentary Support.* Many PMOs have bolstered their credibility with MPs by providing support for parliamentary development in conjunction with their monitoring and evaluation activities. For example, FDsF implements a technical training program for MPs with the National Autonomous University of Honduras, which has allowed the organization to develop strong relationships with leaders of various party blocs. Reflexión Democrática (Peru) has trained candidates on a non-partisan basis on how to run for

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>156</sup> Transparency International Bangladesh: <u>http://www.ti-bangladesh.org/</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>157</sup> Iftekhar Zaman. Transparency International Bangladesh. Interview. 11.25.2009.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>158</sup> Fundación Democracia sin Fronteras. Parliamentary Monitoring Organization Questionnaire. 02.15.2010.

Congress.<sup>159</sup> <u>GONG</u> (Croatia) has established a parliamentary intern program.<sup>160</sup> <u>Transparency</u> <u>International Georgia</u> (TIG) was able to obtain office space within the parliament to facilitate citizen and civil society input into the lawmaking process.<sup>161</sup> Many other well-respected PMOs, including <u>PRS Legislative Research</u> (India), <u>Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and</u>

<u>Transparency</u> (PILDAT – Pakistan), and the <u>Ghana Center for Democratic Development</u> (CDD – Ghana) play similar support roles for MPs that help them strengthen their abilities to engage parliament.<sup>162</sup>

PMOs can also strengthen their credibility within parliament by supporting MPs in working toward shared objectives. Although PMOs often view themselves as parliamentary "watchdogs," their broader goals often include strengthening the parliament's executive oversight function. Where parliaments conduct question and answer "What we see as most important [for creating relationships with MPs] is the strategy that many NGOs use to criticize government or parliament, which is to criticize individuals for the problems. We criticize institutions and give them recommendations, but we do not accuse [individual MPs] of lying or stealing. We give facts and criticize. Many NGOs will state that government is stealing without facts. They must criticize with facts."

– Valmir Ismaili, <u>Kosova Democratic</u> <u>Institute</u> (Kosovo)

sessions, for instance, PMOs can help publicize effective questions posed by MPs and monitor executive responses. Beyond bolstering parliament's oversight function and providing MPs with guidance on asking effective questions, the additional publicity may produce an added incentive for MPs to conduct effective oversight work and garner their appreciation for the helpful assistance with the conduct of such endeavors.

*Building Public Support.* With more than 4,600 members and a network of 36 Committees of Concerned Citizens, TIB has developed credibility through its strong public support. An independent evaluation found that "TIB is now identified as being synonymous with tackling corruption in Bangladesh..."<sup>163</sup> While such an accolade does not shield TIB from attack, it helps the organization gain access to parliament and the ear of politicians. Similarly, the <u>Mjaft!</u> <u>Movement</u> (Albania) relies on its base of approximately 10,000 volunteers, as well as its network of social clubs, to provide credibility to its monitoring work.<sup>164</sup>

For PMOs that currently lack broad public support and awareness, engaging citizens in the process of creating and developing their projects can be a useful technique to build a positive reputation. The <u>African Leadership Institute</u> (Uganda), for instance, has deliberately adapted its

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>159</sup> Reflexión Democrática: <u>http://www.reflexiondemocratica.org.pe/</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>160</sup> GONG: <u>http://www.gong.hr/</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>161</sup> Transparency International Georgia: <u>http://transparency.ge/en/</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>162</sup> PRS Legislative Research: <u>http://www.prsindia.org/;</u> Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and

Transparency: <u>http://pildat.org/;</u> Ghana Center for Democratic Development: <u>http://www.cddghana.org/</u>. All accessed: 09.27.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>163</sup> Knock, Colin and Tahera Yasmin. Undated. "Impact Assessment: Abridged version of the Impact Assessment Report conducted in November 2007." Contact TIB for access.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>164</sup> Mjaft! Movement: <u>http://mjaft.org/en/index1.php</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

parliamentary scorecard to make it more relevant to the needs of constituents. By utilizing information from polls and focus groups, or conducting open forums on the Internet, PMOs can help ensure that their approaches to measuring parliamentary performance resonate with public concerns and that their advocacy efforts enjoy public support.

#### Generating Citizen Interest on the Web

Citizen interest can also be garnered through the Internet. <u>TheyWorkForYou.com</u>, a website maintained by <u>mySociety</u> (UK), has attracted more than 3 million individual visitors who navigate a vast amount of information about parliament – including MPs and lords, parliamentary debate dating to 1935, and questions and answers – in a simple and accessible format. In addition to its continuous efforts to add innovative products to the website (or access to such products on its other websites), TheyWorkForYou's success is also attributable to its strong messaging. As Guglielmo Celata of the Openpolis Association<sup>165</sup> commented: "The title of [mySociety's] projects are illuminating... TheyWorkForYou and WriteToThem [a website that facilitates citizen-MP discussion] – they describe a relationship between voters and representatives that is how it should be..."<sup>166</sup>

Asked how PMOs can improve their web presence and generate more traffic, Tom Steinberg, director of mySociety, recommended "Search engine optimization... techniques to make your stuff come up higher on Google."<sup>167</sup> mySociety's web presence has translated into offline activism as well, as it amassed more than 6,000 volunteers to advocate that candidates for the May, 2010 parliamentary elections answer a survey about their views on important issues that can then be monitored.<sup>168</sup>

*Ensuring "Clean Hands."* To effectively criticize a particular parliamentary practice or issue, PMOs need to practice what they preach. PMOs that advocate for improved transparency of parliamentary information have a responsibility to ensure that they hold their own organization to exceptionally high standards regarding transparency. Poder Ciudadano (Argentina) and the Al-Quds Center, for instance, require members to abide by the organization's own code of ethics.<sup>169</sup> Abgeordnetenwatch.de (Germany) established a good practice by posting its donors in a searchable database on its website. Many other PMOs using informatics provide public access to their code, in part, to demonstrate the legitimacy of the information they report. Still, some have suggested that PMOs voluntarily adhere to the same asset disclosure rules required by MPs before they can effectively criticize MPs who do not appear to comply with these laws.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>165</sup> Openpolis Association: <u>http://www.openpolis.it/</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>166</sup> Guglielmo Celata, Openpolis Association. Interview. 01.21.10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>167</sup> Tom Steinberg. mySociety. Interview. 02.19.2010.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>168</sup> mySociety. <u>http://www.mysociety.org/2010/04/15/theyworkforyou-election-survey/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>169</sup> Poder Ciudadano: <u>http://poderciudadano.org/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

### **Effective Use of Parliamentary Informatics for Monitoring Parliaments**

Examples of effective and creative use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) for parliamentary monitoring, which are highlighted throughout this paper, demonstrate the promise that parliamentary informatics holds for future monitoring initiatives. It is no surprise that PMOs continue to adopt these tools. Efforts to explore how parliamentary informatics can become even more accessible and effective deserve greater attention and support.

Parliamentary informatics, however, are not a panacea. The NDI/WBI PMO survey and the associated interviews found that these tools do not appear to resolve the challenges facing parliamentary monitoring organizations. Moreover, organizations that do not use informatics seem more inclined toward activities that engage the parliament directly, including fulfilling MP requests, offering legislation, testifying in parliament and proposing codes of conduct. These findings support two recommendations that informatics developers often suggest to organizations that are considering integrating informatics into their programming: 1) informatics should be viewed as tools, rather than as solutions, and 2) the effective implementation of informatics requires a plan with well-defined objectives.<sup>170</sup>

**Data Analysis**. PMOs have used ICTs to automate the aggregation, organization and analysis of data and information about parliaments, particularly in countries with access to large amounts of raw parliamentary data (*e.g.*, *Hansard* or parliamentary transcripts that can be "mined" for information; a large number of recorded votes; detailed information on campaign finance or asset disclosures). Where data is available, but not in a format that lends itself to scraping using informatics, PMOs may focus on advocacy for parliamentary adherence to "open data" standards. Some PMOs have suggested that they can play a role in coordinating a global advocacy campaign among themselves to establish minimum standards for parliamentary transparency, which would include guidance on the use of open data standards.

*Data Visualization*. PMOs have been exceptionally creative in using informatics to graphically display data, for example, generating charts, graphs, maps and other visual content. These images help make parliamentary information more appealing to citizens and help reveal relationships among complex factors affecting democratic development (such as the role of money in politics). Many examples of creative data visualization techniques have been shared in earlier parts of this paper. Greater discussion is needed to discern the role that the international community might be able to play in facilitating broader use of data visualization and other open source tools. Several PMOs have suggested that the international community play a role in furthering the exchange of data visualization and other open source tools among PMOs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>170</sup> For information on developing a strategic planning framework for parliamentary monitoring more broadly, see NDI's *Political-Process Monitoring: Activist Tools and Techniques*. Available at: <u>http://www.ndi.org/node/17257</u>. Accessed 09.28.2011.

## Factors a PMO Should Consider When Contemplating Using Parliamentary Informatics

When an organization is contemplating the use of parliamentary informatics to bolster its monitoring activities, it should consider the issues below.

- 1. *Planning Strategically*. Informatics tools are not effective in all environments and under all circumstances. It is imperative that PMOs have clear objectives in mind when considering the use of informatics and a strategic plan for reaching out and engaging citizens once the website is implemented.
- 2. *Availability of Parliamentary Information*. Tools that aggregate information from websites are most effective when tailored to specific data that is available directly on parliament websites and in machine-readable formats (such as XML). While these tools can also aggregate news articles, they are less effective when used in this manner and cannot produce the same type of data. When parliamentary data is unavailable, PMOs should consider concentrating their efforts on developing tools to help address the lack of information. Even with access, Benjamin Ooghe-Tabanou, a developer at <u>Regards Citoyens</u>, contends that before a PMO can understand how to organize parliamentary data, it first has to thoroughly understand the legislative process.<sup>171</sup>
- 3. *Capacity to Adapt and Improve Informatics Tools*. Informatics are not labor-intensive once implemented, but several PMOs have cautioned that these tools often require numerous adaptations after the website is launched and visitor preferences become known. Methodological changes may also require further, potentially costly, changes to the website. When considering employing informatics, organizations must factor in the technical and financial costs involved in not only building them, but also sustaining them.
- 4. Accounting for Characteristics of Target Audience. Some informatics can be more effective when aimed at a specific audience. Crowdsourcing tools, for example, may be best utilized for information sharing among specific groups, like single-issue policy activists. Determining a clear audience to target when developing informatics can help ensure that projects are informatics enabled, rather than informatics driven.

*Citizen Engagement*. While some PMOs have effectively used social media and crowdsourcing tools to bolster parliamentary monitoring activities, others have not shared this success. The creativity that PMOs demonstrate in developing these tools does not always translate into a sustained user base. Participation in such activities, for instance, may require a substantial time commitment that citizens may not be prepared to make. Moreover, some websites that facilitate dialogue between citizens and MPs offer a clear benefit to the user in the form of an MP response or access to information, but not all websites present such a reward. Developers of crowdsourcing-reliant websites – perhaps under the impression that innovation will lead to citizen participation – often fail to account for a lack of effective outreach to potential users,

72 National Democratic Institute | World Bank Institute

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>171</sup> Benjamin Ooghe-Tabanou, Regards Citoyens. Interview. 01.26.2010. Regards Citoyens: <u>http://www.regardscitoyens.org/</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

inadequately engage parliamentary actors (who might be expected to participate in the activities facilitated by their tools), and provide incentives for participation, among other issues. More systematic evaluation of these tools can help determine good practices and effective implementation techniques.

# Using Parliamentary Monitoring to Support Reform and Reinforce Public Activism

Citizens are often skeptical of their parliaments, viewing them as aloof, corrupt, unresponsive or ineffective. While public frustration with their elected representatives may be justified, this disillusionment can be channeled in ways that strengthen accountability structures and citizen engagement of parliament. When PMO activities confirm public cynicism of parliament, they may undermine democratic governance more than advance it. In some instances, they may even bolster the executive as an alternative to a corrupt or unproductive parliament. Mónica Pachón, the director of <u>Congreso Visible</u> (Colombia),<sup>172</sup> explains the problem as follows:

"Parliaments are not exactly popular – citizens don't look forward to [learning about] them... If the discourse of the organization is similar to what the feeling of the people is – and doesn't question the negative image that people have about the congress – then we are not doing much. We're saying 'it's not worth it to inform yourself because there is corruption and clientelism and other things...' If citizens don't realize that Congress is a very important branch for a political system to work, then we're not going to be a democracy."<sup>173</sup>

Whether conducting analysis or simply presenting facts, PMOs face this dilemma with respect to how they utilize information that they gather. Confrontational approaches, both intentional and unintentional, can positively affect parliament by motivating MPs and political parties to change their behavior under some circumstances. "Naming and shaming" MPs who commit crimes or ill acts may also help generate incentives for MPs to engage in reform processes. However, while they may mitigate bad behavior, confrontational approaches are less effective in promoting positive conduct. They may also hinder a PMO's capacity to engage MPs in constructive dialogue.

PMOs have pursued a number of avenues to encourage positive behavior and reform. Some PMOs, for instance, create an award program or otherwise recognize positive actions taken by the institution or individual MPs. For example, <u>Directorio Legislativo</u> (Argentina) presents an award for the "most innovative MP;" the award not only brings public recognition to the MP, but has also been combined with a study mission for the MP to learn more about related innovations

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>172</sup> Congreso Visible: <u>http://www.congresovisible.org/</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>173</sup> Mónica Pachón, Congreso Visible. Interview. 01.28.2010

or reforms in other countries.<sup>174</sup> The <u>Congressional Management Foundation</u> (U.S.) bestows the Golden Mouse Award on a Member of Congress with the best website.<sup>175</sup> <u>Congreso Visible</u> (Colombia) publishes interviews with parliamentary actors in its bimonthly magazine, which highlights positive actions by MPs.<sup>176</sup> In publicizing its scorecard, the <u>Kosova Democratic</u> <u>Institute</u> (KDI) has invited the "most active MP" (as identified by its scorecard process) to assist in the launch and presentation of its scorecard reports.<sup>177</sup> At an institutional rather than individual level, PILDAT publicizes the National Assembly's positive steps.<sup>178</sup>

#### Changing Game Plans in Kenya

In Kenya, PMOs have begun to coordinate their efforts to reform the constituency development fund (CDF). Believing that organizations, such as <u>Muslims for Human Rights</u>, had effectively documented the misuse of the CDF, the <u>Institute for Social Accountability</u> (TISA – formerly the CDF Accountability Project) decided to change course from data collection to applied monitoring.<sup>179</sup> After the government acknowledged the need for CDF reform, TISA and other civil society partners developed a reform proposal. They subsequently shared their recommendations with potential reformers within the parliament and the other state organs engaged in setting CDF polices. TISA moved to monitor the reform process. According to TISA Coordinator Wanjiru Gikonyo:

"We have taken a long-term view to reform – and emphasize change in practice as we push for legal reforms... When you use an antagonistic approach, you get locked out and citizens give up. Our approach has been a little more conciliatory. We really do say the facts, but we say them directly to the stakeholders. We don't say them to the media first... Before we upload anything on our website, we share it with the institution first and give them a right of reply."<sup>180</sup>

Gikonyo believes that this approach has helped the cause of CDF reform. After issuing a letter in December 2009, TISA received an immediate response from the CDF Board addressing some of its concerns. TISA also publicly releases its reports on the reform process.

A number of PMOs believe that the manner in which information is released can be as important to encouraging reform as the content of the information itself. For many PMOs, the first step in releasing information involves seeking media attention, believing that the resulting outcry will

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>174</sup> For more information, see: <u>http://www.directoriolegislativo.org/institucional/premio-a-la-innovacion-legislativa/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>175</sup> For more information, see: <u>http://pmpu.org/2011/02/14/coming-soon-112th-congress-gold-mouse-evaluations/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>176</sup> Congreso Visible bulletins are available at: <u>http://congresovisible.org/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>177</sup> Ismaili, Valmir. Kosova Democratic Institute. Interview, 02.15. 2010.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>178</sup> See, for example: <u>http://www.pildat.org/eventsdel.asp?detid=353</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>179</sup> Muslims for Human Rights: <u>http://muhuri.org/</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>180</sup> Wanjiru Gikonyo, The Institute for Social Accountability (TISA). Interview. 03.09.2010.

trigger a reform process. For some PMOs, including the <u>Institute for Social Accountability</u> (TISA – Kenya) and the Fair-Play Alliance, the initial step may be to alert affected individuals within the parliament and other governing institutions before launching their media campaign.<sup>181</sup> In some instances, providing public officials with an opportunity to initiate change or plan a face-saving response before the release of embarrassing information can help spur reform while involving the PMO in any subsequent negotiations.

## **Developing Effective Outreach to the Media**

PMOs benefit from a growing body of experience and good practice in their efforts to engage media about their monitoring and advocacy activities. For example, although national media may enjoy the broadest coverage throughout a given country, these outlets are often busy covering breaking news stories, and issues of national or international interest. A number of PMOs have noted greater success with attracting local and regional media. Where MPs have geographic constituencies, supplying information about the activities of MPs to journalists in their own regions can be helpful in garnering media attention.

Many PMOs have noted that innovative techniques for parliamentary monitoring can effectively attract media interest. According to July Fuentes at Acción Ciudadina, part of the success of its Regional Index for Parliamentary Transparency may be because it was "the first time such a comprehensive study of parliamentary transparency" was ever conducted in Guatemala.<sup>182</sup> Some PMOs utilize gimmicks to initially capture public attention for something trivial that may eventually attract more lasting interest in serious reform. For example, <u>mySociety's TheyWorkForYou.com</u> tracks MP use of "three-word alliterative phrases" in speeches contained in the *Hansard* (such as "she sells seashells"); in their words, "We've added the silly statistic, to catch your attention."<sup>183</sup> Although gimmicks can be one tool for building public or media interest, some PMOs have cautioned that they may not always amuse those within the halls of parliament.

Many PMOs have noted that journalists often show limited interest in writing about parliaments and lack knowledge about parliamentary procedure or business. Several PMOs have offered trainings to help educate journalists on parliamentary affairs. PRS (India) has trained more than 2,000 journalists about the legislative process, how to address MPs and how to access information about parliament on the PRS website. Abgeordnetenwatch.de built interest in its activities by negotiating to place its search engine directly on the websites of news outlets.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>181</sup> Institute for Social Accountability: <u>http://www.tisa.or.ke/</u>. Accessed: 09.27.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>182</sup> July Fuentes, Accion Ciudadina. Email. 02.18.2010.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>183</sup> TheyWorkForYou.com. <u>http://www.theyworkforyou.com/help/#numbers</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

## **Using Sound Methodologies and Reporting Practices**

For many PMOs, parliamentary monitoring reports often represent their most visible product. As such, their reputations are heavily based on the credibility of those reports. Find below some of the most commonly cited good practices for developing quality reports.

*State the Methodology and Acknowledge Limitations*. Most PMO reports include a thorough description of their data collection techniques, and the methodology used in analyzing the data and preparing the report. Some PMOs, such as AFLI,<sup>184</sup> may take another step by including – perhaps in footnotes – brief discussions of alternative indicators that were considered, but not used. Many PMOs recognize that some of the quantitative statistics have little relation to the quality of work conducted by MPs. For the most part, they describe MP activity and outputs rather than the quality of their "performance." Acknowledging these shortcomings and rationalizing the use of indicators is important, as described by MANS (Montenegro) below.

"Here we want to point out that MANS is certainly aware of the fact that the job of an MP is not reduced to his/her mere presence and debate at plenary sessions. We know that apart from this [attendance], MPs should perform other important jobs such as analyses of legal projects, various kinds of research, development of amendments, and even draft acts, participation in the work of committees, caucuses and certainly work with voters, which need not always be visible at the very plenary... However, it is indisputable that through presence and participation in the work of the Parliament and committees, which is also an obligation prescribed by Article 55 of the Rules of Procedure, an MP shows his/her attitude towards the institution s/he work in and the citizens who appointed him/her to that position. This index does not in any way aspire, nor can it entirely assess the quality of work of a single MP, but it does intend to point to this aspect of an MP's duty. In the end, it is the citizens who should decide whether they are satisfied with the overall work of MPs and give their judgment on that in the elections."<sup>185</sup>

*Focus on Information that is Meaningful, Not on What is Just Accessible*. Many PMOs monitor parliamentary and MP activity by developing techniques based on available data and information. In some instances, this approach may help PMOs and parliaments work together to understand the types of information to which citizens should have access. However, focusing on available information comes with the drawback of developing monitoring tools and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>184</sup> See the introduction of any of its scorecards, available at: <u>http://aflia.org/publications.php</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>185</sup> Maraš, Vuk. December 2007. *Final Report on Transparency and Activity in the Work of the Parliament of Montenegro: For the Period from 20 March until 30 November 2007.* Network for Affirmation of Non-Government Sector, Parliamentary Program, Montenegro.

methodologies that neglect relevant information. It may also lead PMOs to emphasize quantitative data over qualitative information.

In some instances, the absence of information and the reasons behind it may be more revealing of a parliament's functioning than available information. For example, limited or sporadic public access to committee reports may indicate a lack of transparency. It may also point to the presence of undue political influence, inefficiencies within the parliamentary administration or other shortcomings that are important to identify and report. If committee reports tend to take different forms and formats, the absence of an effective committee report template may be as much to blame for a parliament's opacity in this area as other factors.

Confining monitoring to accessible information and quantitative data may prevent PMOs from diagnosing obstacles facing parliamentary development. A number of PMOs, which successfully used monitoring to encourage increased MP activity, have recognized this problem and begun to develop their tools to meet the next set of challenges. As Antuen Skenderi, director of the Mjaft! Movement, has noted: "We realize that our work needs to be more tailored to the quality and transparency of laws, and include legal analysis."<sup>186</sup> The Kosova Democratic Institute (KDI) has addressed this issue by including "pillars of analysis" into its scorecards to explore developments related to parliaments' work and functioning.<sup>187</sup>

*Draw on International Standards, Benchmarks and Assessment Tools.* Over the past five years, a number of inter-parliamentary organizations representing parliaments around the world have adopted benchmarks or assessment tools for democratic legislatures. As highlighted in Section 2 of this report, these internationally recognized instruments offer PMOs frameworks for approaching their own monitoring work. By adopting these frameworks, in full or in part, and adapting them to local contexts, a PMO may strengthen its standing with parliament because of the added measure of legitimacy provided by observing internationally recognized methodologies.

*Compare Performance Over Time and with Similar Parliaments*. Comparisons with past performance or with performances of similarly-structured parliaments may provide users with an important frame of reference. In the <u>Vital Stats</u> section of the website of PRS Legislative Research,<sup>188</sup> PRS explores topics related to parliamentary functioning from multiple perspectives. For instance, in a discussion of private member bills in the Lok Sabha, India's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>186</sup> Antuen Skenderi, Mjaft! Movement. Interview. 01.11.2010.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>187</sup> See, for example, KDI's *Scorecard: Assembly of Kosovo*. VII-XII. 2009. Available at: <u>http://www.kdi-kosova.org/publications/Fletnotimit7-12-2009.pdf</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.
<sup>188</sup> Available at: <u>http://www.preindia.org/parliamenttrack/uital\_stats/\_Accessed</u>: 09.28 2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>88</sup> Available at: <u>http://www.prsindia.org/parliamenttrack/vital-stats/</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

lower house, the introduction of private bills is explored over time, by party, by comparing ministers to backbenchers, and by whether they are introduced and discussed.<sup>189</sup>

Beyond the importance of using comparisons to understand specific issues, comparative information can prove persuasive. When the Assembly of Kosovo was considering an amendment to the NGO law that would have allowed the Ministry of Public Service to search the offices of NGOs at will, KDI worked to block the bill by sharing with MPs a similar law from Russia. In the words of Valmir Ismaili, "The article [the Government] wrote was almost the same as the Russian law for NGOs, so we took [a version that KDI drafted] and the Russian one and told MPs to choose which one they approve: this or the other."<sup>190</sup> Many chose KDI's version.

*Engage MPs in the Development and Refinement of Monitoring Methodologies.* By involving MPs in developing monitoring methodologies, a number of PMOs have used the evaluation process to help educate MPs and citizens. AFLI (Uganda) has engaged MPs and citizens in the creation of its Parliamentary Scorecard, which has led to a number of improvements (including the inclusion of a rating system for constituency work). The Openpolis Association (Italy) has also solicited input from MPs to help improve its MP Activity Index. Describing the experience, Guglielmo Celata writes: "… we were having difficulties in trying to improve the formula, since we do not know all of those details. But [MPs] do, so we just asked them! And we did it publically, on an open web site."<sup>191</sup> The request received 140 responses and generated a number of useful comments. Importantly, since nearly all respondents agreed that the tax files of MPs should be public, Openpolis Association is now seeking to publish their tax files publically.<sup>192</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>189</sup> PRS Legislative Research. Vital Stats: Private Members' Bills in Lok Sabha. Available at:

http://www.prsindia.org/parliamenttrack/vital-stats/private-members-bills-in-lok-sabha-2010-1011/. Accessed: 09.28.2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>190</sup> Valmir Ismaili, Kosova Democratic Institute. Telephone interview. 02.15.2010

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>191</sup> Guglielmo Celata. To: transparency-tech@googlegroups.com. February 18, 2010. Subject: "Re: So - what's new, Transparency Tech?" For more information, see: <u>http://indice.openpolis.it</u>. Accessed: 09.28.2011.
 <sup>192</sup> *Ibid*.

# 7. Preliminary Recommendations for the Donor Community

As noted, the international donor community is an important source of funding and technical assistance for PMOs in donor assistance partner countries. It has also begun to collaborate with PMOs in donor countries to strengthen parliamentary monitoring activities, particularly with respect to the use of informatics. At a conference in March 2010, members of the donor community and representatives of international parliamentary associations, MPs and staff from more than 30 parliaments, agreed that the donor community's engagement of PMOs obligates it to "Encourage [PMOs] to improve their methodologies and to engage in fair, responsible monitoring of parliamentary performance in accordance with international norms."<sup>193</sup> This report offers the following preliminary recommendations for consideration by the donor community.

# 1. Make medium- to long-term investments in PMOs to help strengthen accountability structures and contribute to democratic reform processes.

PMOs have shown promise in strengthening a number of components of democratic governance, including the accountability of parliaments to the electorate, citizen engagement in the legislative process, and access to information about parliaments and their work. Eighty-six percent of PMOs in donor assistance partner countries list international donors as an important funding source. Yet, the effectiveness of PMOs in strengthening accountability structures and contributing to democratic reform processes remains uneven.

In lieu of developing funding models that can help PMOs sustain their activities in the absence of international support, directly providing medium- to long-term support can help PMOs improve their results on a variety of levels. It can afford them the time necessary to develop effective monitoring methodologies (perhaps with participation from MPs, who often lack interest in the work of PMOs until they see their first performance review in a PMO scorecard or report) and credible working relationships within parliament. In some instances, the provision of funding to sustain an organization between election periods allows a PMO to plan over the life of the parliament and provide a more realistic window for them to produce results. It may also help MPs view monitoring as an institutionalized facet of their political system that they may utilize to their advantage.

# 2. Work with PMOs to help them translate quality parliamentary monitoring into successful advocacy for reform and constructive parliamentary engagement.

PMOs face a variety of challenges in developing tools that, on one hand, gain public interest and, on the other, do not increase public cynicism of the parliament. Some PMOs tend to focus on producing quality reports, rather than on utilizing these reports as a basis for active advocacy.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>193</sup> Participants' Statement, International Conference on Benchmarking and Self-Assessment for Democratic Parliaments. Paris, March 3-4, 2010. The conference was sponsored by the World Bank Institute and the United Nations Development Programme and hosted by the World Bank Institute.

For these PMOs, advocacy is often limited to issuing press releases and conducting press conferences. Other PMOs may utilize monitoring results to "name and shame" MPs or reveal sensitive information in ways that generate publicity at the parliament's expense. As noted, these tactics can serve to expose some of the poorest performing MPs, but they may also fuel public suspicion of representative institutions. When monitoring a parliament, PMOs must strike a balance between the desire to gain public attention and the necessity to constructively criticize parliament in a manner that can benefit both citizens and lawmakers. Technical assistance and peer-to-peer exchanges may help strengthen the advocacy skills of PMOs and encourage more constructive parliamentary practices (*i.e.*, capacity building programs by PMOs for parliament, award programs or recognition for parliamentary reforms or MPs that have advanced parliamentary reform, etc.). Including PMOs in international discussions with MPs on issues related to parliamentary performance can help forge more understanding relationships between the two.

# **3.** Support networking and peer-to-peer sharing among PMOs to bolster domestic monitoring efforts and the exchange of experiences and good practices.

Until now, few efforts have been undertaken to share good practices among PMOs, despite the wealth of creative ideas that have been generated from within the PMO community. The exchange of good practices among PMOs can help consolidate and improve their activities and tools, and stimulate the development of new ideas. According to Noel Alonso Murray of Fundación Directorio Legislativo, a founding member of the Latin American Legislative Transparency Network (LALT Network),<sup>194</sup> international tools and networks may also help provide comparative perspectives that channel MP interest and engagement.<sup>195</sup> Support for this peer-to-peer sharing of information could take multiple forms. The World Bank Institute's support for the LALT Network is one model that could be replicated in other regions. Initiatives driven by leading PMOs from within the region show potential for causing a cumulative effect that is greater than the sum of the individual members.

# 4. Support PMO efforts to improve parliamentary transparency, which can lead to more effective monitoring and strengthen citizen and civil society engagement on policy issues.

The lack of parliamentary information remains a significant challenge to PMO monitoring activities and to citizen engagement in decision-making processes more broadly. Until now, international frameworks for democratic parliaments make little mention of parliamentary transparency. With the exception of the <u>Inter-Parliamentary Union's</u> <u>Guidelines for</u> <u>Parliamentary Websites</u>, discussed in Section 2 of this report, less attention has been paid to

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>194</sup> Fundación Directorio Legislativo: <u>http://www.directoriolegislativo.org/</u>; Latin American Legislative Transparency Network: <u>http://www.transparencialegislativa.org/</u>. Both accessed: 09.27.2011.
 <sup>195</sup> Murray, Noel Alonso. Telephone interview, January 14, 2010.

developing consensus around the type of and format of information that parliaments should release publically.<sup>196</sup> Initiatives by PMOs to develop open data standards for parliaments to ensure the release of data in machine-readable formats merit support and attention. At the regional level, support for monitoring networks, such as the LALT Network and the Civil Network to Monitor Parliaments in the Arab Region, could continue to address transparency issues. A range of activities could also be supported at the country level, particularly in countries where parliamentary transparency remains elusive.

As a follow-on to this report, NDI and WBI have convened discussions with PMOs to explore opportunities for collective action at a global level. This may include a number of activities related to strengthening parliamentary transparency (*e.g.*, through the adoption of standards by the global PMO community on parliamentary transparency or the possible development of a global index of parliamentary transparency based on the tools being developed by the LALT Network).

# 5. Engage the parliamentary informatics community to increase sharing and development of common tools.

Although the use of informatics for parliamentary monitoring is increasing, a number of challenges remain to developing effective informatics tools. Differences in the formats, standards, and basic structure of information provided by parliaments prevent the application of most software to parliaments other than the one for which it is originally designed. Because innovation is ad hoc, code is not often written to be used by other developers even if it is freely available. Furthermore, PMOs that do not employ their own developers often overpay for informatics and may have difficulty obtaining necessary refinements to tools once the initial design phase is complete. Greater efforts are needed to develop solutions to these challenges and increase the effectiveness of code sharing. By engaging parliamentary informatics developers on these issues, the international community can help improve access to these tools and speed up the pace of innovation.

#### 6. Include PMOs in the continued development of international norms and standards for democratic parliaments to reinforce these efforts and encourage consensus around the normative approach.

The donor community has supported inter-parliamentary associations and organizations to codify international norms and standards for democratic parliaments. Currently, more than half of the world's population lives in countries that belong to parliamentary associations (such as the <u>Commonwealth Parliamentary Association</u>, <u>Southern African Development Community</u> <u>Parliamentary Forum</u>, <u>Assemblée parlementaire de la francophonie</u>) that have adopted

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>196</sup> International Parliamentary Union: <u>http://www.ipu.org/english/home.htm;</u> For *Guidelines for Parliamentary Websites*, see: <u>http://www.ictparliament.org/node/691</u>. Both accessed: 09.27.2011.

benchmarks for democratic parliaments or are in the process of doing so.<sup>197</sup> Since parliamentary monitoring is a relatively new area, significant work remains to be done in building and reinforcing international consensus around normative standards for democratic legislatures. PMOs also have an important role to play in this arena – either with respect to endorsing elements of normative standards that have already been developed, expanding the body of international norms to areas of particular interest to PMOs (such as transparency of parliamentary information), or in monitoring parliamentary performance against international norms.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>197</sup> Commonwealth Parliamentary Association: <u>http://www.cpahq.org/cpahq/mem/default.aspx</u>; Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum: <u>http://www.sadcpf.org/</u>; Assemblée parlementaire de la francophonie: <u>http://apf.francophonie.org/</u>. All accessed: 09.27.2011.

**APPENDIX 1** List of Interviews

# **Appendix 1: List of Interviews**

Ali, Rawda and Lila Jaafar. The National Democratic Institute. Telephone interview, February 8. 2010. Astrada, Agustina Novillo. Fundación Directorio Legislativo. Telephone interview, October 23, 2009. Bakija, Jetmir. Consortium. Telephone interview, November 17, 2009 Celata, Guglielmo. Openpolis Association. Telephone interview, January 21, 2010. Chahdi, Jamal. Centre des Droits des Gens. Interview, February 11, 2010. Draman, Rasheed. CPC. Telephone interview, January 8, 2010. Gikonyo, Wanjiru. The Institute for Social Accountability. Telephone interview, March 9, 2010. Hackmack, Gregor. Abgeordnetenwatch.de. Interview, April 8, 2010. Haven, Janet. The Open Society Institute. Telephone interview, January 14, 2010 Heinrich, Finn and Tinatin Ninua. Transparency International. Telephone interview, November 20, 2009. Ismaili, Valmir. Kosova Democratic Institute. Telephone interview, February 15, 2010. Khalid, Hussein. Muslims for Human Rights. Telephone interview, February 17, 2010. Mhanna, Ayman Georges. The National Democratic Institute. Telephone interview, January 15, 2010. Murray, Noel Alonso. Directorio Legislativo. Telephone interview, January 14, 2010. Ooghe-Tabanou, Benjamin. Regards Citoyens. Telephone interview, January 26, 2010. Ortiz, Melissa. FUNDAR. Telephone interview, April 7, 2010. Pachón, Mónica. Congreso Visible. Telephone interview, January 28, 2010. Riaz, Aasiya. PILDAT. Telephone interview, December 22, 2009. Pulkol, David. The African Leadership Institute. Telephone interview, January 13, 2010. Kumar, Rohit. PRS Legislative Research. Telephone interview, November 12, 3009 Maras, Vuk. The Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector (MANS). Telephone interview, May 3, 2010. Schuman, Daniel and John Wonderlich. Sunlight Foundation. Telephone interview, January 27, 2010. Skenderi, Antuen. Mjaft! Telephone interview, January 11, 2010. Steinberg, Tom. mySociety. Telephone interview, February 19, 2010. Treadwell, Susan. The Open Society Institute. Telephone interview, November 27, 2009. Ungar, Elisabeth. Transparencia por Colombia. Telephone Interview, February 8, 2010. Zaman, Iftekhar. Transparency International Bangladesh. Telephone interview, November 25, 2009.

APPENDIX 2 List of PMOs by Region

# Appendix 2: List of PMOs by Region

NOTE: PMOs that have been identified in the course of this mapping project have been listed below by region; however, any such effort of this nature is necessarily incomplete. Efforts will be made to update this information on the <u>AGORA webportal</u>. Please send any additions or corrections to: <u>governance@ndi.org</u>.

ASIA		
Country or Territory	PMO Name	Website(s)
	BRAC University Institute for Governance Studies (BRAC-IGS)	www.igs-bracu.ac.bd
Bangladesh	Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB)	www.ti-bangladesh.org/
	Vote BD	www.votebd.org/
	Center for Social Development Cambodia (CSD)	www.csdcambodia.org
Cambodia	The Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (COMFREL)	www.comfrel.org/eng/index.php (English website)
	Neutral and Impartial Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (NICFEC)	
Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China)	SynergyNet	www.synergynet.org.hk/en_index. php
	Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS)	www.mkssindia.org
	MumbaiVotes	www.mumbaivotes.com
India	Praja.org	www.praja.org/
	PRS Legislative Research (PRS)	www.prsindia.org/
	Satark Nagrik Sangathan (SNS) Forum Masyarakat Peduli Parlemen Indonesia (FORMAPPI) / Forum of Concerned Citizens for Indonesia's Parliament	www.snsindia.org/ http://formappi.tripod.com/
Indonesia	Indonesian Parliamentary Center (IPC)	http://pusatparlemenindonesia.blog spot.com/
	Pusat studi Hukum & Kebijakan Indonesia (PSHK) / Center for Indonesian Law & Policy Studies	www.pshk.or.id http://www.parlemen.net/site/index .php
Malaysia	The Nut Graph	www.thenutgraph.com/
Pakistan	Aurat Foundation	www.af.org.pk/mainpage.htm
	Center for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI)	www.cpdi-pakistan.org/
Pakistan	Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN)	http://www.fafen.org/site/v4/
	Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT)	www.pildat.org/
	Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO)	http://code-ngo.org/home/
Philippines	Center for Legislative Development International (CLD)	www.cld.org/
	Makati Business Club (MBC)	http://www.mbc.com.ph/engine/

ASIA		
Country or Territory	PMO Name	Website(s)
Regional	South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR) (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka)	www.southasianrights.org
Taiwan	Citizen Congress Watch (CCW)	www.ccw.org.tw/?cat=77

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE		
Country or Territory	PMO Name	Website(s)
Albania	Mjaft!	www.mjaft.org/ www.unevotoj.com
	Qendra e Studimeve Parlamentare (CPS) / Center for Parliamentary Studies	http://scorecard.ascpdp.org/english
	Center for Civic Initiatives (CCI)	www.ccibh.org/
Bosnia-Herzegovina	CA "Why Not"	http://www.zastone.ba www.istinomjer.ba www.razglasaj.ba
	Bulgarian Association for the Promotion of Citizens' Initiatives (BAPCI)	
Bulgaria	Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law (BCNL)	www.bcnl.org/en/index.html
	Center for Liberal Strategies (CLS)	www.cls-sofia.org/en/
	Programme and Analytical Center for European Law (PACEL)	www.pacelonline.org/Files/Eng_file s/frame_eng.htm
Croatia	GONG	www.gong.hr
	Consortium for Strengthening Civil Society Advocacy (CSCSA)	
Kosovo	FOL Movement	http://levizjafol.org/ENGLISH/laste st/
	Kosova Democratic Institute (KDI)	<u>http://www.kdi-</u> <u>kosova.org/en/index.php</u> <u>www.votaime.org/</u>
Lithuania	Atviras Seimas	http://atviras-seimas.info/
	Mano Seimas	www.manoseimas.lt/
Macedonia	Citizens' Association MOST	http://www.most.org.mk/index.php/ en
Montenegro	Centar za Demokratsku Tranziciju (CDT)	http://www.cdtmn.org/index.php?la ng=en
Montellegro	The Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector (MANS)	http://www.mans.co.me/en/
Regional	KohoVolit.eu (Czech Republic, Slovakia and EU)	http://KohoVolit.eu
Poland	Stowarzyszenie 61 / Association 61	www.mamprawowiedziec.pl www.art61.pl
Poland	Stefan Batory Foundation (SBF)	http://www.batory.org.pl/english/in dex.htm

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE		
Country or Territory	РМО	Website(s)
	Advocacy Academy	N/A
	Asociatia Pro Democratia (APD) / Association for Democracy	www.apd.ro/
Romania	Ethnocultural Diversity Resource Center (EDRC)	www.edrc.ro/en/index.html
	Institute for Public Policy (IPP)	http://www.ipp.ro/eng/pagini/index. php
	European Institute for Participatory	http://www.qvorum.ro/en
	Democracy (Qvorum)/ Qvorum Institute	http://parlamentultau.ro/
Serbia	Center for Research, Transparency and Accountability (CRTA)	http://www.crta.rs/wp/en/ www.istinomer.rs/
Slovakia	Fair-Play Alliance	www.fair-play.sk/index_en.php

EURASIA		
Country or Territory	РМО	Website(s)
Armenia	Freedom of Information Center (FOICA)	http://www.foi.am/en/
Azerbaijan	Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center (EMDS)	www.smdt.az/en
	Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy, and Development (CIPDD)	www.cipdd.org
Georgia	Chemiparlamenti	
	Civil Society Institute (Civilin)	www.civilin.org/Eng/index.php
	Transparency International Georgia (TIG)	www.transparency.ge/en
N / 11	Center for the Analysis and Prevention of Corruption (CAPC)	www.capc.md/en/
Moldova	Institute for Development and Social	http://www.viitorul.org/index.php?l
	Initiatives (IDIS - Viitorul)	<u>=en</u>
	GOLOS Association	www.golos.org/?lang=en
Russia	Information Science for Democracy (INDEM)/The INDEM Foundation	www.indem.ru/en/index.shtml
Turkey	TUMIKOM	http://www.tumikom.org/english/in dex.php

INTERNATIONAL or REGIONAL		
Int'l or Regional Body	РМО	Website(s)
	Stowarzyszenie 61	www.art61.pl www.mamprawowiedziec.pl
	EP Vote	www.epvote.eu/
	Instituut voor Publiek en Politiek (IPP)/Institute for Public Participation	http://www.publiek- politiek.nl/English www.stemmentracker.nl
European Parliament	KohoVolit.eu	www.kohovolit.eu
÷	Parlorama.eu	www.parlorama.eu
	Political Memory	www.laquadrature.net/wiki/Political Memory
	Qvorum Institute	http://www.qvorum.ro/en http://parlamentultau.ro/
	VoteWatch.eu	www.votewatch.eu/
	Buhl & Rasmussen (BR)	www.itsyourparliament.eu
United Nations General Assembly	UNDemocracy.com	www.undemocracy.com/

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN		
Country or Territory	РМО	Website(s)
	Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia (ACIJ)	www.acij.org.ar/
	Asociación por los Derechos Civiles (ADC)	www.adclegislativo.org.ar/
Argentina	Centro Para La Apertura Y El Desarrollo de América Latina (CADAL)	www.cadal.org/english/default.asp
	Fundación Directorio Legislativo (FDL)	http://www.directoriolegislativo.or g/
	Fundación Poder Ciudadano	www.poderciudadano.org/
Bolivia	Fundación de Apoyo al Parlamento y la Participación Ciudadana (FUNDAPPAC)	www.fundappac.org/
	Adote Um Vereador (AUV)/ Adopt an Alderman	http://vereadores.wikia.com/wiki/P ágina_principal
	Congresso Aberto	www.congressoaberto.com.br/
Brazil	Departamento Intersindical de Assessoria Parlamentar (DIAP)	www.diap.org.br/
	Transparência Brasil	www.transparencia.org.br/index.ht ml
	Votenaweb	www.votenaweb.com.br/

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN		
<b>Country or Territory</b>	РМО	Website(s)
	Chile Transparente	www.chiletransparente.cl/
	Corporación Humanas	www.humanas.cl
Chile	Corporación Participa	www.participa.cl/
	Fundación Ciudadano Inteligente (FCI)	www.votainteligente.cl
	Fundación Pro Acceso (FPA)	www.proacceso.cl
	Bogotá Cómo Vamos (BCV)	www.bogotacomovamos.org/
	Congreso Visible (CV)	http://cvisible.uniandes.edu.co
	Consejo Visible Barranquilla (CVB)	www.cvisible.com/
	Consejo Visible Bucaramanga (CVB)	http://www.concejovisible.com/
Colombia	Consejo Visible Neiva (CVN)	www.ccneiva.org/index.php?objet o=cvisible
	Fundación Seguridad & Democracia (FSD)	www.seguridadydemocracia.org
	Instituto de Ciencia Politica, Universidad de Los Andes (ICP -ULA)	www.icpcolombia.org/observatorio .php
Colombia	Observatorio Cali Visible (OCV)	http://calivisible.javerianacali.edu. co/index.php
Colombia	Transparencia por Colombia (TPC)	www.transparenciacolombia.org.c
	Fundación Salvadoreña para el Desarrollo	www.fusades.org/
El Salvador	Económico y Social (FUSADES)	www.observatoriolegislativo.org.s v/index.php
	Acción Ciudadana	http://www.accionciudadana.org.gt
Guatemala	Asociación de Investigación y Estudios Sociales (ASIES)	www.asies.org.gt/
	Centro de Investigaciones Económicas Nacionales (CIEN)	www.cien.org.gt/
Honduras	Centro de Investigación y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (CIPRODEH)	www.ciprodeh.org.hn
Honduras	Fundación Democracia sin Fronteras (FDSF)	www.fdsf.hn
	500/500	www.500sobre500.com/
Mexico	Consorcio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidad (CDPE)	www.consorcio.org.mx
	Fundar, Centro de Análisis e Investigación (FUNDAR)/ Center for Research and	www.fundar.org.mx
	Analysis	www.legislativoatualcance.org.mx
	Hagamos Quórum (HQ)	www.hagamosquorum.com/
	Sonora Ciudadana, A.C. (SC)	www.sonoraciudadana.org.mx/
Doromou	Centro de Informacion y Recursos para el Desarrollo (CIRD)	www.aquieneselegimos.org.py/
Paraguay	Instituto de Derecho y Economía Ambiental (IDEA)	www.idea.org.py http://www.idea.org.py/english/

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN		
Country or Territory	РМО	Website(s)
	Asociación Civil Transparencia (ACT)	www.transparencia.org.pe/
Peru	Manos Limpias (CML)	http://www.manoslimpias.es/
reiu	Reflexión Democrática (RD)	http://www.reflexiondemocratica.o rg.pe/
Regional	Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency	www.transparencialegislativa.org
Venezuela	Movimiento Identidad Cuidadana (MIC)	

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA		
Country of Territory	РМО	Website(s)
	Alsadat Association for Social Development and Welfare (AASDW) Human Rights Association for Community	www.el-sadat.org http://www.assuithumanrights.org/
	Development in Assuit (AHRA)	English Site/index.php
Egypt	Egyptian Democratic Institute (EDI) Justice and Citizenship Center for Human Rights (JCCHR)	www.edi-egypt.com/en
	Mogtamaana for Development & Human Rights Association (OCDHRA)	
Israel	Open-Knesset	www.ohloh.net/p/open-knesset
	Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development (AHCSD)	http://www.hayatcenter.org/project s/loc/ong/sdfs.htm
Jordan	Al Quds Center for Political Studies (AQCPS)	http://www.alqudscenter.org/englis h/
	Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Center (AUAJRC)	http://www.ujrc-jordan.net/
	Center for Strategic Studies (CSS)	www.jcss.org/default.aspx
Kuwait	Kuwait Transparency Society (KTS)	www.transparency-kuwait.org/
Lebanon	Lebanese Foundation for Permanent Civil Peace (LFPCP)	www.kleudge.com/flpcp/
	Nahwa al-Muwatiniya (NM)	http://na-am.org/a/ www.lpmonitor.org/
Morocco	Center des Droits des Gens (CDG) / Center for People's Rights	
	Le Médiateur pour la démocratie et les droits de l'Homme (MDDL) / Mediators for Democracy and Human Rights	www.mediateurddh.org.ma/
Regional	Arab Center for the Development of the Rule of Law and Integrity (ACRLI)	http://arabruleoflaw.org
Yemen	Yemen Polling Center (YPS)	www.ypwatch.org/index.php?lng= en

UNITED STATES AND CANADA		
Country or Territory	РМО	Website(s)
Canada	How'd They Vote? (HTV)	www.howdtheyvote.ca/
	Center for Responsive Politics (CRP)	www.opensecrets.org
	Civic Impulse (CI)	www.govtrack.us/ www.civicimpulse.com www.govtrackinsider.com
	Congressional Management Foundation (CMF)	www.cmfweb.org/
	Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)	www.fcnl.org/index.htm
	League of Women Voters (LWV)	www.lwv.org//AM/Template.cfm? Section=Home
	Legistorm	www.legistorm.com/
	MAPLight.org	http://maplight.org/
United States	National Institute on Money in State Politics (NIMSP)	www.followthemoney.org/index.p html
	Progressive Punch	http://progressivepunch.org/
	Project Vote Smart (PVS)	www.votesmart.org/
	Public Citizen - Congress Watch (PCCW)	www.citizen.org/congress/
		http://earmarkwatch.org/
		www.capitolwords.org
	Sunlight Foundation (SF)	http://sunlightfoundation.com/proj
	Sumght Foundation (SF)	ects/2007/punchclockmap/
		http://opencongress.org
		http://opensecrets.org
	Taxpayers for Common Sense (TCS)	www.taxpayer.net/
	Transparency Data (TD)	www.transparencydata.com/#
	Voter Information Services (VIS) WashingtonWatch.com	www.vis.org/
	w asinington w atch.com	www.washingtonwatch.com/

PACIFIC		
<b>Country or Territory</b>	РМО	Website(s)
Australia	Open Australia (OA)	www.openaustralia.org/
New Zealand	CommoNZ Parliamentary Database (CPD)	http://commonz.wotfun.com/
	Theyworkforyou.co.nz	http://theyworkforyou.co.nz/

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA		
<b>Country or Territory</b>	РМО	Website(s)
Burkina Faso	Le Centre pour la Gouvernance Démocratique (CGD)	www.cgd-igd.org
Ghana	Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-GHANA)	www.cddghana.org
Kenya	Marsgroup Kenya "Mwalimu Mati" (CKMM)	www.marsgroupkenya.org http://blog.marsgroupkenya.org/
	Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI)	http://muhuri.org/index.php?option =com_content&task=view&id=12 &Itemid=44
	Mzalendo	www.mzalendo.com/
	Sodnet	www.sodnet.org
	The Institute for Social Accountability (TISA)	http://www.tisa.or.ke/
	Liberia Democracy Watch (LDW)	http://liberiademocracywatch.org/
	Liberia Democratic Institute (LDI)	www.ldi-lbr.org/
Liberia	National Youth Movement for Transparent Elections (NAYMOTE)	http://www.naymote.ushahidi.com/
	Youth Campaigners International (YCI)	http://ycii.org/
Namibia	Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)	www.ippr.org.na/
Nigeria	Policy Analysis and Research Project (PARP)	www.nassnig.org/parp/activities.ph p
	Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC)	www.cislacnigeria.org
Regional	African Legislatures Project (ALP)	www.africanlegislaturesproject.org
South Africa	Idasa	www.idasa.org.za/
	Parliamentary Monitoring Group (PMG)	www.pmg.org.za/
Tanzania	Legal and Human Rights Center (LHRC)	www.humanrights.or.tz/
	Policy Forum	www.policyforum-tz.org
	Sikika	www.sikika.or.tz/
Uganda	Africa Leadership Institute (AFLI)	www.aflia.org/
	Uganda Debt Network (UDN)	www.udn.or.ug/
Zambia	Caritas Zambia (CZ)	http://www.caritaszambia.org.zm/i ndex.php
Zimbabwe	Veritas Trust (VT)	

WESTERN EUROPE			
Country or Territory	РМО	Website(s)	
Austria	Meinparliament.at	www.meinparlament.at/	
Denmark	Buhl & Rasmussen (BR)	http://www.hvemstemmerhvad.dk/ about.php www.itsyourparliament.eu	
France	Mon Depute (MD)	http://mon-depute.fr/	
	RegardsCitoyens.org	www.regardscitoyens.org www.nosdeputes.fr	
Germany	Abgeordnetenwatch.de	www.abgeordnetenwatch.de/	
	OpenData Network	http://opendata-network.org/	
	Politik-Digital.de	http://politik-digital.de/ http://www.sie-schreiben- dir.de/site/index.php	
Ireland	KildareStreet.com	www.kildarestreet.com/	
Italy	Openpolis Association (OA)	www.openpolis.it www.openparlamento.it	
	Relazioni Istituzionali & Comunicazione (RIC)	http://www.es-comunicazione.it/	
Netherlands	Institute for Public Policy (Stemmentracker)	http://www.stemmentracker.nl/	
	Politix.nl	http://www.politix.nl/	
Sweden	Open Source Project: Citizen Intelligence Agency (CIA)	http://cia.sourceforge.net/	
Switzerland	Politools - Political Research Network (P- PRN)	http://www.politools.net	
United Kingdom	Democratic Audit (DA)	http://www.democraticaudit.com/	
	Hansard Society (HS)	http://www.hansardsociety.org.uk	
	mySociety	http://www.theyworkforyou.com/	
	Revolts.co.uk	http://www.revolts.co.uk/	
	The Public Whip (TPW)	www.publicwhip.org.uk/	

# APPENDIX 3 Selected Parliamentary Monitoring Resources

# **Appendix 3: Selected Parliamentary Monitoring Resources**

#### **General Resources on Parliamentary Development**

#### AGORA:

#### **Portal for Parliamentary Development**

AGORA, the Portal for Parliamentary Development, serves as a resource center and social network designed to facilitate the sharing of knowledge on parliamentary development between practitioners, donor organizations, members of parliament, parliamentary staffers, civil society organizations, and academics. The project has five implementing partners: the European Commission, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, NDI, UNDP and WBI. AGORA includes a comprehensive collection of standards frameworks for democratic parliaments.

Main site: <u>http://www.agora-parl.org/</u> Comprehensive list of standards documents: <u>http://www.agora-parl.org/node/2705</u>

#### **Global Center for ICT in Parliament:** World e-Parliament Report

The Global Center for Information and Communication Technologies in Parliament (ICTP) promotes the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in modernizing parliamentary processes and increasing transparency, accountability, and representativeness. Its World e-Parliament Report establishes a baseline of how parliaments are using ICTs based on a survey of 134 parliaments and shares good practices from different regions of the world.

Main site: <u>http://www.ictparliament.org/</u> World e-Parliament Report English: <u>http://www.ictparliament.org/wepr2010</u> French: <u>http://www.ictparliament.org/fr/node/821</u>

#### **iKNOW Politics:**

#### The International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics

iKNOW Politics was created to increase women's participation in politics, and contains a range of helpful resources for parliamentarians interested in advancing gender equality, although also targets a broader audience of elected officials, candidates, political party leaders, researchers and students interested in advancing women in politics. iKNOW Politics is partnership of International IDEA, NDI, UNDP and UN Women.

http://www.iknowpolitics.org

#### **Inter-Parliamentary Union:**

#### **PARLINE Database on National Parliaments**

PARLINE is the Inter-Parliamentary Union's (IPU) database on national parliaments. It includes a separate entry for each parliamentary chamber for every national parliament in the world. The entries contain information on parliamentary structure and working methods.

http://www.ipu.org/parline/parlinesearch.asp

#### World Bank:

#### **Parliamentary Strengthening Learning Program**

The Parliamentary Strengthening Learning Program includes a series of thirteen learning modules for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff. The main objectives of these modules are to strengthen the capacity of parliaments to oversee the allocation and use of public funds, reduce poverty, improve public participation in the policy process, and reduce corruption, among others. http://parliamentarystrengthening.org/index

#### Parliamentary Transparency & Openness

#### **Corporación Participa:**

#### **Regional Index of Parliamentary Transparency (2008)**

The objective of Corporación Participa's Regional Index of Parliamentary Transparency project is to design and implement a methodological instrument that would make a comparative analysis of the levels of transparency and access to information in the Congresses in Chile, Argentina and Guatemala. This would help establish a minimum standard of transparency in the administrative and legislative affairs of these institutions.

*English*: <u>http://www.bibliocivica.org/images/d/d9/Regional\_Index\_of\_Parliament\_Transparency.pdf</u> *Spanish*: <u>http://www.bibliocivica.org/images/e/ef/Índice\_Regional\_de\_Transparencia\_Parlamentaria.pdf</u>

#### **Global Center for ICT in Parliament: Open Standards for Parliaments**

This is an overview of selected papers, presentations and XML schemas that have been developed by the Global Center for ICT in Parliament for use by parliaments. http://www.ictparliament.org/taxonomy/term/132%20133

#### **Institute for Public Policy (Romania):**

#### A Plea for Open Parliaments in the Black Sea Region:

#### The Case of Romania, Republic of Moldova, Bulgaria and Georgia (2008)

This study was conducted by the Institute for Public Policy (Romania), Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (Viitorul/Republic of Moldova), Centre for Liberal Strategies (Bulgaria), and Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy, and Development (Georgia). The Open Parliaments report examines each country's legal framework for parliamentary openness, the practices and perceived obstacles in using transparency instruments by civil society, and an assessment of openness of each parliament based on measurable criteria.

http://www.cls-sofia.org/en/papers/a-plea-for-open-parliaments-in-the-black-sea-region-the-case-of-bulgaria-189.html

#### **Inter-Parliamentary Union:**

#### **Guidelines for Parliamentary Websites (2009)**

The Guidelines for Parliamentary Websites document provides practical recommendations to facilitate planning and administration of websites and to enable parliaments to provide concrete guidance to their website designers, developers and managers.

English: <u>http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/web-e.pdf</u> French: <u>http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/web-f.pdf</u> Spanish: <u>http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/web-s.pdf</u>

### South Asians for Human Rights:

### **Transparency in Parliament:**

### A Review of the Procedures and Practices in South Asia (2009)

This analysis of the transparency of the national parliaments of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka seeks to "identify the extent of openness in the functioning of Parliaments that is required by their rule books and [compare] it with what is found in actual practice." Five areas of parliamentary transparency are analyzed: Calendar of Sessions and Business of Parliament; Record of Business Conducted; Papers laid on the Table of Parliament; Declaration of Financial and Criminal Antecedents and Entitlements of MPs; and Functioning of Parliamentary Committees.

http://www.southasianrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/Tranparency-in-Parliament-Final2.pdf

### World Bank Institute:

### Parliament and Access to Information: Working for Transparent Governance (2005)

This document by the World Bank Institute is the product of a study group on the topic of Access to Information hosted and supported in July 2004 by the Parliament of Ghana. The study group agreed upon a number of recommendations on how governments and parliaments can work towards transparent governance. Their proposals and the summary of the discussions that led to them are valuable guides for the Commonwealth, and all countries, to implement effective freedom of access to information regimes based on proven legislation and practices.

http://siteresources.worldbank.org/WBI/Resources/Parliament and Access to Information with cover.pdf

#### Standards Documents and Assessment Frameworks for Democratic Parliaments

#### Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie:

#### La réalité démocratique des Parlements: Quels critères d'évaluation? (2009)

This document contains standards for democratic Parliaments developed by the Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF), based on a comparative study of the Rules of Procedure of various Francophonie parliaments, and discussions from two seminars held by the APF on this topic.

French: <u>http://www.agora-parl.org/node/53</u>

# Commonwealth Parliamentary Association:

#### **Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures (2006)**

The *Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures* is a democratic benchmarks framework for Commonwealth parliaments. This document is designed to enable parliaments and legislatures to undertake self-assessments based on its benchmarks.

http://www.agora-parl.org/node/57

# **International Foundation for Electoral Systems:**

#### **Global Best Practices - A Model State of the Parliament Report (2005)**

This model parliamentary monitoring report provides standards, best practices and indicators of progress. Recognizing that not all standards may be met simultaneously, IFES prioritizes a set of minimum standards within its framework.

#### http://www.ifes.org/publication/9556b111cf29cbd9dc859c7d9f43f15c/FINAL%20SOP%20Framework%2 00607.pdf

#### **Inter-Parliamentary Union:**

#### **Evaluating Parliament: A Self-assessment Toolkit for Parliamentarians (2008)**

This IPU self-assessment toolkit is designed for parliamentarians to help them conduct their own legislative needs assessment. The purpose of this toolkit is not to rank parliaments but rather to help them identify their strengths and weaknesses in comparison to international criteria so they can determine priorities for strengthening parliamentary institutions.

English: <u>http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/self-e.pdf</u> French: <u>http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/self-f.pdf</u> Spanish: <u>http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/self-s.pdf</u> Arabic: <u>http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/self-ar.pdf</u>

#### **Inter-Parliamentary Union:**

### Parliament and Democracy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Guide to Good Practice (2006)

This IPU document attempts to answer the question, "what constitutes a democratic parliament?" by identifying core values of a democratic parliament, providing examples of current good practices with respect to each value.

English: <u>http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/democracy\_en.pdf</u> French: <u>http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/democracy\_fr.pdf</u> Spanish: <u>http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/democracy\_sp.pdf</u> Arabic: <u>http://www.ipu.org/PDF/publications/democracy\_ar.pdf</u>

#### **National Democratic Institute:**

#### Toward the Development of International Standards for Democratic Legislatures (2007)

This is a discussion document produced by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) with the goal of developing minimum standards for democratic legislatures. It is intended to further an international discussion regarding democratic parliamentary standards, with the aim of creating more open, independent, accountable and responsive legislatures around the world.

English: <u>http://www.ndi.org/files/2113\_gov\_standards\_010107.pdf</u> Arabic: http://www.ndi.org/files/2255\_guide\_demlegislatures\_arabic\_010408.pdf

#### **Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas:**

# The Contribution of Parliaments to Democracy: Draft Benchmarks for the Parliaments of the Americas (2010)

The Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA) took inspiration from benchmarks developed by organizations including NDI, the APF, the IPU and the CPA to produce its own draft benchmarks targeted at parliaments in the Americas. This document was prepared in order to further the global conversation on parliamentary standards while encouraging parliaments in the region to reflect on how best to adapt and incorporate these benchmarks into their own unique systems of government.

http://www.copa.qc.ca/eng/committees/Democracy-Peace/COD-CDP-criteres-a.pdf

#### **United Nations Development Programme:**

#### Benchmarks and Self-Assessment Frameworks for Democratic Parliaments (2010)

This UNDP document provides an overview of the different standards and benchmark frameworks for democratic parliaments. It includes a discussion of the areas where there is greater and lesser consensus among the different frameworks. Examples of how these frameworks have been utilized by parliaments are also discussed.

English: <u>http://www.agora-parl.org/sites/default/files/Background\_Publication\_Final\_0.pdf</u> French: <u>http://www.agora-parl.org/sites/default/files/Background\_Publication\_Final\_French.pdf</u>

#### Political-Process, Budget and Constituency Development Fund Monitoring

#### **International Budget Partnership:**

#### The Open Budget Initiative and CDF Scoping Paper

The Open Budget Initiative is designed to promote public access to budget information and encourage governments to make budget processes more accountable and accessible. The Initiative has created an Open Budget Index (OBI) based on data collected from surveys, that gives each country a score based on how much information related to its budget process is publicly available. In 2010, IBP published a paper outlining the critical features of a more effective constituency development funds (CDFs) scheme to work towards poverty alleviation, transparency and accountability.

Main Site: <u>http://www.internationalbudget.org</u> <u>Open Budgeting Advocacy Guide</u> English: <u>http://openbudgetindex.org/files/AdvocacyGuideEnglish.pdf</u> French: <u>http://openbudgetindex.org/files/AdvocacyGuideFrench.pdf</u> Spanish: <u>http://openbudgetindex.org/files/AdvocacyGuideSpanish.pdf</u>

#### Open Budget Index Report

English: <u>http://internationalbudget.org/files/2010\_Full\_Report-English.pdf</u> French: <u>http://openbudgetindex.org/files/FinalFullReportFrench\_lores.pdf</u> Spanish: <u>http://openbudgetindex.org/files/FinalFullReportSpanish\_lores.pdf</u>

#### **National Democratic Institute:**

#### **Political-Process Monitoring: Activist Tools and Techniques (2011)**

This guide was developed by NDI's citizen participation team and primarily explores the work that the Institute and its partner groups have conducted across five types of political-process monitoring – legislative monitoring; budget monitoring, budget advocacy and expenditure tracking; shadow reporting; monitoring government follow-through; and election campaign-related monitoring. The guide is based upon qualitative research conducted over a one-year period that included a desk review of NDI program materials and interviews with select NDI staff members and local partners.

http://www.ndi.org/node/17257

#### **Open Society Initiative:**

#### **Constituency Development Funds Social Audit Guide (2008)**

This publication of this handbook was sponsored by the Open Society Initiative and is intended to aid communities in understanding the constituency development fund (CDF) process. It also seeks to provide information on monitoring CDFs through social auditing.

http://www.soros.org/initiatives/osiea/articles\_publications/publications/cdf\_20080201

#### **Open Government**

#### Access Info:

#### **Open Government Data**

Access Info is a human rights organization based in Europe that works to promote and protect the right of access to information in Europe and around the world. Access Info has worked together with the Open Knowledge Foundation and the Open Society Institute Information Program to identify global problems relating to access to information and promote the "right to know." It has also furthered discussion in the international community on standards and policies related to access to information.

http://www.access-info.org/en/open-government-data

#### Akoma Ntoso:

# Architecture for Knowledge-Oriented Management of African Normative Texts using Open Standards and Ontologies

Akoma Ntoso is a set of common XML standards designed to facilitate information sharing between governments and citizens. These standards create official documents in a machine-readable format that allow for markups to the content.

http://www.akomantoso.org

#### **Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative: Implementing Access to Information (2008)**

This document, produced by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, is a practical guide for operationalizing access to information laws.

http://www.humanrightsinitiative.org/publications/rti/implementing\_ati.pdf

#### **European Commission:**

#### **Transparency Homepage**

The transparency homepage of the European Commission provides links to press releases, documents and events within the EU related to transparency.

http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/index\_en.htm

#### **Open Government Data Project:**

#### The 8 Principles of Open Government Data

The Open Government Data Project is a research project of Access Info, **Open Knowledge Foundation**, and the Open Society Information Program. It is designed to map out and evaluate the current state of initiatives to promote access to government data in formats that can be freely used, reused, and distributed. The principles can be accessed through the link below.

http://www.opengovdata.org/home/8principles

#### **Personal Democracy Forum**

The Personal Democracy Forum (PDF) is a community website, featuring an annual conference on the topic of the intersection of politics and technology. PDF aims to facilitate discussion between political practitioners and technologists. PDF also offers a subscription-based PDF Network that gives members access to political technology tools, exclusive content and the ability to network privately with other PDF members.

http://personaldemocracy.com/

#### **Sunlight Foundation:**

#### Ten Principles for Opening up Government Information

The Sunlight Foundation is a U.S.-based, nonprofit organization dedicated to making government information more accessible through online technology, which has compiled ten principles for opening up government information.

http://sunlightfoundation.com/policy/documents/ten-open-data-principles/

#### **Technology for Transparency Network**

The Technology for Transparency Network is a short-term mapping project for current online technology projects that are working to increase transparency, accountability and civic engagement around the world. Supported by the Open Society Institute, and the Omidyar Network, the Technology for Transparency Network provides an interactive map that allows users to filter projects by categories such as country, government branch, and donors.

http://transparency.globalvoicesonline.org/

#### UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA):

#### **Bungeni: Parliamentary and Legislative Information System**

Based on open standards and open source applications, Bungeni is a collaborative software development initiative designed to facilitate the sharing of government information by making it easy to manage, consolidate and publish official documents in an accessible manner.

http://www.bungeni.org

#### **Electronic Mailing Lists and Discussion Boards**

#### **E-Democracy.org:**

#### **Technology in Democracy Listserv**

E-Democracy.org is an online group which connects people interested in the use of technology for government transparency, public participation, collaboration, and community building. http://pages.e-democracy.org/List of groups

#### **Transparency Tech Discussion Board**

This discussion board provides a venue for discussions for the builders and users of transparency and democracy technologies, set up in the wake of the e-Democracy Summit in 2009. http://groups.google.com/group/transparency-tech APPENDIX 4 Profile Sheets for Selected Parliamentary Monitoring Organizations

# **Appendix 4: Profile Sheets for Selected PMOs**

The profile sheets contained in this appendix have been prepared based on information provided by PMOs that participated in the project, either through the PMO survey or through interviews. For PMOs that participated in interviews, additional information may have been collected from their websites. Unfortunately, profile sheets could only be developed for PMOs participating in the research project; however, all PMOs will be able to craft profile sheets that will be published on the AGORA Portal for Parliamentary Development (<u>www.agora-parl.org</u>). For more information, please send an email to: <u>governance@ndi.org</u>.

While efforts have been made to solicit comments from PMOs to confirm the accuracy of the information in the following profile sheets, not all information has been confirmed by the respective PMOs. Moreover, the PMO community continues to evolve. Users of this information should treat all information as preliminary and should reconfirm data directly with the relevant PMO before treating information contained in this appendix as definitive.

PMO profile sheets have been organized alphabetically by country, as indicated in the following index.

# Index of Profile Sheets for Selected PMOs (Alphabetical by Country)

Africa-Regional African Legislatures Project (ALP)	
Albania	
Centre for Parliamentary Studies (CPS)	
Mjaft! Movement	
Argentina	
Asocación por los Derechos Civiles (ADC)	
Fundación Directorio Legislativo	
Fundación Poder Ciudadano (FPC)	
Armenia	
Freedom of Information Center (FOICA)	
Azerbaijan	
Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center (EMDS)	
Bangladesh	
Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB)	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	
CA Why not - UG Zašto ne	
Bosnia-Herzegovina	

Center for Civic Initiatives (CCI)	
Brazil Congresso Alberto (CA)	
<i>Cambodia</i> Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (COMFREL)	
<i>Canada</i> How'd They Vote	134
<i>Chile</i> Chile Transparente Fundación Ciudadano Inteligente (FCI)	
<i>Colombia</i> Congreso Visible (CV) Transparencia por Colombia (TpC)	
Croatia GONG	141
<i>Czech Republic</i> KohoVolit.eu	
<i>Denmark</i> Buhl & Rasmussen	144
<i>Egypt</i> Alsadat Association for Social Development and Welfare (SADAT) Egyptian Democratic Institute (EDI) Human Rights Association for Community Development in Assuit (AHRA) Justice and Citizenship Center for Human Rights (JCCHRS) Mogtamaana for Development and Human Rights Association (OCDAHR)	
<i>El Salvador</i> Fundacion Salvadoreña para el Desarrollo Economico y Social (FUSADES)	
<i>European Parliament</i> EP Vote	
<i>France</i> Regards Citoyens	156
<i>Georgia</i> Transparency International Georgia	
Germany Opendata Network	
Guatemala Acción Ciudadana	161
<i>Honduras</i> Fundación Democracia sin Fronteras (FDsF)	163
<i>India</i> PRS Legislative Research (PRS)	

Ireland myGOV/KildareStreet.com	166
<i>Italy</i> Openpolis Association	168
<i>Jordan</i> Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development (HCCSD) Al-Quds Center for Political Studies	
<i>Kenya</i> Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI) The Institute for Social Accountability (TISA)	
<i>Kosovo</i> Consortium for Strengthening Civil Society Advocacy Kosovo Democratic Institute	
<i>Liberia</i> Liberia Democracy Watch (LDW) Liberia Democratic Institute	
<i>Lithuania</i> Atviras Seimas	184
<i>Mexico</i> Fundar, Centro de Análisis e Investigación	185
<i>Moldova</i> Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS "Viitorul")	187
<i>Montenegro</i> The Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector (MANS)	189
<i>Morocco</i> Center for People's Rights (CDG)	191
Namibia Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)	193
<i>Netherlands</i> Instituut voor Publiek en Politiek (Institute for Political Participation - IPP)	195
New Zealand TheyWorkForYou.co.nz	194
<i>Nigeria</i> Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC)	196
Pakistan         Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI)         Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT)	
<i>Peru</i> Manos Limpias Relexión Democrática (Democratic Reflection)	
Poland Association 61 Stefan Batory Foundation	

Romania	207
European Institute for Participatory Democracy (Qvorum) Institute for Public Policy (IPP)	
• • •	
Russia Information Science for Democracy (INDEM)	
<i>Slovakia</i> Institute for Public Affairs (IVO)	211
South Africa Parliamentary Monitoring Group (PMG)	210
Sweden Open Source Project Citizen Intelligence Agency	
<i>Switzerland</i> Politools – Political Research Network	
<i>Turkey</i> The Association of Committees for Monitoring Parliamentarians and Elected Officials (TUMIKOM)	
<i>Uganda</i> Africa Leadership Institute (AFLI)	
<i>United Kingdom</i> Hansard Society mySociety	
United States Civic Impulse	
Sunlight Foundation	
WashingtonWatch.com	

# Africa-Regional: African Legislatures Project (ALP)

www.africanlegislaturesproject.org (English)

Director: Prof. Robert Mattes; Prof. Joel Barkan; Prof. Shaheen Mozaffar Organization Email: <u>Elizabeth.welsh@uct.ac.za</u> (Elizabeth Welsh, Project Manager) Parliament(s) Monitored: 20 African legislatures

**About:** The purpose of ALP is to learn *everything* important there is to know about how African legislatures function. As such, ALP is an exercise that straddles the realms of academic research and practice – in this case, research into the operations of the legislature and what its findings suggest for African parliaments, organisations working in legislative and democratic reform and supportive donor agencies.

**Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:** ALP has already identified more than 400 items (variables) that explain the development and performance of legislatures, and in turn, their contribution to the broader processes of democratization and poverty reduction. ALP collects data about these items in 20 identified countries where the prospects for democratisation and democratic consolidation are high or promising. The variables about which we seek information can be grouped into four broad clusters:

1. *National Background:* conditions external to the legislature that shape the nature and operation of the political system generally and the legislature specifically.

2. *National Political Institutions*: the formal powers of the executive and legislature, executive-legislative relations and the type of electoral system.

3. *Formal Rules and Organisational Structure of Legislatures*: the internal structure and procedures of the legislature that govern the selection of presiding officers, the structure of the committee system, control over internal finances, and the complement of staff.

4. *Financial Resources*: MP salaries, size and expertise of legislative staff and physical infrastructure like office space, committee rooms and computers.

Sample: <u>First Findings</u> (http://africanlegislaturesproject.org/publications)

# Other Activities: None

# Active partnerships with international organizations:

• UK Department for International Development (DFID); World Bank (WB); US Agency for International Development (USAID); Heinrich Boell Stiftung; Calouste Gublenkian Foundation; Harry Oppenheimer Institute for African Studies; University of Cape Town Vice Chancellor's Fund

# Number of full-time staff and part-time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• One full time staff, four part time staff and 5 part time interns work on monitoring projects

# Albania: Centre for Parliamentary Studies (CPS)

www.ascpdp.org (Albanian, English)

Director: Mrs. Elira Zaka Organization Email: <u>cps@albaniaonline.net</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Assembly of Albania

**About:** The Centre for Parliamentary Studies has been set up as a non-political and non-profit organization. The Centre aims to develop and enhance parliamentary activity, legislative process and parliamentary democracy through studies and research, organization of activities and training in this field. Through its activities, the Centre aims at influencing objectively on the process of the Parliamentary Democracy and the rule of law within the internationally recognized standards.

**Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:** CPS has conducted monitoring activities in the following areas of parliamentary performance:

- Accountability and transparency in legislative, executive and judiciary;
- Legislative process and parliamentary procedures;
- Instrument of parliamentary supervision;
- Representative role of MPs;
- Legislation: effectiveness and quality.

Sample: <u>Scorecarding of Electoral Campaign Promises</u> (<u>http://www.scorecard.ascpdp.org/english/</u>)

#### **Other Activities:**

- Reform of the Justice System
- Good Governance
- Law Implementation

# Active partnerships with international organizations:

• None

# Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Three full-time staff, 3 part-time staff, 3 legal consultants and 6 part-time interns/volunteers work on CPS' monitoring activities.

# Albania: Mjaft! Movement

www.mjaft.org (Albanian, English); www.unevotoj.com (Albanian)

**Director:** Mr. Elton Leart Kacidhja Kola; Mrs. Antuen Skenderi **Organization Email:** info@mjaft.org

**Parliament(s) Monitored:** Legislature of the Albanian Parliaments; local governments in Tirana, Vlora, Korca, Lezha, Gjirokastra, Durres, and Fier

**About:** The vision of the Mjaft! Movement is to achieve a well-governed Albania with active citizens, strong communities and a positive image in the world. The Mjaft! Movement believes that a good democracy, proper governance and a prosperous society can be built only if constructive civic demand and participation is achieved. Thus, its mission is to increase active citizenship, strengthen the sense of community, promote responsible governance and improve the image of Albania in the world through: Encouraging participation of citizens in decision-making by influencing and monitoring policies at both local and national level; Promoting volunteerism, and improve cooperation within communities; Rehabilitating the sense of protest.

# **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- <u>www.unevotoj.com</u>: (in English, "I vote") is a website that provides information about the Parliament of Albania. The site structures Parliamentary plenary and committee sessions and agendas, and summaries of the proceedings. It also provides biographical notes about elected members, attendance and voting records.
- **Campaign for a Clean Parliament:** Sought to create the conditions for a parliament with dignified deputies and representatives of the public will, is the initiative of a group of organizations such as Mjaft!, Partners Albania, The Moisiu Foundation, Impact Center and the Albanian Institute for the Development of the Electoral System. In the days leading to voting day, verified the past and future of the actual activity of the candidates that run for parliament, and will make such information available to the public. In the round table organized with for this purpose, there were present representatives of diplomatic corps and international institutions, representatives of the civil society, media, etc.
- Monitoring: Mjaft! also monitors campaign promises and MP asset declarations.

Sample: <u>UneVotoj</u> (http://www.unevotoj.com/zgjedhjet09/index2.php)

# Active partnerships with international organizations:

• Soros Foundation; Balkan Trust for Democracy (BTD)

# Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Ten full time staff and 15 part time staff/interns work on monitoring projects.

# Argentina: Asociación por los Derechos Civiles (ADC) – Association for Civil Rights www.adc.org.ar (Spanish)

**Director:** Mr. Alvaro Herrero **Organization Email:** <u>adc@adc.org.ar</u> **Parliament(s) Monitored:** Argentine National Congress; Multiple provincial and city legislatures

**About:** The Association for Civil Rights (ADC) is a Buenos Aires-based, non-partisan NGO working to guarantee respect for civil and constitutional rights in Argentina and in Latin America. For fifteen years, the ADC has used precedent-setting public interest litigation to reverse situations of discrimination based on factors such as gender, religion, age, and nationality, and to defend social rights in areas such as health, reproductive rights, education, and labor rights. The ADC also monitors public policies and institutions, proposes legal and institutional reforms, and trains other civil society organizations in areas such as justice reform, access to public information, anti-discrimination, and freedom of expression.

**Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:** When the ADC began its work in record voting in 2003, the idea was to monitor and analyze Congressional votes related to civil rights, but this was not readily possible because there was not a record of legislators' votes. Therefore, the ADC has worked to implement, institutionalize, and monitor recorded voting in the national Congress and in provincial legislatures in Argentina.

Since 2003, the ADC has presented 52 projects for parliamentary reform and has successfully reformed and implemented mandatory record voting in 17 jurisdictions, including the National Congress (Chamber of Deputies and Chamber of Senators), provincial legislatures (in Tucuman, the City of Buenos Aires, Mendoza, Jujuy, Tierra del Fuego, Santa Fe, and Rio Negro), and municipal deliberating councils (in Rosario, Ushuaia, Moron, Rafaela, Reconquista, Viedma, and Rio Colorado). In addition to initiating and carrying forward these significant reforms, the ADC has monitored record voting to ensure its correct implementation, to promote transparency, and to combat corruption in the voting system.

In order to show the public the importance and usefulness of legislative information, the ADC disseminates its record voting work through the program's website (www.adclegislativo.org.ar). Recently, the ADC has expanded its efforts to strengthen the training of civil society – namely local and national NGOs – to control, disseminate, and participate in the legislative decision process. The objective of this work is to help civil society become more proactive in monitoring national and provincial legislatures and to increase respect for constitutional rights. As well, the ADC collaborates with the press to ensure more, high quality coverage of legislative activity and its relevance to daily life.

Sample: <u>Cada Voto con su Nombre</u> (http://www.adclegislativo.org.ar/)

# **Other Activities:**

Additional key areas of the ADC include the Justice Reform program, which monitors the
national and provincial Supreme Courts and promotes reforms for judicial independence,
transparency, and citizen participation. The ADC also has programs on Access to Public
Information and on Freedom of Expression to push for a national access to information law
and to monitor and combat interferences with freedom of expression. The AntiDiscrimination program addresses discrimination based on gender, disability, race, religion,
and nationality, and the Right to Education program focuses on discrimination in access to
education based on socio-economic conditions. As well, the ADC increases knowledge of,
respect for, and use of the rulings of the Inter-American Human Rights System in Latin
America.

#### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• National Endowment for Democracy (NED)

### Number of full-time staff and part-time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Two full time staff work on monitoring projects

# Argentina: Fundación Directorio Legislativo

www.directoriolegislativo.org (Spanish)

Director: Ms. María Baron

Organization Email: <a href="mailto:info@directoriolegislativo.org">info@directoriolegislativo.org</a>

**Parliament(s) Monitored:** Argentine National Congress; Legislature of the City of Buenos Aires; Provincial Legislatures

**About:** Directorio Legislativo is a nonprofit organization that has worked since 1999 generating, analyzing and disseminating information of public interest on legislation, transparency and accountability.

# **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- Monitoring & Analysis: Directorio Legislativo uses its knowledge of the legislature and its members to regularly develop a reliable analysis of the initiatives that affect specific sectors of society, such as the private sector and civil society organizations. It produces an in-depth directory of legislators that includes their voting record, a summary of their activities in the legislature, information about their district and contact information.
- Award: Implements the "Most Innovative MP Award" on a yearly basis.
- **Networking:** Directorio Legislativo leads the Latin American Network for Parliamentary Transparency, which includes 15 organizations from 5 countries.

Sample: 2009 Legislative Directory

(http://www.directoriolegislativo.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/Directorio-Legislativo-2008-2009-parte-1.zip))

# **Other Activities:**

• Directorio Legislativo helps civil society organizations and other groups become more involved in the legislative process. It connects groups with similar goals so that they have the ability to work together toward similar ends.

# Active partnerships with international organizations:

• Affiliated Network for Social Accountability (ANSA) and World Bank Institute (WBI), the U.S. Embassy in Argentina, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), the British Embassy/Argentina, Latin American Legislative Transparency Network (LALT Network).

# Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Directorio Legislativo has ten full-time and two part-time employees working on its legislative monitoring projects.

# Argentina: Fundación Poder Ciudadano (FPC)

www.poderciudadano.org (Spanish)

Director: Mr. Hernán Charosky Organization Email: <u>fundacion@poderciudadano.org</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Argentine National Congress; occasionally provincial legislatures

**About:** Poder Ciudadano is a non-profit and non-partisan organization located in Buenos Aires, Argentina. A national chapter of Transparency International, it was created in 1989, six years after Argentina's re-democratization, in order to promote civic participation and generate government-related information of public interest. Poder Ciudadano's mission is to generate civic information and to promote collective action to shape a network of citizens involved in public concerns. The Foundation's vision is to create national and international networks of persons and institutions that cooperate to facilitate civic participation and to assure civil rights.

# **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- **Promoting Transparency:** In conjunction with PARTICIPA Corporation (Chile) and Acción Ciudadana (Guatemala), FPC designed and implemented the *Regional Index of Parliamentary Transparency (RIPT)* in 2008. The goal was to establish a minimal standard of transparency in the administrative and legislative affairs of the countries' parliaments. FPC also sends requests for information in order to measure the degree of access to information and response capabilities of the congress of the nation.
- Assessment and Evaluation: Under its "Governance and Political Institutions" theme, FPC published *El Congreso bajo la Lupa 2004 /05/06* ("*The Congress under the Microscope, 2004/ 05/06*" Spanish only), which includes in-depth analysis of the National Congress and legislatures in Buenos Aires and Mendoza province.
- Monitoring Parliament: FPC has published a guide in Spanish: "How to Monitor Legislative Institutions?" As part of its own monitoring activities, FPC sends volunteers to observe the working committees, analyzes projects, and submits recommendations for improving the functioning of the congress (including reforms to the internal rules). It also monitors legislators' asset declarations.

**Sample:** Regional Index of Parliamentary Transparency; <u>El Congreso bajo la Lupa 2006</u> (http://www.poderciudadano.org/?do=temas&id=100)

# **Other Activities:**

• Poder Ciudadano's 'Transparency and Anti-Corruption' division works to develop action plans and tools to promote transparency in public administration, primarily in the areas of public contracting, various stages of budget execution, and ensuring approval of and compliance with International Anti-Corruption Conventions. In 2007, Poder Ciudadano monitored the presidential campaign financing. Since one of the candidates was the wife of the actual President, the foundation took a close look into how public resources were being allocated. It also monitored how different media is covering the elections.

#### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• Ford Foundation; Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS); Friedrich Naumann Stiftung (FNS)

# Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• FPC has 25 full-time staff and 25 part-time staff and volunteers. Three full-time and 2 part-time staff work on its parliamentary monitoring activities.

# Armenia: Freedom of Information Center (FOICA)

www.foi.am (Armenian, English)

Director: Mrs. Shushan Doydoyan Organization Email: <u>foi@foi.am</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Armenian National Assembly

**About:** The Freedom of Information Center of Armenia (FOICA) was created in 2001 by a group of devoted professionals with a mission to protect the constitutional right of citizens for access to information. FOICA has reached its objectives through strategic litigation, trainings, monitoring, public campaigns and advocacy. One of the major accomplishments of the NGO was drafting and advocacy of the Armenian FOI law in 2003, which was adopted by the National Assembly in Sept. 2003. Currently FOICA works with the Government and the Parliament on the second generation of FOI legislative reforms in the country.

# **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- **Monitoring:** Providing access to parliamentary information for the public through submission of FOI requests to the Parliament (such as transcripts, voting records and other documents produced by the legislature).
- **Monitoring**: Monitoring electoral campaign financing of political parties participating in the Parliamentary elections. This monitoring has been implemented through submission of FOI request during and after each parliamentary election took place in Armenia. FOICA files a court case on the illegal denial or mute refusal cases.
- **Monitoring**: Financial transparency of individual Parliament members through submitting requests to have access to their income and asset declarations. Articles are published on the findings in the print media.
- Other Activities: Series of trainings of the National Assembly staff members on how to apply Freedom of Information legislation in order to ensure transparency of the Parliament. Handbook for journalists on how to exercise the right to electoral information and access to meetings of electoral commissions. The handbook was widely disseminated among the Armenian media.
- "Court Monitoring of Electoral Disputes Resolution" with the support of ABA/CEELI was designed to promote effective and efficient court resolution of electoral disputes through conducting a comprehensive court monitoring during Parliamentary elections in 2007.

**Sample:** <u>Monitoring electoral disputes</u> (http://www.foi.am/en/rcontent/77/2); <u>Article on legislative transparency</u> (http://www.foi.am/en/rcontent/16/1599/)

# **Other Activities:**

• Drafting and lobbying for the Freedom of Information Legislation reforms; Monitoring of the implementation of FOI legislation in the local and central government levels. Conducting a wide Public Education Campaign on the right of access to information.

- Legal Counseling, Advocacy and Litigation since adoption of the FOI Law in 2003. 30 court cases filed and completed.
- Trainings of various actors on FOI (civil society and officials). More than 3000 officials have been trained and 5000 civil society members.

# Active partnerships with international organizations:

• Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE) office in Yerevan, American Bar Association (ABA/CEELI), USAID/Armenia, UNDP/Armenia

# Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• One full-time staffer, 2 full-time interns/volunteers and 4 part-time interns/volunteers work on FOICA's monitoring projects.

# Azerbaijan: Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center (EMDS)

www.smdt.az (Azerbaijani, English)

Chairman: Mr. Anar Mammadli Organization Email: <u>aspyo@yahoo.com; emc.az2001@gmail.com</u> Parliament(s) Supported: Milli Majlis, Azerbaijan

**About:** Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center (EMDS) is a non-governmental organization working for holding free and fair elections, and development of civil society and democracy in Azerbaijan. EMDS was created on December 1, 2008, by the founders and members of the Election Monitoring Center (EMC), the registration of which had been annulled. It must be noted that on May 14, 2008, Khatai District Court of Baku City terminated registration of EMC on the basis of an illegal claim of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

# **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- Monitoring of transparency and accountability of the Parliament and parliament members: The EMDS held the monitoring of all meetings in fall and spring sessions of parliament in order to find out accountability of the parliament and the parliament members. The monitoring has been done by the journalists that collaborate with the EMDS and are accredited in the parliament. The object of the monitoring is to study activity of the parliament members, productivity of discussions, efforts of parliament members in representing and protecting interests of their voters. During past 3 years EMDS has published 3 reports on the results of monitoring of parliament sessions.
- Survey of citizens and voters trust for the parliament members: The EMDS has conducted surveys among 3000 citizens to find out their attitude to the activities of the Parliament and to the parliament members who represent their interests. The surveys covered different election districts (there are 125 election districts for 125 seats of parliament in the country).
- **Strengthening citizen-parliament relations:** The EMDS organized Town Hall Meetings and Citizen Forums on national level in several election districts with the participation of parliament members or the members of their offices, local executive powers, election Commission, NGOs, Mass Media, political parties and the members of municipalities. In these events the EMDS held discussions of issues such as accountability, responsiveness and participation of the parliament members in solving local and national level problems.

Sample: <u>Observation of the Parliament Activities</u> (<u>http://www.smdt.az/content/parlamentin\_mushahidesi.html</u>)

# **Other Activities:**

• EMDS participated in election observation programs with regard to repeat- and by-elections to the Parliament; August 24, 2002 Constitutional Referendum; October 15, 2003 Presidential Election; December 17, 2004 Municipal Elections; and November 6, 2005 Parliamentary Elections. Besides, within observation missions of European Network of

Election Monitoring Organizations (ENEMO) (of which EMC was a member) and OSCE/ODIHR (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe/Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights), representatives of EMDS observed presidential and parliamentary elections as well as referenda held in Albania, Afghanistan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey and Ukraine.

### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• USAID, NED, NDI, British Government

### Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Two full time staff and 23 part time staff/interns work on monitoring projects.

# Bangladesh: Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB)

www.ti-bangladesh.org (English, Bangla)

Executive Director: Dr. Iftekhar Zaman Organization Email: <u>info@ti-bangladesh.org</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Bangladesh National Assembly

**About:** "Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) is an independent, non-government, nonpartisan and non-profit organization with a vision of Bangladesh in which government, politics, business, civil society and the daily lives of the people shall be free from corruption." A fully accredited chapter of the Berlin-based Transparency International (TI), its mission is to "... catalyze and strengthen a participatory social movement to promote and develop institutions, laws and practices for combating corruption in Bangladesh and establishing an efficient and transparent system of governance, politics and business." It has 5 offices around the country and over 4,600 members. An independent evaluation found that "TIB is now identified as being synonymous with tackling corruption in Bangladesh..." and credits it with helping to strengthen legislation against corruption."<sup>198</sup>

# **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- Monitoring & Analysis: *Parliament Watch* aims to gauge the effectiveness of parliament, with a focus on parliamentary committees. It makes broad use of quantitative and qualitative methods to compare the activities of the Parliament, the Speaker, and the ruling majority and opposition, as well as to assess changes in their performance over time. Particular attention is paid to the use of mechanisms of oversight of the executive branch and the conditions created to ensure accountability of the government.
- Advocacy: *ParliamentWatch*, sometimes in conjunction with other tools, such as the Citizens' Charter on the Role of Parliament (a code of conduct), is used to advocate for open and transparent government and the stemming of corruption. Roundtable discussions are organized with MPs, the media, and others to promote interest in *ParliamentWatch*. TIB also issues press releases and opinion articles related to parliamentary performance.

Sample: <u>Parliament Watch 2009 Report</u> (<u>http://www.ti-bangladesh.org/index.php?page\_id=401</u>)</u>

# **Other Activities:**

National Level: In order to monitor Bangladesh's "National Integrity System," TIB conducts *Parliament Watch* and *Court Watch*, in addition to diagnostic assessments of other institutions. It also conducts diagnostic studies and policy advocacy for reform of other public institutions, such as: the Anti-corruption Commission, Comptroller & Auditor General's Office, Public Service, Judiciary, Law-enforcement agencies, etc.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>198</sup> Knock, Colin and Tahera Yasmin. Undated. "Impact Assessment: Abridged version of the Impact Assessment Report conducted in November 2007." Contact TIB for access.

• Local Level: TIB has established a network of 36 Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCCs) in 34 of 64 administrative districts (expected to increase to 45 in 2010). Various social accountability tools and processes such as Report Card Surveys, Participatory Budgeting and Budget Tracking, Face the Public, Integrity Pledge are applied to improve the content and quality of the public service.

#### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• DFID, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)

### Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on Parliament Watch:

• Four full-time staff work 45 percent of their time on parliamentary monitoring.

# Bosnia-Herzegovina: CA Why Not- UG Zašto ne

http://www.zastone.ba/

Director: Darko Brkan

**Organization Email:** <u>zasto.ne.sarajevo@gmail.com</u>, <u>info@zastone.ba</u> **Parliament(s) Monitored:** Bosnia and Herzegovina – Parliaments and Governments on all

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**About:** CA Why Not's monitoring strategy is focused on providing comprehensive and simple information for the citizens and mostly oriented towards having an impact on the elections, thus its activities are adjusted to this and are following a two-year election cycle in BiH.

• CA Why Not has had a significant impact on the general elections in BiH 2010 where its findings were published by most media in the country and used by most of the parties during the pre-election campaign. Final impact of the elections was a swing vote of some 270 thousand votes (18% of the voting population) and the increase of the turnout on the elections by some 250 thousand new voters.

# **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- Monitoring of the implementation of the pre-election promises by the governments and parliaments (focus on political parties) <u>www.istinomjer.ba</u>
- Monitoring of the public statements in terms of consistency, truthfulness and promises of the public officials in BiH (including parliaments) <u>www.istinomjer.ba</u>
- Monitoring of the work of parliaments and government through a web-portal on political life and elections in BiH <a href="http://www.razglasaj.ba">www.razglasaj.ba</a>

# **Other Activities:**

The organization works on five programs, through which it implements a variety of activities:

- Promotion of the use of new media
- Citizens participation and activism
- Government accountability
- Demilitarization
- Promotion of socially engaged culture

# Active partnerships with international organizations:

• None

# Number of full-time and part-time staff and volunteers/interns working on monitoring projects:

- Full-time staff: 3
- Part-time staff: 3
- Full-time volunteers/interns: none
- Part-time volunteers/interns: none

# Bosnia-Herzegovina: Center for Civic Initiatives (CCI)

www.ccibh.org (Bosnian, Serbian, Croatian, English)

Director: Mr. Zlatan Ohranovic Organization Email: <u>ccituzla@bih.net.ba</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: National and state parliaments

**About:** Center for Civic Initiatives (CCI) is one of the largest indigenous, non-governmental organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The mission is to initiate and promote active participation of citizens in democratic process and strengthen capacities of individuals and organizations to successfully solve problems in their communities.

# **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- **Monitoring:** CCI has established a quality system for monitoring performance and the work of key government institutions in BiH at the cantonal, entity and state level. CCI's monitoring activities include monitoring the executive and legislative branches, which means that CCI has been monitoring a total of 26 government structures.
- Analysis: CCI collects a variety of information such as details about the performance and conduct of individual government members and information about political parties the government members belong to (measures they propose, conclusions, amendments, how they vote on different issues, questions, initiatives...). CCI also collects information about measures and their proposers, types of measures, how well these measures harmonize with the Civic platform, time spent in procedure, impediments and bottlenecks in decision making, how decisions are made, decision outcomes, and individuals and parties that voted against/for different measures.

Sample: <u>Monitoring Report Press Release</u> (<u>http://www.ccibh.org/main.php?lang=ENG</u>)

# **Other Activities:**

• CCI works with groups of citizens, NGOs and individuals from the government and NGO sector with an aim to enhance the public awareness of the needs and ways of citizen participation in decision-making at all government levels. CCI provides training services and other assistance to civic groups and NGOs with creating and running problem-solving campaigns.

# Active partnerships with international organizations:

• USAID, DFID, Norwegian embassy

# Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Twenty full-time staff work on CCI's monitoring projects.

# Brazil:

# Congresso Aberto (CA)

www.congressoaberto.com.br (Portuguese)

Directors: Mr. Eduardo Leoni and Dr. Cesar Zucco Organization Email: <u>admin@congressoaberto.com.br</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: National Congress, Brazil

**About:** CongressoAberto.com.br is a nonpartisan and not for profit organization whose mission is to increase transparency in matters related to the Brazilian Congress, through the dissemination of data and analysis of publicly available information in a way that is accessible and understandable to all interested citizens.

### **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- **Monitoring:** All activities are currently restricted to the Brazilian Federal Congress The following activities are currently implemented, and updated in real time:
  - Aggregation and analysis of roll call votes in congress;
  - Reporting of statistics related to voting behavior in congress;
  - Reporting of electoral results and maps;
  - Reporting and analysis of campaign contributions;
  - Reporting and analysis of legislator surveys
- In the future we will include:
  - Analysis of MP's earmarking activities and expenditures
  - More detailed analysis of geographical electoral patterns
  - Creation of a legislative productivity index

Sample: <u>www.congressoaberto.com.br</u>

#### **Other Activities:**

• None

#### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• None

#### Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Congresso Aberto has 0 full time and 2 part time staff/interns.

# Cambodia:

Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia (COMFREL)

www.comfrel.org (Cambodian, English)

Director: Mr. Panha Koul Organization Email: <u>comfrel@comfrel.org</u>, <u>comfrel@online.com.kh</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: National Assembly of Cambodia

**About:** COMFREL is a NGO with a network that extends across Cambodia (23 provinces/capital). Mission: To help create an informed and favorable climate 1) for free and fair elections through lobbying and advocacy for a suitable legal framework, education to inform voters of their rights and monitoring activities that both discourage irregularities and provide comprehensive monitoring data to enable an objective, non-partisan assessment of the election process, and 2) for meaningfulness of post elections through education and public forums to encourage citizens to participate in politics and decision-making, advocacy/lobby for electoral reforms that increase accountability of elected officials and provide comprehensive monitoring data to enable an objective, non-partisan assessment of the fulfillment of political platform and performance of elected officials.

# **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- Monitoring & Analysis: Parliamentary Watch activities have been conducted since early 2004 after the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Assembly elections in 2003. To carry out these activities, COMFREL formed a working group and develop the database to store the data of the MPs' activities and record. Methodologies used by COMFREL to gather information included: participating in and observing NA plenary sessions at the NA building; communicating with parliamentarians, staff of the NA Secretariat and staff of parliamentarian offices in each constituency; and more.
- **Plenary Session Observation**: One or two COMFREL volunteers took part in observing every NA session. The observers were required to fill in National Assembly Watch Checklist and record parliamentarians' words during debate. The content of parliamentarians' speeches during parliamentary sessions was analyzed to determine what institution or person their view referred to and whether the tone of their view was neutral, positive or negative.
- Monitoring of Parliamentarians' Field Visits: COMFREL observers in 23 provinces/capital monitor activity of parliamentarians during their field visits to the constituencies. The observers in the constituencies were required to contact staff working at the provincial parliamentarian offices and the elected political party offices in those areas or directly communicate with parliamentarians or their assistants, and to fill in COMFREL's observation checklist. All information was incorporated into the data-managing system.

Sample: <u>Parliamentary Watch</u>

(http://www.comfrel.org/images/others/1216632818PWR\_kh\_Oct2006\_Sept2007\_shorter%20version%202\_Eng\_Final\_1.pdf)

### **Other Activities:**

• Advocating for Promoting Reform Policies and Input on Legal Frameworks; Strengthening "Civil Society Voice" and E-Campaign to Support Advocacy and Reform; Building Capacity of Local Network on Civic Skills; Strengthening Citizen Participation in Local Governance and Decision Making; Strengthening Women's and Youths' Political Participation.

# Active partnerships with international organizations:

• United Nations Development Fund (UNDEF); UNDP; Forum Syd; Norwegian People's Aid (NPA); Oxfam Novib

# Number of full-time staff and part-time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• 29 full-time and 4 part-time staff; 25 full-time and 800 part-time volunteers/interns work on all of COMFREL's projects.

# Canada: How'd They Vote

www.howdtheyvote.ca (English, French)

Director: Mr. Cory Horner

Organization Email: <a href="mailto:cory@howdtheyvote.ca">cory@howdtheyvote.ca</a>

**Parliament(s) Supported:** House of Commons, Canada; British Columbia Legislature, Canada (coming soon)

**About:** "How'd They Vote?" aims to be a non-partisan website which provides a variety of indepth information on the operations of the Canadian Parliament, specifically, how our politicians vote and what they've said. We take Hansard from the parliament website, and extract information on bills, members of parliament, votes, and speeches.

# **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

• **Monitoring:** Currently How'd They Vote extracts the contents of Hansard, information on proposed legislation, and recorded votes, and provides some basic statistics on absenteeism, voting dissent, and words spoken. The raw data is also made available through our API for others to use. Information is re-arranged to make it easier to find by the general public.

### Sample: <u>www.howdtheyvote.ca</u>

# **Other Activities:**

• None

# Active partnerships with international organizations:

• None

# Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Zero full time staff and 1 part time staff work on monitoring projects.

# Chile: Chile Transparente

www.chiletransparente.cl (Spanish)

President: Mr. Juan Carlos Delano Organization Email: <u>chiletransparente@chiletransparente.cl</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: National Congress of Chile

**About:** Chile Transparente, Chilean Chapter of Transparency International is a private nonprofit corporation whose mission is to promote practices of transparency and probity in public and private sectors of Chilean society, creating awareness about the economic and social cost involves corruption.

### **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

Chile Transparente is developing a monitoring program to the legislative process of those important bills relating to transparency and probity. This work is developed through the preparation of technical reports that are sent to the different committees of Congress, which contain analysis and recommendations regarding the content of bills under discussion. In order to strengthen the work of legislative monitoring, Chile Transparente is developing the project identified as "Monitoring the Legislative Process", called "Observa", which aims to promote the ongoing regulatory monitoring being done by our institution. It is expected the implementation of this project during the first quarter of 2010. This projects considers as evaluation mechanisms the following: Indexes applicable bills, such as: State of progress, processing time, percentage of sessions (room sessions and committee sessions), percentage of attendance of Members of Congress, news of progress and setbacks in transparency, transparency ranking (votes protransparency, congressman, political party)

**Sample:** <u>Comités, organismos y códigos de ética parlamentaria</u> (http://www.chiletransparente.cl/home/doc/DT2 Comites organismos codigos etica parlamentaria.pdf)

#### **Other Activities:**

Within the scope of their duties, Chile Transparente develops activities aimed at improving levels of transparency in municipal. Likewise, Chile Transparente is also conducting a pilot educational project to promote civic education and valórica children in basic education in poor schools.

#### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• None (member organization of Transparency International)

#### Number of full time and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• One full time and two part time staff

## Chile: Fundación Ciudadano Inteligente (FCI)

www.votainteligente.cl (Spanish)

Director: Sr. Felipe Heusser Organization Email: <u>info@votainteligente.cl</u>; Communications Director <u>mlsotomayor@votainteligente.cl</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: The National Congress of Chile

**About:** "Fundación Ciudadano Inteligente" (Smart Citizen Foundation) is a non-profit social organization, based in Santiago, Chile, which encourages active and responsible citizen participation, through the web and information technologies. Its goal is to reduce information asymmetries, which create a gap between citizens and politics, market economy, and other social encounters, as a necessary condition for his or her involvement in social life. The organization conceives web technologies as a key tool for gathering, organizing, illustrating and sharing information through the social web, with the aim of promoting citizen actions and accountability.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- **Monitoring:** Fundación Ciudadano Inteligente created a set of indicators for parliamentarians' functions, which permit the evaluation of parliamentary work. With these evaluations our organization later informs the public on the National Congress' general functioning, focusing on the issues Chilean citizens care mostly about. FCI monitors the number of bills under consideration, the amount of time bills remain in process, the number of bills presented each year, and lists bills grouped by subject and committee. In addition, it compiles profiles for each representative, including information on their party, region, district, previous work and political experience.
- Legislative Analysis: Fundación Ciudadano Inteligente outlines the relevant bills being discussed, defines the various opinions surrounding each bill, and identifies legislators who support each argument. FCI generated an explanatory guide on legislative power, including questions and answers which explain how parliament functions.

## Sample: <u>www.votainteligente.cl</u>

## Projects currently working on:

- FCI is currently working on a web platform through which one may visualize, upload, develop and download web applications thought to satisfy daily needs of society, by means of crossing public data. These applications aim to strengthen and empower citizenship, as well as display and offer public useful information.
- Another initiative that will soon be ready is donar.cl (to donate), a web platform built to upload information regarding charity organizations to which donate money, volunteer work or other services. Through this site the organizations have the obligation to be accountable to society.

• A final project worth mentioning is our "Smart Access" initiative, a web platform that promotes in citizenship the requirement for public information on one hand, and displays those same requests for future information applicants, on the other.

#### **Other Activities:**

• Fundación Ciudadano Inteligente also covers the presidential and parliamentary elections in Chile. It promotes citizen participation and develops seminars and workshops to promote transparency in the government.

## Active partnerships with international organizations:

• Fundación Ciudadano Inteligente is funded by the Open Society Institute (OSI). It partners with Proacceso, Avina, Open Secrets and Adolfo Ibáñez University.

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Seven full time staff, two part time, and approximately fifteen interns work on monitoring projects.

## Colombia: Congreso Visible (CV)

www.congresovisible.org (Spanish, limited English)

Director: Mónica Pachón Organization Email: <u>contacto@congresovisible.org</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: National Congress of Colombia

**About:** Congreso Visible -CV- commenced in 1998 as a legislative research project in the Department of Political Science at Los Andes University in Bogotá, Colombia. Its mission is to track and analyze the Congress, as well as to strengthen and promote citizen participation in processes of accountability of those elected. From an independent perspective of government and political parties or movements, CV works on bridging communication between citizens and their representatives. Similarly, seeks to promote the knowledge of Congress and, in general, of our democratic system by providing analysis and relevant information easily organized and accessible to citizens, researchers and academics in Colombia and the rest of world. Due to its diverse and continuous work for over twelve years, CV is recognized as a leading project in matters of parliamentary accountability and informed voting in Colombia. CV has helped improve congressional performance by publicizing its legislative activity. Moreover, CV provides the media with alternative and independent sources of congressional information and empowers the citizenry by spreading knowledge about legislative performance.

**Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:** Until now, CV has emphasized on two related activities. First, monitoring and evaluating legislators and parliamentary caucuses; and, secondly, training organizations involved in promoting participation, minorities, and the rights of vulnerable groups (particularly women, afro descendants, indigenous people, and sexual minorities). Additionally, the project has developed a web 2.0 information system and database which all citizens can access through the website (www.congresovisible.org) and where they can find and comment on all data such as the background of legislators, their campaign agendas, nominal votes, their partisan affiliation and bills introduced, as well as hearings organized both in House and Senate. More detailed regional reports are also available. To date, data provided by CV has become a valuable point of reference for policy-makers, opinion editors, and scholars with a shared interest in executive-legislative relations in Colombia and across the Latin American region.

#### Sample: http://congresovisible.org/

**Other Activities:** Teaching/ Educational workshops provided to the citizenry as well as congressmen; Quarterly newsletters pertaining legislative activity; Academic research regarding Congress and legislative activity on certain topics.

#### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• National Endowment for Democracy (NED); International Republican Institute (IRI); Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID).

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Full time staff: 10; Interns/Volunteers: 10.

# Colombia: Transparencia por Colombia (TpC)

www.transparenciacolombia.org.co (Spanish)

Director: Ms. Elisabeth Ungar Organization Email: <u>transparencia@transparenciacolombia.org.co</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Congress of the Republic of Colombia

**About:** Transparencia por Colombia (TpC) is a non-profit organization created in 1998. Its mission is to fight corruption by transforming Colombia's public and private institutions to foster a network of effective and reliable organizations. It seeks to construct coalitions with different actors, spread knowledge on the best practices of anti-corruption, and foster an organized, effective and responsible citizenry.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- **Parliamentary Transparency:** TpC seeks to promote transparency and accountability in Colombia's Congress by raising the levels of disclosure of information in the legislative branch. In 2008 TpC analyzed the quantity and quality of the information supplied on the Internet by the Congress' two chambers (Senado and Cámara), and diagnosed its deficiencies regarding citizen's access to relevant information on legislative processes and Congressmen's performance. This approach also included an international comparison to identify good practices of parliamentary disclosure, in order to build a set of recommendations of the kind of information that Congresses should share with the citizenry. The conclusions of this initiative were presented during the international forum "Transparency and Information Disclosure on Legislative Branch" which took place in Bogotá on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009.
- **Campaign Financing:** Since 2006, TpC has promoted financial transparency of political organizations through the project "Strengthening Accountability of Political Parties". In the third phase of this initiative, which began in November 2009, Transparencia por Colombia released the "Aplicativo Cuentas Claras en Elecciones", a technological tool that allows candidates and political parties to present their campaign income and expenditures reports on an electronic format. This instrument was officially adopted by the National Electoral Council with the purpose of supporting the accountability processes that candidates and political parties must fulfill during electoral campaigns. It is instrument to highlight that the use of technological tools in political accountability has no precedents in the country.
- In 2009 TpC undertook a study exploring the management of conflicts of interest in the legislative process. The investigation characterizes this issue in Colombia's Congress comparing the country's regulation with other parliaments in the world, analyzes how recent conflicts of interest manifests, how they are handled, and also outlines consequences and risks in terms of transparency derived from the weak management of this phenomenon.

#### Sample: <u>National Transparency Index</u>

#### (http://www.transparenciacolombia.org.co/Portals/0/descargas/itn/ITN%20Ranking%202005.pdf)

#### **Other Activities:**

• TpC centers primarily on the prevention of corruption and the detection of the conditions that allow it to manifest. The organization focuses on the production of information regarding what institutions can do to prevent and combat corruption, fostering public debate on solutions to this issue, and construction of tools to promote institutional transparency and efficiency.

#### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• TpC works with USAID, DFID, WB, Dutch, Swedish & British Embassies and several of other international organization.

#### Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Two full time staff and 10 part time staff/interns work on monitoring projects.

## Croatia: GONG

www.gong.hr (Croatian, English)

Director: Ms. Sandra Pernar Organization Email: gong@gong.hr Parliament(s) Supported: Croatian National Parliament (Sabor)

**About:** GONG is a non-partisan citizens' organization founded in 1997 to encourage citizens to take active participation in political processes. GONG conducts non-partisan monitoring of election process, educates citizens about their rights and duties, encourages mutual communication between citizens and their elected representatives, promotes transparency of work within public services, manages public advocacy campaigns and encourages and helps citizens in self-organizing initiatives.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- **Open Parliament Project (2000 2007):** During the 1990s the Croatian Parliament was closed to citizens, despite the fact that the Parliament is intended to represent the citizenry. GONG worked with the Parliament to promote openness in several ways:
  - In association with the Parliamentary Public Relations Department, GONG began organizing tours of the Parliament in 2001. Since June 2006, the Public Relations Department has institutionalized this role;
  - GONG initiated and advocated for a new, more transparent internet page of the Parliament since 2001 and participated in a process for determining the content of the internet page. In 2003, a new internet page was released, containing agenda announcements, committee and parliament minutes and draft law proposals.
  - GONG advocated for and contributed to the content of the new Rulebook for Transparency of Parliament's Work, adopted in 2003.
- **Internship Program (2001 2008):** GONG introduced an internship program to Croatian Parliament in which 78 interns have participated. The Parliamentary Public Relations Department institutionalized the program in 2008.
- Initiative for public session of Committee for Constitution, Standing Orders and Political System on political parties' financial reports: In 2002, the Committee for Constitution, Standing Orders and Political System concluded that political parties that received funding from the state budget are obliged to submit official annual financial reports for the year 2001 to the Committee. The parties refused to oblige. In 2004, after several years of lobbying, GONG conducted an analysis of Parliamentary political parties' annual financial reports. The analysis continued for three years.
- Amending the new Constitutional law on Constitutional Courts: As the new Constitutional Law on the Constitutional Courts was being prepared in 2001, GONG suggested to include criteria about transparent elections of candidates for the courts.

Provisions for public hearings on candidates and public adjudication about acceptance and dismissal of candidates were included into the new Law.

Sample: Croatian Parliament (http://www.gong.hr/news.aspx?newsID=1185&pageID=142)

## **Other Activities:**

• GONG works through four main programs: Election System, Good Governance, Civil Society Development and International Cooperation. More about GONG activities can be learned from GONG annual reports available at www.gong.hr (there are English versions)

## Active partnerships with international organizations:

• OSI (Budapest); BTD; National Foundation for Civil Society Development; NDI

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• One full time staffer works on monitoring projects.

## Czech Republic: KohoVolit.eu

http://kohovolit.eu/ (Czech, Slovak, English)

Director: Dr. Michal Škop and Mr. Jaroslav Semančík

Organization Email: <a href="mailto:council@KohoVolit.eu">council@KohoVolit.eu</a>

**Parliament(s) Monitored:** Czech Parliament; Slovak Parliament; European Parliament; Prague City Council; Plasy Municipality Council

**About:** Kohovolit.eu is a non-partisan, volunteer organization aimed at letting people know who REALLY represents them.

#### **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- Monitoring & Analysis: Kohovolit.eu makes Voting Advice Applications, which match citizens' preferences to those of MPs and political parties based on their answers to a series of questions about the policies being discussed in each legislature. It monitors activities and voting behaviour.
- **Evaluation:** MPs are evaluated and ranked in the "KohoVolit.eu Index," a mathematical equation aimed at gauging MPs' level of activity. The index considers whether MPs vote or "vote actively" (i.e. vote "yes" or "no" as opposed to abstaining), and authored declarations, motions, and questions among other indicators.

#### Sample: <u>http://kohovolit.eu/</u>

## **Other Activities:**

• None

## Active partnerships with international organizations:

• None

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Two part-time staff and one part-time volunteer.

## Denmark: Buhl & Rasmussen

http://hvemstemmerhvad.dk; www.itsyourparliament.eu (Danish, English)

Director: Mr. Niels Erik Rasmussen Organization Email: <u>niels@buhlrasmussen.eu</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Folketing (Denmark), European Parliament

**About:** Buhl & Rasmussen is a small Copenhagen-based company specialized in using IT to create valuable tools and analyses for organizations navigating within the political sphere. We help you to plan and implement IT in campaigns and public affairs programs. We produce stakeholder analyses based on quantitative data. We provide valuable tools for issue management and effective monitoring.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- **Monitoring:** Buhl & Rasmussen collects voting records from the Danish parliament Folketing and present it in a readable manner. The site provides possibilities to compare voting records of parties, follow parliamentary questions and attendance levels. Also the site monitors media coverage of Danish MPs by going through the largest online media sites in Denmark on a daily basis.
- Analysis: HvemStemmerHvad has conducted small analyses on municipal elections in Denmark and on the voting behavior in the European-Parliament as well as the EU Council.

## Sample: <u>http://hvemstemmerhvad.dk/;</u> <u>www.itsyourparliament.eu</u>

## Active partnerships with international organizations:

• None

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Two part-time volunteers run the website.

## *Egypt: Alsadat Association for Social Development and Welfare (SADAT)*

www.el-sadat.org (In progress)

Director: Mr. Anwar Sadat

**Organization Email:** <u>info@el-sadat.org</u>

**Parliament(s) Monitored:** Egyptian People's Assembly (National); Council of Tala City, Menofia Governorate (local level)

**About:** Mission: 1- Improving the quality of life of the marginalized and the poorest of the poor; 2- Promoting the development of cultural, social and voluntary work; 3- Empowering & merging community members to address and overcome obstacles and challenges; 4- Promoting & activating political participation.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- Monitoring & Analysis: Attending sessions of parliament, publishing reports, and organizing public hearings and issue based workshops with MPs and community members.
- Advocacy: The Association is concerned about activating citizen's role in political participation and aims to raise their awareness of human rights & the importance of civil society role, also on empowering women at their social & political levels and organizing programs that encourage the youth for political participation through the Local Councils and gathering citizens' opinion in constitutional amendments and proposed legislations that affect their lives. Moreover, the Association conducts capacity building for inactive CSOs in order to form a «Dynamic CSOs Network»

Sample: Contact Abdallah Helmy: nozz11@hotmail.com

## **Other Activities:**

- 1- women empowerment 2- youth employment 3- poverty reduction 4- community development 5- community participatory planning
- Since the establishment of the Association, we focused on improving the quality of life for members/citizens of Tala's community through using PRA (Participatory Rapid Approach) with the participation of community members in order to satisfy their social, health, educational, economic and environmental needs, while focusing on the marginalized groups of women and children.
- The Association focuses on networking with different stakeholders and participation of community members in implementing the projects activities to enhance and strengthen good morals/ethics among community members. Project activities such as: cooperation between them (in spite of the gender or religion), sense of belonging, development of personal skills, enhancing the cultural and artistic talents of children and participating in raising the awareness of community members through social and voluntary work.

• The Association works on empowering & merging all community members to develop their skills in different fields and to make the best use of human power and financial resources through their participation in designing/writing and implementing projects activities, participation in raising awareness campaigns and conducting field studies to address their needs and identify the available resources.

#### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• International: Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), NED, NDI; National: Egyptian Democratic Institute

#### Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Two full-time staff and 26 full-time interns/volunteers, as well as 20 part-time interns/volunteers work on its parliamentary monitoring activities.

## Egypt: Egyptian Democratic Institute (EDI)

www.edi-egypt.com (Arabic, English)

Director: Mr. Emad Ramadan

Organization Email: edi\_egypt2006@yahoo.com

**Parliament(s) Supported:** Egyptian Parliament (Majlis Al-Shaab); Shoura Egyptian Council (Majlis Al-Shoura)

**About:** EDI is a non-profit civil organization working in the civil society field to support democracy and legislation/advocacy of the Egyptian civil society.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- Monitoring: Annual monitoring of the performance of the legislature.
- Legislative Review: EDI conducts seminars and workshops to discuss law projects which are discussed at the Parliament and/or Shoura council, and recently these activities were added to our website as a free service to Media and to Public as well.
- **Reporting:** "Parliament Today" section on the website discusses recent activities within Parliament and the status of bills.

Sample: <u>Parliament Today</u> (http://www.edi-egypt.com/en/parlamn-today)

## **Other Activities:**

• Democratic schools project (funded by MEPI). Training school students to form internal parliament and to learn/aware them about the election procedure over a three days activity in each school

## Active partnerships with international organizations:

• NED; MEPI

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Eight full time staff and 4 part time staff and 9 volunteers/interns work on monitoring projects.

## Egypt: Human Rights Association for Community Development in Assuit (AHRA)

www.assuithumanrights.org (Arabic)

Director: Ms. Naglaa El Dawy

Organization Email: <u>hra\_2004@yahoo.com</u>

**Parliament(s) Supported:** Assuit Local Council, Egypt; Local Councils in 11 Districts in Assuit Governorate, Egypt.

**About:** Human Rights Association for Community Development in Assuit is a nongovernmental, non-partisan, and non-for-profit organization. It was founded in 2004 according to Law no. 84-2002 and its executive regulation concerning NGOs in Egypt. Association's Mission: Human Rights Association for Community Development in Assuit works to promote and protect human rights through calling for citizens' empowerment without discrimination and implementing sustainable development programs under institutional and moral bases and values.

#### **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

• Evaluation forms (starting from August 2009 till now).

Sample: <u>Governance Program</u> (<u>http://www.assuithumanrights.org/da3m.php</u>)

#### **Other Activities:**

- "The South Forum for Human Rights and Freedoms" Project funded by The Secretary for State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. Activities include: Building and strengthening Coalition "Together for Freedoms and Rights"; designing and leading a pre-assessment study to measure knowledge, skills, and attitudes of target groups (NGO leaders, lawyers, police officers, and journalists); Holding workshops; leading member NGOs to mobilize the community and advocate against torture, violence, etc.
- "Assuit Legal Clinic for Women's and Children's Rights" funded by USAID. Its activities include: developing and crafting a practical manual for law students; conduct human rights teaching and awareness sessions; holding practical training courses; Establishing and operating three legal clinics.
- "Accept You to Accept Me" Project funded by MEPI. Activities include: Holding awareness sessions for youth in Assuit Governorate; Holding roundtable discussions with local leaders;
- "Towards A Healthy & Clean Environment" Project funded by European Union & Social Fund. Activities include: Collecting solid waste and using it in recycling so that the outcome is ready to be used in plastic industries and fertilizers; Holding awareness seminars; Coordinating with religious figures to give awareness messages during religious events; An awareness section at the local schools to contribute to raising environmentally responsible children.

- "Reform and Democracy Actions in Upper Egypt" Project funded by Freedom House. Activities include: Conducting training workshops for groups to participate in public life in 3 governorates.
- "No Terrorism, No Violence" Project. Activities include: Training detainees on transferring their experience in the harms they have brought to themselves because of using violence; Training stakeholders; Organizing 'Tolerance Day' events for Assuit community to develop cohesiveness and unity; Holding a camp for youths to provide opportunity for discussion, and exchange of ideas.
- The Association has an office for receiving complaints.

## Active partnerships with international organizations:

• Foundation Open Society Institute (FOSI), a Swiss charitable foundation; MEPI; European Union & Social Fund; Freedom House; NDI; USAID; British Embassy; The Secretary for State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Three full time staff and 3 part time staff/interns work on monitoring projects.

## Egypt: Justice And Citizenship Center For Human Rights (JCCHRS)

Director: Mr. Emad Abdalkawi Organization Email: jcchrs.minia@yahoo.com Parliament(s) Supported: The Local Council for the Governorate of Minia, Egypt

**About:** Justice and Citizenship Center For Human Rights "JCCHR" is a non-profit organization founded in 2006 – according to the Egyptian Civil regulations – to work on the dissemination and promotion of the culture of democracy and Human Rights in Egypt generally, and Upper Egypt specifically.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

The Justice and Citizenship Center for Human Rights (JCCHR) pilot a local council monitoring program for the governorate of Minia. The center targets five local councils, El Minia, Samalut, Matay, Abo Korkas and Mallawi. As part of this program, the association observes and report on local council meetings, develop and administer surveys to local government officials and citizens, disseminate information to the public on local government activities, and organize discussions among local government officials, community leaders and media professionals.

- JCCHR hires and trains 5 local council monitors who are local journalists with experience reporting on local councils. Each is assigned to one local council and attends and regularly reports on plenary and committee meetings. Monitors complete observation forms for every session attended that track how council session agendas are set and followed, and also track the availability of and access to supporting documents and records for issues raised during sessions.
- To assess the performance, effectiveness and transparency of local government, JCCHR monitors also administer baseline, midterm, and final surveys. JCCHR monitors also conduct monthly in-person interviews with five appointed executive officials and 20 elected local council members in each council to assess changes in knowledge and perceptions of the role and functions of local government.
- JCCHR's researchers compile and distribute an analysis of the surveys and observations from the council sessions through three, 10-page quarterly reports and one 100-page final report. Two-hundred fifty copies of each Arabic-language report will be printed and distributed to civil society organizations, political parties, mass media, and interested citizens.
- JCCHR have formed 5 committees of local support each contains 20 citizen who presents all communities of the local community, and also 10 local council members, all that aims to promote transparency and accountable in the performance of local councils, in order to involve the citizen and the process of decision making in the local community and also to promote the performance of the local councils. These committees handle the process of determining and classifying the social problems through surveys, and receiving complaints

from citizens, and how the consolers deal with them, discuss it and make recommendations about it to be added to the annual government plan, JCCHR also control the terms of the budget devoted to each local council, drain expenses, The quality of implementation, find if there's any deviations and takes necessary steps to correct them.

• Monitoring and control, documentation and dissemination of information and issue statements and reports; Organizing courses, workshops, symposia, seminars, in capacity building and development of knowledge and skills in the area of democracy and human rights; Cooperation and coordination with the Egyptian and regional organizations and international working in the field of democracy and human rights.

#### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• NED: Community Participation to Activate Local Councils

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Fifteen part time staff/interns work on monitoring projects.

## Egypt: Mogtamaana for Development and Human Rights Association (OCDAHR)

Director: Ms. Abeer Shehata Organization Email: <u>mogtamaana@gmail.com</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Egyptian People's Assembly

**About:** Mogtamaana believes that justice is a basic pillar of war intellectual construction, and that no one can achieve her hopes unless it is within affair social system. Our society "Mogtamaana", answers its belief in the fundamental human rights and the dignity of each individual person, also it emphasize on every person's right of expression and belief ,and that education must be faced on understanding and tolerance. Mogtamaana considers the (universal decade for human rights) culture, and respects the basic freedoms without any distinction because of colour, race, gender, beliefs or language. It believes in equality between men and women taking into consideration the universal declaration of human rights.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

• **Monitoring:** WHO is monitoring the performance of councils Almhalipan through followup meetings of the local council on a regular basis and meetings with the executive branch. It is monitoring through the performance of local councils and the role that is whether members represent the elite and Almenkachat. Methodology followed by the organization: Conduct a survey of 600 citizens from 3 centers with a total 2400 respondents for the duration of the project to monitor the change in the performance of local centers. The researcher analyzed the data and information and issued a report to monitor. Then the organization will hold a round table to discuss the report and recommendations of discernible members for the report on the problems and how to foster those problems within the Council and then follow the performance of the organization members and adoption issues in a positive way End of the project to prepare a study on local councils in the targeted areas, which are part of the local performance (A copy of the report of monitoring)

## **Other Activities:**

• Working to empower citizens to participate in political decision-making and development at the local level through a range of activities related to election-year: Activate the participation of citizens in public affairs; In the period after the elections to build bridges of communication and cooperation between citizens and participatory elected councils and executive boards; Formation of groups of stakeholders, local communities and provide them with information and skills to identify local needs urgent and priority setting for her future plans to ward them off, and develop mechanisms for sustainability of such efforts.

## Active partnerships with international organizations:

1. Technical support for the Association by NDI; 2. NED; 3. Society has two scholarships consecutive to monitor the performance of local councils of the NED to in 2009-2010; 4.

Partners in the coalition of support for change on its activities during the period of the Shura Council elections 2010, NED

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Six full time staff and 113 part time staff/interns work on monitoring projects.

## El Salvador: Fundación Salvadoreña para el Desarrollo Económico y Social (FUSADES)

Director: Mr. Antonio Cabrales Organization Email: <u>fusades@fusades.org</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Legislative Assembly of El Salvador

**About:** Fusades is a private, apolitical, non-profit organization. It was created in 1983 by a group of businessmen with the vision of improving economic and social conditions in El Salvador. Our mission is to be a highly credible think tank and research center that promotes economic and social progress for all Salvadorans through sustainable development within a system of democracy and individual liberties.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

• Monitoring & Analysis: Fusades has a Legislative Observatory website that monitors the legislative branches' actions at the national level. The Observatory allows for civil society participation through surveys and discussion forums regarding recent developments. The Observatory publishes a weekly newsletter containing the development of the plenary session.

Sample: <u>Observatory Website</u> (<u>http://www.observatoriolegislativo.org.sv/index.php</u>)

### **Other Activities:**

• Permanent study of the economic, social and environmental situation to propose and promote opinions and policy alternatives which permit sustainable development in El Salvador. Also works in areas such as justice, crime, rule of law, and transparency.

## Active partnerships with international organizations:

- UNDP
- UNDEF

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Eight full-time staff, five part-time staff.

## European Parliament: EP Vote

www.epvote.eu (English)

Director: Mr. Laurent Uhres Organization Email: <u>info@epvote.eu</u> Parliament(s) Supported: European Parliament

**About:** EP Vote tracks the votes in the European Parliament. It is an innovative tool for anyone who wants to know more about the EU legislation and the MEPs' votes; it gives an overview of the voting, according to the country, political groups and MEPs. We provide indispensable information for researchers, journalists, students, NGOs activist and anyone who is doing research, writing, analyzing or simply interested in lawmaking at the EU level.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- **Monitoring:** The EP Vote project was created to be the first, on-line, user-friendly, reliable ٠ and completely independent source of information about the directions of the European Union's policies. The EP Vote gives Europeans the opportunity to influence the lawmaking at the EU level. The EU citizens visiting our website can not only efficiently check the votes of their representatives, see the turnout of their work – instead of just their attendance – and, above all see their votes classified in the main European policies, such as: environment, human rights or regional development. This information will allow EU citizens to see whether their MEPs represent them at the EU level as they said they would. With this information, every European will be given the real image of the Europe's representatives at the highest level. In this view thus, the EP Vote project sets new standards of the European transparency. The EP Vote also presents the law projects that shall be presented at the European Parliament, which is indispensable in order to keep EU citizens informed about the current European discussions.
- **Facilitating Citizen Participation:** The next step of our project is to give the voice to the European citizens, as foreseen in the Lisbon Treaty. The EP Vote shall be the very first EU petition platform, allowing the pan-European discussion panel on the law propositions. In that sense, our project; reflecting the real image of the EU and becoming the European opinions' exchange platform is the first move towards the participative democracy.

#### Sample: <u>www.epvote.eu</u>

#### **Other Activities:**

• None

## Active partnerships with international organizations:

• None. EP Vote is a pro bono organization.

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Two full time staff work on monitoring projects.

## France: Regards Citoyens

www.regardscitoyens.org; www.nosdeputes.fr (French)

**Director:** N/A

Organization Email: <a href="mailto:contact@regardscitoyens.org">contact@regardscitoyens.org</a>

Parliament(s) Supported: Assemblée Nationale, France and Sénat, France

**About:** Regards Citoyens is a non-profit non-partisan organization assembling different citizens from all over France who work on their spare time on various open data projects for democracy. They promote, encourage and participate in the collection, organization, diffusion and reutilization of public data – especially parliamentary data. Its ongoing initiative is a parliamentary monitoring project of all members of the French National Assembly (NosDeputes.fr). This site offers an opportunity to comment on the work of the MPs and the legislative texts they are discussing. Regards Citoyens also proposed a study on electoral data and co-organized an OpenData Camp in Paris to promote the reuse of public data.

#### **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- **Monitoring:** The NosDeputes.fr website provides a close to exhaustive collection of any kind of legislative activity practiced by all the members of the French National Assembly sorted by name, party or place of election. Regards Citoyens records and counts all oral and written questions to the government, amendments to laws, and attendance and participation in commission meetings and hemicycle sessions. All of this data is updated on a daily basis.
- Analysis: Regards Citoyens gives full access to this data and displays them with plots along time for each MP. It proposes ways to compare all of the MPs with those counts for the past year. It also proposes a tag cloud of the main keywords used by a MP during his interventions and time-ordered lists of the folders they were involved in. In addition to the quantitative evaluation offered by their data, user comments provide a qualitative form of parliamentary monitoring. Regards Citoyens also offers the possibility for users to comment line by line on legislative texts coming to debate into the Assembly.
- **Reporting:** Regards Citoyens participates in the comments by following on a frequent basis the debates at both Assemblies including the Senate and provides reports, analysis and information on the functioning and the application of the chamber rules.

#### Sample: <u>www.nosdeputes.fr</u>

#### **Other Activities:**

• Regards Citoyens tries to promote the idea of open and free access to public data so it can be reused for innovative applications such as parliamentary monitoring in France. It participates in this work by aggregating and reorganizing data.

#### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• Regards Citoyens is in contact with other PMO's around the globe and participates in international events where they can exchange such as Berlin in October or the Open Knowledge

Conference in London. They are in regular contact with the Open Knowledge Foundation and will propose a French version of their OpenData repertory tool CKAN by the end of 2010.

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Regards Citoyens has 0 full time and 8 part time staff/interns.

# Georgia: Transparency International Georgia

www.transparency.ge (Georgian, English)

Managing Director: Mr. Mathias Huter Organization Email: <u>info@transparency.ge</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Parliament of Georgia

**About:** TI Georgia is a Georgian NGO committed to combating corruption in Georgia through promoting transparency and accountability. TI Georgia is the national chapter of Transparency International, the only international movement exclusively devoted to curbing corruption throughout the world. Our vision is to serve as the primary source of information for both the government and the broader public on corruption and reform in Georgia, to work with the Georgian Government and other organizations to limit the discretion of government officials, to strengthen institutions, and combat corruption.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

TI Georgia has implemented three different projects between 2004 and 2008:

- 1. **The Majoritarian Project:** Aimed to promote interaction between the majoritarian parliamentarians (elected through single mandate districts) and their electorates. The project focused on increasing transparency and accountability of parliament, and raising public awareness of and increasing citizen's input into the legislative process. Activities included launching a nationwide civic education campaign to inform citizens of these MPs' duties and assisting the MPs in organizing open public meetings: http://transparency.ge/index.php?lang id=ENG&sec id=190&info id=459.
- 2. **TI Georgia's Office in Parliament:** This office disseminated draft laws in advance of their consideration and organized public discussions about them. The Office was in constant communication with lawmakers, CSOs, interest groups and ordinary citizens both inside and outside Tbilisi and conducted roundtable conferences and other meetings to increase public participation in the legislative process. TIG consolidated citizen and CSO feedback and provided recommendations in a single, accessible dossier while parliament was still considering the draft. See: <u>http://transparency.ge/en/project/transparency-international-georgia-office-parliament</u>
- 3. **Developing and Signing of the Code of Ethics with the Georgian Parliament:** The project encouraged professional behavior of MPs and the strengthening of democratic values within parliament. The project assisted the members of the new parliament to develop a Code of Ethics, organize the public signing of the code, and to ensure the greatest possible publicity for this event. The Code of Ethics was signed in 2004 by 138 parliament members (out of 220).
- 4. **Parliamentary Outreach in Georgia's region of Samtskhe-Javheti:** TIG translated the tax code into Russian, the preferred language in this region, and brought a tax code expert to meet with citizens and help aggregate their concerns with the tax code bill. Pamphlets and

brochures outlining how the new tax code regulations affect local businesses and individuals were produced to raise public awareness and participation in the legislative process.

#### **Other Activities:**

• Increase access of local populations to information on corruption and on reform; Establish programmatic activities that target structural corruption in specific sectors; Offer policy recommendations to the Georgian Government based on feedback and analysis; Assist the Government in drafting carefully constructed policy; Encourage input on reform from local and international experts; Produce analysis and public policy on current activities and on future reform.

#### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• OSCE mission in Georgia; British Embassy in Georgia; SIDA; Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Twelve full time and four part time staff/interns currently work on monitoring projects.

# Germany: Opendata Network

http://opendata-network.org/ (German)

Director: Daniel Dietrich Organization Email: <u>info@opendata-network.org</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Deutscher Bundestag, Parliament, Germany

**About:** Opendata Network Germany is an umbrella organization that seeks to promote open government, open data and transparency in Germany. It supports projects such as Parliamentary Monitoring Organizations, as well as conducts research and consultations to help German authorities open their data and become more transparent.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- Monitoring & Analysis: The Opendata Network supports several comprehensive parliamentary monitoring websites with the aim of greater transparency to increase accountability and participation.
- Wahl.de & Deutschland-API are tools to aggregate information about parliamentarians in Germany. All information aggregated is available via open API to other projects.
   Sample: <u>http://deutschland-api.de</u>, <u>http://wahl.de</u>
- Wahlversprechen.info aims to hold parliamentarians accountable for their election promises. This tracking tool allows citizens to track election promises of parliamentarians and parties. It is searchable by parliamentarians, party and district.

Sample: http://wahlversprechen.info

• The BundesTagger makes the plenary protocols of the German parliament accessible. Citizens can annotate text sections and speeches in Parliament with tags.

Sample: <u>http://bundestagger.de</u>

• We are also supporting the work behind the scenes for an open parliament website. This site is to launch by the end of the year and offer comprehensive information about parliamentarians their voting behavior and their side income and membership of other groups and institutions.

Sample: http://openbundestag.de/

## **Other Activities:**

• Lobbying for open data, open government, transparency and participation. This includes research, consultations and public events.

## Active partnerships with international organizations:

• Open Knowledge Foundation

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Opendata has 5 part time volunteers and about 150 supporters who work on its parliamentary monitoring projects.

# Guatemala: Acción Ciudadana

http://www.accionciudadana.org.gt/ (Spanish)

Director: Mr. Manfredo Marroquín Organization Email: <u>accionciudadana@accionciudadana.org.gt</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Congreso de la República de Guatemala

**About:** Acción Ciudadana is a civil society organization that has, since 1996, has promoted the vision of an active citizenry and been committed to the construction of democracy in Guatemala. Their mission is to foster a solid political culture among citizens, and to promote democratic values and practices in the government on the basis of citizen participation and transparency. Acción Ciudadana is the national chapter of Transparency International, the global civil society organization that Works for the promotion of transparency and fights corruption. The relationship with Transparency International has strengthened the work of Acción Ciudadana in several areas, linking our actions to larger strategies and to regional and global networks.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- Visible Congress Program: (1996-2003) Completed. Activities: Monitored legislative activity, including legislative outputs, initiatives in law, decrees, points resolved, legislative agreements, and committee work. Products: Analysis of Congressional functioning, Guides for the supervision and political control of the Congress, foundations of legislative information on various topics, protocol for the supervision and political control, a guide for public hearings, Basic profiles of representatives.
- Technical Assistance for Institutional Strengthening and a Democratic Congress: (2005-2009) Completed. Activities: Monitored the correlation between congressional strength, parliamentary turnover, ethnic and racial composition, and thematic priorities in the law. Includes work with committees, and initiatives involving law, pronouncements, approved decrees, legislative actions and resolutions. Monitored the supervisory activity of representatives in parliament and working committees. Monitored the advancement of legal initiatives related to transparency and the fight against corruption.
- Index of Parliamentary Transparency: (2007) Completed.

Sample: http://www.accionciudadana.org.gt/

## **Other Activities:**

- Access to information regarding public institutions, through the establishment of indicators to determine the level of citizen access to public information.
- Monitored the advances in the compliance with the commitments made for Guatemala in international conventions on combatting corruption, such as the Convención Interamericana contra la Corrupción (Interamerican Convention Against Corruption) and the Convención de Naciones Unidas contra la Corrupción (Convention of Nations United Against Corruption)

and the compliance with the Declaración de Guatemala por una Región Libre de Corrupción (Declaration of Guatemala for a Region Free of Corruption).

• Monitored campaign financing in the election process of 2007 in Guatemala.

## Active partnerships with international organizations:

• Agencia Sueca de Cooperación; USAID

## Number of full-time staff and part-time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Two full time staff work on monitoring projects

## Honduras: Fundación Democracia sin Fronteras (FDsF)

www.fdsf.hn (English, Spanish)

Director: Sra. Ana Pineda Organization Email: <u>info@fdsf.hn</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: National Congress of the Republic of Honduras

**About:** The FDsF is a non-profit, non-governmental organization created to have an agile leadership oriented toward action on behalf of the Honduran public. Their mission is to strengthen democracy and contribute to the prosperity of the Central American region through access to information, freedom of expression, greater transparency, environmental justice and respect for human rights. It aims to assist Central Americans in increasing participation in their democracies and economies, thus reducing the inequality and corruption that stand in the way of their development.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

• **Monitoring:** The FDsF began monitoring the National Congress of Honduras in 2006, and continues to the present. It monitors legislative activity of the 128 legislators, noting their party, activity in each session, attendance and activity on committees. The FDsF also monitors the legislative process, including the number and content of bills being debated. It examines trends in the legislature by year, productivity of special commissions, and how public funds are managed by the congress, particularly discretionary spending and subsidies.

Sample: Directorio Legislativo (http://www.directoriolegislativo.hn/index.php)

#### **Other Activities:**

• Strengthening the capacity of citizens for the exercise of auditing for the Budget of Public Parks in the city of Campamento. Assisted in the approval of the Law for the Protection of Forested Areas and Wildlife, offering a new opportunity for the population to develop reforestation projects. This fostered a foresting community which incorporated communities in activities of protection and maintenance of the forest.

#### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• Delegation of the EC in Honduras, The International Budget Project (IBP), and the Centro para las Políticas Internacionales

#### Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Two full time staff and 23 part time staff/interns work on monitoring projects.

# India: PRS Legislative Research (PRS)

www.prsindia.org (English)

Director: CV Madhukar

Organization Email: prsindia@prsindia.org

**Parliament(s) Supported:** Parliament of India (Both chambers – Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha); Has initiated effort to provide research support to elected representatives in 30 state legislatures.

**About:** "PRS aims to deepen and broaden the legislative process by providing MPs the analysis they need for debates in Parliament. We seek out and analyse inputs from a range of stakeholders to provide MPs across party lines with objective and non-partisan analysis." PRS also makes much of its work available to the public, and works closely with local and national media. It is one of the only organizations in the country that tracks the functioning of parliament. All of its work is freely available on its website. PRS is incubated by the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, which is an autonomous institution set up in 1973. Its main objectives are to provide thought leadership and creative solutions to address pressing intellectual and policy issues."

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- Legislative Analysis: Legislative Briefs are prepared based on Bills that are pending in Parliament. These are easy-to-understand 4-6 page documents providing a jargon-free, non-partisan overview of the issues and implications of Bills. Each Brief channelizes stakeholder inputs about the provisions of the Bill and is sent to all MPs, as well as journalists, CSOs, and corporations. Bill tracking and summaries of bills and committee meetings, bi-monthly email on legislative activities, and daily news briefings are also available. Sample: <u>The</u> <u>Women's Reservation Bill (http://bit.ly/idIcgF</u>)</u>
- Monitoring & Analysis: Legislative session reports recap each session including activities conducted and legislation considered. Sample: <u>Plan vs. Performance: Winter 2009</u> (<u>http://bit.ly/5M7jeI</u>)
- **Tracking Activity:** MP tracking compares MP attendance, questions asked, and debate participation to state and national averages; Vital Statistics webpage includes comparisons of these areas by party and gender, as well as other statistics related to legislative functioning. **Sample:** <u>PRS MP Track (http://bit.ly/aJxSJJ</u>)
- Institutional Reform: Activities examine issues of parliamentary and institutional reform; significant among these is the annual PRS Conference that has explored such themes as 'Financial Oversight' and 'Balance between the Executive and the Legislature'. Sample: <u>The First 100 Days</u>; <u>PRS Conference on Effective Legislatures 2009 (http://bit.ly/dCvtFS)</u>

## **Other Activities:**

• Journalist Workshop Series has trained over 1,000 journalists across 20 states on legislative reporting; Press support to provide inputs to press on a frequent basis; State Law Project to

create searchable database (<u>www.lawsofindia.org</u>) with information from 30 state legislatures; 'Analysis' competition for law school and post-grads on bill analysis;

- India Leadership Workshop for Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs): Enables interactions between MLAs and experts. (http://prsindia.org/mla)
- Legislative Assistants To Members of Parliament (LAMP) Fellowship: Provides a platform for young Indians to support MPs in their Parliamentary duties. (<u>http://www.prsindia.org/lamp</u>)

Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• 12 full time and 1-2 part time staff/interns

# Ireland: myGOV/KildareStreet.com

kildarestreet.com (English)

Director: Mr. John Handelaar Organization Email: <u>team@kildarestreet.com</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Parliament of Ireland

**About:** myGOV/KildareStreet.com seeks to find things that are broken at the interface between government and voters, and build open web projects which try to fix the breakages. In the Irish context that has a strong early lean towards transparency applications.

#### **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

• Monitoring: Like mySociety's TheyWorkForYou.com in the UK (which source code is currently used by KildareStreet.com) our parliamentary work concentrates on making the activities of elected officials more easily understood and more transparent. KildareStreet takes source material of parliamentary transcripts from the official source and adds semantic meaning -- like assigning words to their speakers -- and (for the first time ever) a search facility. This, rather than prescribing what information \*we\* think is important, simply provides a previously-nonexistent ability to visitors for them to discover what information they're interested in. We've also added RSS feeds per member of parliament, and generate feeds and email alerts for search phrases. Additional per-member information like salary and expenses data (due for publication within days at the time of writing) has been acquired through FOI requests and processed by volunteer labour; the Register of Members Interests is the next obvious data source to process. We have not, as yet, moved into tracking voting records and may choose not do so -- Ireland's representatives never, ever vote against party.

#### Sample: http://kildarestreet.com

#### **Other Activities:**

- **Application Development:** myGOV/KildareStreet.com is developing a geospatial framework to map addresses to electoral districts in order to permit the development of an analogue of the UK's WriteToThem.com as well as a range of other possible civic apps which require location information (necessary because of non-free geographic data and Ireland's lack of a postcode system).
- Website Development: myGOV/KildareStreet.com has also made significant headway on a new open-source project to replace the web front-end of MySociety's TheyWorkForYou while leaving its back-end tools and databases untouched -- the intention is to make that application language- and parliament-agnostic by use of generic models and internationalisation/localisation/translation facilities, and enable non-Anglophone use of what we think is the best starting app in the field.

### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• No formal partnerships. KildareStreet.com was built on the source code of TheyWorkForYou (mySociety).

## Number of full-time staff and part-time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• One full-time volunteer and 3 part-time volunteers work on KildareStreet.com.

## Italy: Openpolis Association

www.openpolis.it; www.openparlamento.it; voisietequi (Italien)

Director: Mr. Guglielmo Celata Organization Email: info@openpolis.it

Parliament(s) Monitored: Italian Parliament; Elected officials throughout Italy

**About:** Openpolis projects were produced by <u>Depp Ltd</u> (now Openpolis) in collaboration with <u>Smaug / memefarmers</u>. With these initial contributions arose the Openpolis Association which was equipped with free sites <u>openparlamento</u>, <u>openpolis</u> and <u>voisietequi</u> to achieve their goals. The Association aims to use technology and network to promote public transparency and participation of persons control choices of interest. The aim of the project is to revive the bond between the citizens and their representatives. We would like to give individuals or organized group of citizens, a set of tools to enable them to perform lobbying activities.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- <u>Openparlamento.it</u>: Allows visitors to track legislative progress, votes and Members of Parliament using official data from the Italian Parliament. The platform lets users comment, vote and amend acts of Parliament. It also supplies official legislative texts and rss feeds.
- <u>Openpolis.it</u>: Openpolis is a project to gather information on the Italian political class, including all elected officials, and to make it transparent. This information includes how they vote once elected, what laws they propose, the roles they play within the institutions they serve, affiliations with political parties and private organizations, public declarations, financial interests, judicial positions etc.
- <u>Voisietequi.it</u>: Allows visitors to compare their political positions to the official positions of Italy's political parties, based on the party's responses to 25 survey questions asked by Openpolis.

## **Other Activities:**

• We have a project named <u>eDem 1.0</u> which has been so far installed twice: <u>municipiopartecipato.it</u> focuses in enabling e-participation of local communities on the "participatory budget"; and <u>edem-regione</u> on the budget of the Regione Lazio (the link points to an alpha version).

## Active partnerships with international organizations:

• None

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Four full time staff work on monitoring projects.

# Jordan: Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development (HCCSD)

www.hayatcenter.org (English, Arabic)

Director: Dr. Amer Bani Amer Organization Email: <u>g.director@hayatcenter.org</u> Parliament Monitored: Jordan Lower House

**About:** Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development is an independent non-profit entity that aims at achieving sustainable development in Jordan, through building the capacity of local and regional communities to meet current and future development challenges. This is achieved through empowering positive attitudes and ethics that encourage creative thinking, problem solving and decision making, gender awareness, and proper public participation. It promotes equality, equity, justice, rule of law, good governance, community service and interfaith and intercultural dialogue on the individual and organizational levels.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- **Monitoring:** Monitoring the performance of Members of Parliament, as well as the government's reactions and responses to parliamentary performance.
- **Monitoring:** Monitoring the impact of local communities and special interest groups on the performance of members of Parliament through observations of media coverage of parliamentary initiatives, activities, and achievements.
- Advocacy: Building bridges between Members of Parliament and local communities, and facilitating interactions between Members of Parliament and special interest groups through conducting discussion forums and round tables in each region of Jordan, through conducting women and youth field visits to parliament, and through a website specially developed and dedicated for this project <u>www.parliament-gate.net</u>.

## **Other Activities:**

• Enhancing citizens' participation in the electoral process, and increasing voter turnout; Monitoring the parliamentary Elections; Enhancing civil society's role in parliamentary monitoring by building Jordanian citizens' understanding of their constitutional rights and duties, the legal and judicial systems in Jordan, and of the concepts of good governance and the rule of law; Hosting trainings on communication and leadership skills, as well as advocacy techniques; Building the capacity of the local authorities and CSOs; Enhancing the international cultural exchanges and religious dialogue among young Jordanians.

## Active partnerships with international organizations:

• European Union Delegation in Jordan; NDI; CIDA

## Number of full-time staff and part-time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Thirteen full-time staff, 12 part-time interns/volunteers, 4 part-time consultants.

## Jordan: Al-Quds Center for Political Studies

www.alqudscenter.org (Arabic, English); www.jpm.jo (Arabic)

Director: Mr. Oraib Al-Rantawi Organization Email: <u>info@alqudscenter.org</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: House of Representatives, Jordan

**About:** Al-Quds Center for Political Studies is an independent research institute. The center aims to provide a comprehensive and more accurate understanding of the developments and challenges which the Jordanian state and society are facing. The center focuses on political reform and democratization processes in Jordan.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- Monitoring & Analysis: From October 2008 December 2009, the Al-Quds Center for Political Studies, along with the National Democratic Institute, engaged in an innovative and multi-faceted pilot project titled the Jordanian Parliament Monitor (JPM). The project was launched in order to improve the overall efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of the Jordanian parliament at both the individual and institutional levels. It provides Jordan's citizens with reliable information that can be used to monitor their elected representatives' track records on key issues.
- Advocacy: The Al-Quds Center seeks to enhance the participation of Jordanian citizens in the democratic system. The JPM project conducted important outreach during its first year of operation. The Al-Quds Center carried out 15 events in all 12 governorates of Jordan with a total of over 600 participants, including 36 MPs, 14 ministers and ex-ministers, senior government officials, more than 40 academics, 27 journalists, and hundreds of activists. The project reached representatives from 18 political parties (including new ones or those still in the process of registration), 163 civil society organizations, and 32 municipalities. In addition, the monitoring reports are distributed to over 10,000 mailing list subscribers worldwide, creating an important global outreach.

#### Sample: <u>Jordanian Parliamentary Monitor</u> (http://www.jpm.jo/)

## **Other Activities:**

• Al-Quds Center activities and programs are divided into three main categories: political Islam, democracy and regional conflicts. The Center published dozens of manuals and books, and has organized several international and local conferences covering these three categories. The Center has formed local and regional networks, such as "The Policy Forum," "The Network for Reform and Democratic Change in the Arab World" and "Towards a Civic Democratic Islamic Discourse." The Center also organizes training workshops and conducts numerous public surveys.

#### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• The JPM is funded by NDI and is logistically helped by 12 civil society organizations covering the 12th governorates of Jordan.

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• There are six full-time and three part-time staff working on monitoring projects.

## Kenya: Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI)

www.muhuri.org (English)

Director: Mr. Hussein Khalid Organization Email: <u>muhuri@swifmombasa.org</u> Parliament(s) Supported: Legislature of Kenya; Local Authorities in Coastal Provinces

**About:** Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI) is a non-governmental organization based on the coast of Kenya. It began in 1997 to promote the struggle for human rights, with a view of contributing towards the national and international struggle to promote and protect the enjoyment of human rights and civil liberties by all. MUHURI's mission is to promote the struggle of human rights by individuals and social groups.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

• **Monitoring:** MUHURI focuses on the prudent management of public funds. With international partners, it has pioneered work on social accountability in Kenya. MUHURI has worked primarily with constituency development funds (CDFs) to enhance citizen participation in the identification, implementation and monitoring of community development projects.

### **Other Activities:**

- Access to Justice Program, which works with justice actors to ensure arrested persons get a fair trial including having their cases heard and determined in the shortest time possible.
- Peace and Security Program, which creates a platform for communities and security authorities to work together to promote peace including fighting terrorism.
- Land Rights Project, which advocates for the right for locals to own land.

## Active partnerships with international organizations:

• Open Society Institute of East Africa (OSIEA), IBP, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS)

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• MUHURI has 4 full time and 2 part time staff/interns.

## Kenya: Mzalendo

www.mzalendo.com (English)

Director: Ms. Ory Okolloh Organization Email: <u>info@mzalendo.com</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Kenyan National Assembly

**About:** Mzalendo is a volunteer run project whose mission is to "keep an eye on the Kenyan Parliament." The project was started by two young like-minded Kenyans who were frustrated by the fact that it is difficult to hold Kenyan Members of Parliament (MPs) accountable for their performance largely because information about their work in Parliament is not easily accessible. In our opinion Parliament should be one of the most open institutions in government, yet beyond the coverage from local newspapers it is virtually impossible to keep track of what Kenyan Parliamentarians are doing. Of course one can peruse copies of the Hansard, but one has to go through an arduous process to get access to Hansard copies from the Government Printer's Office and most people do not have the time to filter through the dense information that is contained in the Hansard hard copies.

Mzalendo is a project that evolved out of several concerns. First, it is very difficult to get information about what Kenyan Members of Parliament are doing when in Parliament. Though the Hansard offers a verbatim transcript of Parliamentary proceedings it is not widely circulated or accessible. In addition, even if one could get access to the Hansard, extracting relevant information can be time consuming. Furthermore, there is virtually no way of knowing what government business is being conducted in Parliament; for instance, the contents of draft bills are rarely publicized. Second, the Kenyan government is still very much a "closed society" — the default de facto presumption is that the public does not have a right know unless they have special permission. The fact that the official Parliament website is still shut down after an uproar from some MPs who were upset that their resumes were available online is a testament to this. By focusing on one of the major government institutions that should be the most accessible, Mzalendo aims to both "open" up Parliament and demonstrate that it is both possible and necessary for Kenyans to demand and expect more accountability from public institutions. Third, by relying on technology and the Internet, Mzalendo hopes to be especially accessible to young Kenyans. Young people will soon represent the largest voting bloc in Kenya and we believe that it is important to both get them engaged in public participation in ways that are appealing to them and give them the tools that will facilitate this engagement. In the near future, the site will offer interactive features including a discussion board, individual constituency blogs, and an opportunity to ask your MP questions and get a response online.

#### **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

• **Monitoring:** Mzalendo is website and weblog dedicated to monitoring the Kenyan Parliament. It provides access to the Hansard, bills coming before Parliament, motions,

questions, and other parliamentary business. It also publishes profiles of MPs and provides a forum for visitors to comment on their work.

#### Sample: <u>www.mzalendo.com</u>

### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• OSI (in the past), Omidyar Network

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Mzalendo has 2 part-time volunteers.

## Kenya: The Institute for Social Accountability (TISA)

www.tisa.or.ke (English)

Director: Ms. Wanjiru Gikonyo Organization Email: <u>info@tisa.or.ke</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Kenyan Parliament

**About:** The Institute for Social Accountability (TISA) is a civil society initiative committed towards the achievement of sound policy and good governance in local development in Kenya, to uplift livelihoods of, especially, the poor and marginalized. TISA works through practice, learning, capacity building and direct advocacy actions. TISA has been operational since March 2008, and is a locally registered trust. We were previously known as the CDF Accountability Project. Its vision is for empowered citizens claiming and enjoying their rights in partnership with effective local governance institutions. TISA's mission is to ensure accountable and impactful service delivery by professional and effective local governance institutions in Kenya, through effective engagement with empowered citizens at all stages of governance in Kenya's local development.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- **Monitoring CDF Reforms:** TISA works with legislative and government groups charged with reforming the constituency development fund (CDF) law. TISA monitors this process and advocates for transparency and accountability to ensure that the money is implemented effectively.
- Social Audit Learning Group: TISA has successfully assisted several institutions in capacity building on social audit for instance the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), Institute for Economic Affairs (IEA), Bunge la Wananchi, International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), the media, Catholic Justice and Peace (CJPC), the Kenya Women's Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA), among others. TISA presently coordinates social audit work on behalf of the Open Society Initiative for East Africa (OSIEA) in over 20 constituencies. In 2008 in collaboration with OSIEA, TISA launched and disseminates the CDF Social Audit Guide.
- Social and Public Accountability Network (SPAN): SPAN members promote local governance accountability concerns in policy making, to coordinate efforts/avoid duplication and to advocate desired changes including; Effectiveness, Rule of Law, Accountability, Participation and Civic Engagement as well as Equity. TISA presently serves as the secretariat for the SPAN. In February 2010 SPAN launched an advocacy paper and DVD entitled Harmonization of Decentralized Development in Kenya: Proposals to the National Assembly on the decentralisation sector of Kenya. SPAN will lobbying for the strengthening of decentralised frameworks through a legislative policy bill.

# Sample: <u>CDF Status Report</u> (<u>http://www.scribd.com/doc/33699318/TISA-Kenya-CDF-Status-Report</u>); Local Governance Monitor

#### **Other Activities:**

• **Government Reform Monitoring:** TISA reviews the progress the Grand Coalition Government has made and continues to make on the implementation of Reform Agenda 4.

#### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• None

### Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Two full time staff and one intern work on monitoring projects.

## Kosovo:

## Consortium for Strengthening Civil Society Advocacy (Consortium)

Contacts: Jetmir Bakija, Consortium Manager: JBakija@kdi-kosova.org; Jeta Xharra, BIRN: jeta@birn.eu.com; Ismet Kryeziu, KDI: info@kdi-kosova.org. Parliament(s) Monitored: Assembly of Kosovo

About: The Consortium for Strengthening Civil Society Advocacy is initiated by Kosova Democratic Institute (KDI) and Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN) have agreed to collaborate together with around twenty civil society organizations (CSOs) to advocate on the Assembly of Kosovo. This consortium has monitored the Assembly of Kosovo since October, 2008 and has prepared weekly and monthly monitoring reports, which have been distributed to CSOs interested on advocacy. Its objectives are:

- To instill in domestic civil society organizations (CSOs) the capacity and skills necessary to exercise sustainable civic oversight of the Assembly of Kosovo and government institutions;
- To assist CSOs in identifying, publishing, and advocating for measures to enhance the • transparency and accountability of parliament and its members; and,
- To increase citizen interest in the legislative process and advance public dialogue through • CSOs' monitoring of and reporting on the Assembly of Kosovo.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- Monitoring & Analysis: KDI will conduct regular monitoring reports and analysis • regarding the transparency of the Assembly to include draft laws, MP work trends, votes, activities, debates, committee meetings, parliamentary sessions and adherence to minimum legislative standards. The Consortium also produces legislation bulletins (brief analysis of introduced draft law content and possible impact on a monthly basis), bi-weekly monitoring reports (monitoring reports that are disseminated via email to civil society organizations), and policy papers (research reports approximately 7-10 pages per report to explore specific single policy issues per report, i.e., energy, economy, health, education, EU integration, etc.)
- **Dissemination:** BIRN will host regular televised programs that highlight the activities of parliament and initiate a public awareness campaign via NGOs and media networks to increase citizen interest in legislative transparency.
- Advocacy: The Consortium has gathered around 20 most active advocacy organizations in Kosovo to create CSO Advisory Group for Advocacy in order to coordinate their activities and advocate jointly on issues of importance to all. The Consortium advocates on issues agreed upon by Consortium members, such as freedom of association, MP conflicts of interest, and the draft law on sponsoring civil society organizations.

Sample: Good Governance in The Assembly of Kosovo (Albanian, Serbian, English) (http://www.monitorimikuvendit.info/raportet/Qeverisja e Mire ne Kuvend.pdf)

Active partnerships with international organizations:

### • UNDEF, NDI

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

- A team of 6 from KDI conducts monitoring of plenary and committee sessions. Two (2) analysts, three (3) observers, one (1) manager/reporter.
- A team of 3 from BIRN work on the media coverage aspect of the program.

## Kosovo: Kosova Democratic Institute (KDI)

www.kdi-kosova.org/en/index.php

(Albanian, English)

**Director:** Mr. Ismet Kryeziu **Organization Email:** <u>info@kdi-kosova.org</u>

**About:** KDI's mission is to support democratic development in Kosovo by empowering nongovernmental organizations and citizens to enhance the transparency, accountability and responsiveness of governing institutions and improve the efficiency of these institutions through citizen participation in decision-making. KDI aims to be regional organization that influences political processes by offering assistance in the process of democratization.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

• **Monitoring:** KDI monitors all Committee Meetings and Plenary Sessions of the Assembly of Kosovo. KDI publishes every six months Scorecards. In the scorecards the MPs performance is measured in several aspects: Participation in the plenary sessions, number of questions raised, number of interpellation called, amendments in the draft laws, etc. In addition to that, in the scorecards KDI also treats other aspects of the Assembly, such as transparency, performance of the Administration, etc. KDI also organizes roundtables in different towns of the Kosova in order to strengthen the cooperation between the MPs-Local Authorities and Citizens.

Sample: <u>Scorecard: July – December, 2009</u> (<u>http://www.kdi-kosova.org/publications/Fletnotimit7-12-2009.pdf</u>)

## **Other Activities:**

• KDI is also engaged in several other programs in the field of Local Governance and Transparency and Anti-Corruption. KDI is currently monitoring five (5) municipalities and in cooperation with Transparency International is implementing several projects in the Anti-Corruption and Transparency field. In the last election of 2009, KDI led a NGO coalition called Democracy in Action to monitor the Local Elections in Kosova.

#### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• Parliamentary monitoring activities of KDI are supported by: NED, BTD and the Norwegian Embassy in Kosova

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Six full time staff work on monitoring projects.

## *Liberia: Liberia Democratic Institute* www.ldi-lbr.org (English)

Director: Mr. Dan Saryee Organization Email: <u>Liberiademo\_institute@yahoo.com</u> Parliament(s) Supported: Liberian National Legislature

**About:** The Liberia Democratic Institute is a pro democracy and rights advocacy organization working to promote socioeconomic justice and good governance.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- Scorecard: The Legislative Report Card Project seeks to increase citizens' oversight in Liberia's growing democracy. The Report Card's index evolved out of a methodological workshop attended by local and international NGOs, legislators and legislative support staffs from the offices of the Chief Clerk and Secretary of Senate. A pre structured questionnaire is pillared around the three main functions of a legislator and those include: Representation, Lawmaking and Oversight. Quarterly performance reports will be generated and disseminated for public consumption, and consolidated at the end of the year in an annual appraisal. See: Second Quarter Legislative Report Card (http://www.ldi-lbr.org/LDI\_Second\_Quarter\_Legislativ\_Scordcard-II.pdf)
- Monitoring Development Funds: Since the inauguration of the government in January, 2006, LDI has monitored the implementation of the County Development Fund. Consistent with the Law, LDI conducted two separate studies to evaluate the degree of local people participation and ownership of the CDF and investigate the level of transparency and accountability in the implementation of the CDF. Findings were disseminated and recommendations offered to improve the implementation strategy. LDI is developing a Bill that aims to place the CDF's management in the hands of locals.
- **Constituency Outreach:** Our Constituency Outreach Project brought legislators to their constituents to hold town hall meetings. The approach of this action was two-fold: Community leaders' capacity was built through training in leadership skill, and advocacy and policy analysis to enable them constructively extract accountability from their lawmakers, and; Legislators were brought face-to-face with constituents to discuss their legislative agenda.

#### **Other Activities:**

• **Citizens Report Card Project:** Implemented in Sinoe and Grand Gedeh Counties, the project focuses on empowering local citizens to monitor the quality of health and education services delivery. The project also assists local service users to organize social hearings as measure to discuss and confront service providers with their dissatisfaction and engender a platform for dialogue aimed at building consensus on ways to improve service delivery to the population.

- Local Governance Barometer Project: Also implemented in Lofa, Cape Mount, Sinoe and Grand Gedeh Counties focuses on empowering local CBOs to monitor the trends of governance at the local level and use the findings from the monitoring as advocacy tool to effect change in the performance of local government.
- **Community Governance Advocacy Project:** Implemented in the southeastern Region focuses on empowering local community governance bodies in forested communities to develop the capability for self-governance in managing their share of revenue from the extraction of forest resources and to enable them demand accountability and transparency in management of forest resources.

### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• NED; Partnership for Transparency Fund; United Nations Development Program; Tiri Making Integrity Work; TrustAfrica and Humanity United Local Governance Barometer; Conciliation Resources; Oxfam Africa, Afrobarometer Network; Inter Church Organization for Development Cooperation

### Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Fifteen full time staff and five part time staff/interns work on projects.

## Liberia: Liberia Democracy Watch (LDW)

www.liberiademocracywatch.org (English)

Director: Mr. George Wah Williams Organization Email: <u>info@liberiademocracywatch.org</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: National Legislature of Liberia

**About:** The Liberia Democracy Watch (LDW) was established in 1996 in the buildup to the July 1997 elections which was to conclude the war in Liberia. The organization envisioned a society devoid of socio-political abuses, corruption and with a greater respect for the rule of law. The mission of LDW is to bolster the institutionalization of a democratic culture in Liberia through the promotion of good governance, peace, human rights and the rule of law. LDW is governed by a Board of Directors that meets twice yearly. Members of the Board are a select group of eminent Liberians with a proven interest in Liberia's socio-political processes. LDW's mission is to engender a post-conflict society where responsive governance, respect for the rule of law and participatory decision-making is the order of the day. Furthermore LDW hopes to strengthen the relevant socio-political institutions critical to the sustenance of responsive socio-political culture.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- Monitoring & Analysis: LDW conducts the monitoring of parliamentarians' attendance on a regular basis to determine how regularly individual parliamentarians take their role as Legislators and its implications for national development. The findings are not published but are used to inform LDW campaigns on strengthening the Legislature.
- Advocacy: LDW monitors the regularity and form of interaction between members of parliament and their respective constituencies. A constituency interactive program was developed and runs under a marriage of other program activities carried out by LDW. While its intent is generally geared at strengthening local communities' capacities to engage their parliamentarians, it seeks to capacitate local leaders' understanding of parliamentarians' responsibilities to represent the interest of a given people.

## **Other Activities:**

 In LDW's bid to influence national debates, it hosted in collaboration with the FORD Foundation an international conference held under the theme: "Beyond State Failure and Collapse: Making the State Relevant in Africa". This conference brought together an array of intellectuals and politicians from the US, Liberia and other parts of Africa. Recently, LDW in collaboration with the Institute for Critical and International Studies (ICIS), with Funding from the Institute for Developing Nations (IDN) at Emory University in Atlanta, organized two two-day roundtables on "Examining the Challenges to Professionalism of Liberian NGOs" and "States at Regional Risks (SARRS) Regional seminar which was addressed by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• The Fund for Global Human Rights (Washington, DC); NED; UNDP/Liberia; Fund for Peace (Washington, DC); TrustAfrica (Dakar); Humanity United (California); Carter Center (Liberia); TCC-Liberia; Electoral Institute for Southern Africa (EISA)

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Two part-time staff

## Lithuania: Atviras Seimas

www.atviras-seimas.info (Lithuanian)

Director: Mr. Zygimantas Medelis Organization Email: <u>zygimantas@medelis.lt</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Lithuanian Parliament

**About:** Atviras Seimas ("Open Parliament") is a parliamentary transparency project whose goal is to collect available data about roll call votes, parliament sitting attendance, trips of the MPs, etc. and provide all that data in easily accessible way through Ativras Seimas web site and give access to all the raw data though API to facilitate creation of other similar projects. Atviras Seimas' functions automatically hence the maintenance of the project requires minimal efforts. The site updates itself to the latest information available on the Parliament's website.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

• Monitoring & Analysis: Atviras Seimas is a website and weblog that provides statistics for MP attendance, votes, speeches, rebellions, travel maps, and popularity ratings (based on Internet search result counts). It is achieved through parsing data provided on Lithuanian Parliament website. Atviras Seimas has demonstrated the capabilities of quantitative approach towards analysis of parliamentary actives as well as demonstrated how political data should be opened up on the Internet. My experience in running this project was helpful in launching other similar web sites in Lithuania, such as "Mano Seimas" which was part of "Democracy in Knowledge Society: the Analysis of Challenges and Possibilities" project that was conducted by Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University.

Sample: <u>www.atviras-seimas.info</u>

#### **Other Activities:**

• None

#### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• None

## Number of full-time staff and part-time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• One part-time staff member

## *Mexico: Fundar, Centro de Análisis e Investigación*

www.fundar.org.mx (Spanish, English)

Director: Mr. Miguel Pulido Jiménez Organization Email: <u>fundar@fundar.org.mx</u> Parliament(s) Supported: Chamber of Deputies and Senate of Mexico

**About:** Fundar, Center for Analysis and Research is an independent, interdisciplinary and plural institution committed to making sense of and solving contemporary problems, both in Mexico and the world, by means of applied research. Fundar was created in January 1999 by a group of high profile leaders from different disciplines, with the goal of developing schemes to strengthen citizen participation and deepen democracy, identifying models of action that have been successful in other countries, and experimenting with new methodologies that can contribute to the resolution of specific problems.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

**Committee Monitoring:** The objective of this project is to transform the parliamentary • process in order to have a transparent and inclusive parliament; by this it seeks the accountability between branches of the State, toward the society and within the parliament itself. It closely monitors three specific committees: Budget Committee, Gender Committee and Human Rights Committee. By following these committees it attempts to systemize information regarding their legislative work, including law initiatives, meetings, discussions and interlocutions with civil society and other actors in the public scene, including other branches of the State. Specifically, Fundar has an approach regarding the public policy discussed in these committees, the actors and process in the decision-making process, the information provided, the way citizen are permitted or not to participate, and the transparency and the accountability of their acts. With this legislative watch Fundar intends to identify the obstacles, good and bad practices, and improvement opportunities in transparency, accountability and citizen participation. One of the major goals is to systematize all the information and provide it to the civil society, the legislative staff and other decision makers with different and creative communicative instruments.

**Sample:** Committee monitoring website: <u>www.legislativoatualcance.org.mx</u>; Bimonthly electronic magazine: <u>www.fundar.org.mx/curul501/home.php</u>

## **Other Activities:**

• Since its inception, budget and policy analysis has become the core subject and area of activity of the institution. Over the years Fundar has developed a unique degree of technical experience and policy expertise, and Fundar has applied it towards achieving specific goals in different areas, including budgets, poverty reduction programs, health sector policies, realizing the right of access to information, monitoring of law enforcement agencies and promotion of their democratic reform, and oversight of human rights agencies and policy.

In the past eleven years, applied research at Fundar has taken many forms, more than half of Fundar's projects are dedicated specifically to applied budget analysis, with more than a dozen staff members committed to the area undertaking diverse work related to revenue transparency, the budget process, budget legislation, policy evaluation mechanisms in connection with budgeting practices, health sector analysis, publicity spending, poverty reduction allocations, local budget transparency, oil revenue control and assessment, and legislative transparency during budget related negotiations.

#### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• OSI; member of the LALT Network

### Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Three full time staff and 2 part time staff/interns work on monitoring projects.

## Moldova:

Institute for Development and Social Initiatives (IDIS "Viitorul")

www.viitorul.org (Romanian, English); www.leader.viitorul.org; www.business.viitorul.org

Director: Mr. Igor Munteanu Organization Email: <u>viitorul@moldova.org</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Moldovan Parliament

**About:** IDIS "Viitorul" seeks to contribute to the growth of civil society in Moldova and in other emerging democracies; to assist the creation of a modern, viable and open market economy, to assist the expansion of the civil society in which the citizens act together to express their own interests, to exchange information, to strive for mutual goals and influence the government. Its mission is to be a leading public policy institute essentially contributing to the growth of independent thinking and the competitiveness of Moldovan society and the economy.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- Monitoring & Analysis: Since 2002, IDIS has performed regular surveys on local government reform, creating the Index of Decentralization, responding with public policy studies and monitoring reports to the municipal and regional governments. It provides regular updates on the statute of self-governments in Moldova to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. In addition, IDIS "Viitorul" upholds a series of policy studies and public debates on various issues pertaining to local development, i.e. civil service ethics, municipal ownership and finances, city hall management, best practices and local economic development. IDIS was one of the founding members of the Coalition 2005/2009, for free, fair and democratic elections in Moldova.
- Advocacy: Since 2003, IDIS launched its advocacy project on Municipal Government Reform, titled: "Advocating for the Values and Scope of Autonomous Local Government in Moldova" incorporated a complex and multifaceted advocacy campaign launched by the IDIS Viitorul. It included a regular monitoring system of the regulatory process, visual advertising posters, and petitioning of the Constitutional Court, Parliament, and Government on abuses against local autonomy. In 2007, IDIS launched in depth investigation of the Unofficial Taxes paid by private business, and then launched its pro-business advocacy project 'National Business Agenda', collecting support from the largest 26 Business Associations of Moldova.

Sample: <u>Local Government Monitoring Report</u> (http://www.viitorul.org/public/1011/en/raport%20de%20monitorizare%20eng.pdf)

## **Other Activities:**

• The work of IDIS also includes policy assessments and awareness raising, policy advice, and a series of activities aimed at establishing links between civil society actors in minority areas and the rest of the country. Work on problems of good governance is a trademark of many IDIS initiatives and policy contributions, becoming a sign of seriousness and civic

commitment of its experts. IDIS is known also for its regular work with OECD on topical reports, baseline surveys and presentations on SMEs and state policies on small business. IDIS has also conducted a series of research, policy-oriented, and awareness-raising conferences and workshops, involving academia, political parties and trade unions, as targeted stakeholders and partners.

#### Active partnerships with international organizations:

 PASOS (Policy Association of the Open Society); Association Institute for Public Policy (IPP), Romania; Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development - CIPDD, Georgia; Institute for Regional and International Studies – Sofia (Bulgaria); VNG International; Human Dynamics KG (Austria); PASOS. Funding: Black Sea Trust, European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights, EC, Soros Foundation, UNDP, NED

#### Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• IDIS has 12 full-time and 4 part-time staff, as well as 3 full-time interns and several volunteers.

## Montenegro: The Network for Affirmation of NGO Sector - MANS

www.mans.co.me (Montenegrin, English)

Director: Vanja Calovic Organization Email: <u>mans@t-com.me</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Parliament of Montenegro

**About:** MANS is an NGO that supports the development of Montenegro and poverty reduction by promoting good governance and strengthening citizen participation in the decision-making process. MANS is dedicated to raising public awareness of social, economic and civic rights; supporting citizens and their associations to participate actively in the development, implementation and monitoring of social policies; and promoting cooperation and the exchange of information between all social groups.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- **Monitoring:** Direct, on-sight, permanent monitoring with publication of semi-annual reports on all activities of National Parliament's plenary and committee sessions. Because Parliament does not have an official system to monitor MPs' performance and activities, on-sight monitoring is the best method to find shortcomings in work and procedural and legal violations. We are extensively using e-tools, web site with daily calendar & weekly newsletters to provide the largest possible number of stakeholders with information in a timely, organized and cheap way on parliamentary activities.
- **Parliament's finances monitoring:** Using Freedom of Information Law MANS is permanently monitoring Parliament's annual budget realization, including incomes for the MPs and Parliament's administration, public procurements, operative costs, etc., and provide watchdog reports on a semi-annual basis. This also includes recommendations for improvement of the Parliament's expenditures.
- **Strategic litigation:** MANS uses litigation to develop proper practices in FOI Law enforcement and encourage proactive publishing of information such as information on incomes and benefits of MPs, information on Parliament's financial management and budget realization, etc.
- **Financial Records:** Publicizing personal Financial ID Records of all MPs at MANS website is making that information accessible to public, keeping MPs more accountable for their official reports on property and income.
- **Mobilization:** Mobilizing citizens and NGOs to request information and submit initiatives to the Parliament to create sustainable pressure and develop capacities to hold the Parliament to account.

## **Other Activities:**

• Monitoring of implementation of the National Action Plan for Fight Against Corruption and Organized Crime and implementation of the Law on Free Access to Information and the

Law on Conflict of Interest; Monitoring of the privatization process, efforts to combat illegal construction of buildings, political party finances, etc.

## Active partnerships with international organizations:

- Members of: TI; Freedom of Information Advocates Network (FOI Advocates); International Network of Civil Society Organizations for the Social Struggle Against Transnational Organized Crime – FLARE Network;
- We have established partnership with various parliaments within the Balkan region as well as with various national and international organization dealing with parliamentarian issues in order to increase MANS' and capacities of the Montenegrin Parliament.
- Donors that have supported parliamentary monitoring: USAID/ORT, BTD and EC. More information: <u>http://www.mans.co.me/o-mans-u/donatori/</u>.

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Out of over 30 employees and part time experts employed by MANS, six people are permanently involved in monitoring of the National Parliament's operations.

## *Morocco: Centre des Droits des Gens (CDG)*

Director: Mr. Jamal Chahdi Organization Email: <u>chahdijam@gmail.com</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Chamber of Deputies, Morocco

**About:** The Center for People's Rights (*Centre de Droits des Gens*, or CDG) was founded in 1999 by a group of human rights activist in Fez, Morocco. Their objective was to create a national network for defending human rights and promoting human rights education. CDG particularly focuses its activities on women, children, teachers, and persons employed in the legal and health sectors.

CDG is based in Fez with networks throughout Morocco; it operates with support from local and international partners.

CDG offers support, listening, and legal guidance services to the public. Through CDG, victims of human rights violations and physical attacks receive individual, confidential consultations with specialists. Different centers specialize in types of support services: the "Amane" Center supports abused children, while the "El Karama" Center provides services to victimized women.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- Evaluation & Assessment: In 2008, CDG conducted an evaluation of MP performance based on 10 criteria: presence/absence, number of questions asked to the government, number of issues raised, number of times voted, committee membership, number of draft laws presented, number of amendments proposed, participation in joint initiatives of the majority and opposition, communication with civil society organizations and citizens in their districts and within Parliament, and initiatives investigated.
- Evaluation & Assessment: In 2009, CDG developed a comprehensive framework for assessing the performance of the Parliament as an institution consisting of six indicator areas: Representation, legislative ability, parliament's autonomy, transparency of legislative process, parliament's openness to citizens, thematic indicators (parliament's role in security & security governance, women's political rights, economic and social rights).

#### **Other Activities:**

- Advocating for legal reform to make national laws consistent with international human rights law
- Providing other non-governmental organizations and researchers in the human rights field with access to relevant documents and materials
- Supporting efforts to teach human rights concepts in schools
- Observing, documenting and acting on human rights violations, particularly violations against women
- Training members of other non-governmental organizations in: the observation and documentation of human rights violations; educating the public on human rights; and effective planning and management of human and financial resources.

### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• None at present. CDG was previously funded by the SUNY/USAID Parliamentary Support Project.

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• CDG is seeking funding to continue parliamentary monitoring activities.

## Namibia: Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR)

www.ippr.org.na (English)

Director: Mr. Graham Hopwood

**Organization Email:** <u>info@ippr.org.na</u>

**Parliament(s) Supported:** Namibian National Assembly (lower chamber); National Council (house of review)

**About:** The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) is a not-for-profit organization with a mission to deliver independent, analytical, critical yet constructive research on social, political and economic issues that affect development in Namibia. The IPPR was established in the belief that development is best promoted through free and critical debate informed by quality research.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- Contributing to debates concerning draft legislation (through written submissions, articles in media etc.)
- Monitoring progress of bills through parliament (both National Assembly and National Council)
- Giving verbal and written evidence to public hearings on proposed legislation (by contracting expert(s) on particular issues to conduct a bill analysis)
- Monitoring speeches by MPs, as well as questions and motions
- Evaluating level of participation in debates by individual MPs (by measuring lines contributed by each MP in Hansard)
- Analysing issues relating to gender and parliament
- Monitoring the administration of parliament (e.g. whether Hansard is being produced timeously or whether parliament is producing a register of members' interests and assets)
- Monitoring the work and outcomes of various parliamentary committees

**Sample:** Not Speaking Out: Measuring National Assembly Performance (Available in 2009 publications list at: <u>www.ippr.org.na</u>)

## **Other Activities:**

• Research on broad policy issues in Namibia (e.g. in last year: poverty and inequality; energy policy; budget transparency; electoral monitoring and analysis; and business climate assessments)

## Active partnerships with international organizations:

• Ford Foundation; Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare (Namibia); Embassy of Finland; Namibia Economic Policy Research Unit; Namibian Non-Governmental Organisations Forum

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• One full time staffer works on monitoring projects.

## New Zealand: TheyWorkForYou.co.nz

www.theyworkforyou.co.nz (English)

Director: Mr. Rob McKinnon Organization Email: <u>rob@theyworkforyou.co.nz</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: New Zealand Parliament (Aotearoa)

**About:** TheyWorkForYou.co.nz is a volunteer-run website that aims to make it easy for people to track the activity of Aotearoa New Zealand's Parliament. It has been in operation since November 2006. We developed it entirely with free and open source software, as a *hint* to the public sector that they should be adopting and promoting free and open source software themselves (despite what foreign corporations masquerading as a NZ ICT industry may say to the contrary).

### **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- **Monitoring:** TheyWorkForYou.co.nz is a website that hosts a user friendly version of the New Zealand Parliament debate transcripts, and summarizes activity by bill, by ministerial portfolio and by organisations making submissions to the parliament. It also provides lists of how parties voted on bills in the parliament.
- **Reporting:** Operate a twitter account that comments on government IT issues and parliamentary issues. Run a low-volume post blog.

#### Sample: <u>www.theyworkforyou.co.nz</u>

#### **Other Activities:**

• None

#### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• None

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• One part time staffer works on monitoring projects.

## The Netherlands: Instituut voor Publiek en Politiek (Institute for Political Participation - IPP)\*

www.publiek-politiek.nl (Dutch, English); www.stemmentracker.nl (Dutch)

**Director:** Ms. Nel van Dijk

Organization Email: <a href="mailto:info@publiek-politiek.nl">info@publiek-politiek.nl</a>

**Parliament(s) Supported:** European Parliament (Dutch Parliamentarians); Dutch House of Representatives

\* IPP will become part of the House of Democracy at The Hague in the near future

**About:** The IPP is an independent, non-partisan organization that promotes political and social participation, both in the Netherlands and abroad. Some of its projects are subsidized by the central government. Besides that a substantial part of its revenue is generated by commissions from provincial and municipal authorities, other government agencies and non-governmental organizations.

### **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- Monitoring Websites:
  - <u>www.brusselstemt.nl</u>: Follows the voting behavior of Dutch Parliamentarian in European Parliament, gives general information about the European Parliament.
  - <u>www.stemmentracker.nl</u>: Citizens might compare via an online tool the voting behavior of Political Parties in the Dutch House of Representatives (national level) with their own political preferences.

## **Other Activities:**

• The IPP: - promotes and organizes debates, meetings, conferences on topical political issues; - designs and implements projects to encourage citizens to participate in political decision making; - develops new forms of communication between citizens, politicians and civil servants; - promotes European citizenship by organizing courses and seminars and by setting up a European political education network - supports democratization projects abroad (Central and Eastern Europe, Turkey - creates websites and produces educational material in digital form and in print).

## Active partnerships with international organizations:

• IPP is a member of the Politeia Network (<u>www.politeia.net</u>), which works for the development of democracy and citizenship in Europe.

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• One full time staffer works on monitoring projects.

## Nigeria: Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC)

www.cislacnigeria.org (English)

Director: Mr. Auwal Ibrahim Musa Organization Email: <u>info@cislacnigeria.org</u>; <u>cislacnationalassembly@yahoo.com</u> Parliament(s) Supported: National Assembly, Nigeria

**About:** CISLAC is a non-governmental, non-profit legislative advocacy, lobbying, information sharing and research organization. CISLAC works towards bridging the gap between the legislature and the electorate; by enhancing lobbying strategies; engagement of bills before their passage into law; manpower development for lawmakers, legislative aides, politicians and the civil society, as well as civic education on the tenets of democracy and Human Rights. CISLAC has actively engaged in legislative advocacy work since 2005 and integrated as a corporate body (CAC/IT/NO22738) with Nigeria's Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2006.

CISLAC's issues of focus include; budget monitoring, transparency, accountability, anticorruption, human rights (gender equality, educational equity and improvement, sexuality and reproductive health, children and other vulnerable groups including beggars, pensioners, refugees, and internally displaced persons), trade policy and intervention, security/conflict management, and environment and livelihood. CISLAC's engagement with National and State Assemblies, the media, Civil society organisations, has opened a window through which public and policy officials can interact and corroborate. CISLAC's Vision is to make legislature accessible and responsive to all. CISLAC's Mission is "To strengthen CSOs' impact in the legislative processes towards promoting legislative accessibility and responsiveness to all."

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- **Monitoring:** CISLAC monitors legislator's participation in Nigeria's National Assembly and State Houses of Assembly. CISLAC and its partner civil society organizations have been visible participants and monitors at public hearings and other legislative engagements.
- Analysis: CISLAC Analyzes and evaluate the performance of the Nigeria's National Assembly and State Houses of Assembly on lawmaking, oversights, representation and constituency outreach.
- **Opinion Polls and Surveys:** CISLAC has an ongoing effort to conduct public opinion polls and to complete general surveys of the electorate.

Sample: http://www.cislacnigeria.org/Books.html

## **Other Activities:**

• CISLAC builds the capacity of Law makers and legislative staff /Legislative aides as well as civil society groups and other stakeholders to effectively engage in budget monitoring, extractive industries transparency initiatives, Public Procurement implementation, pursuing the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, defending Human rights, and anti-corruption.

## Active partnerships with international organizations:

- International Partners (Funding): European Union, British Council, Heinrich Boll Foundation (HBF), Canadian High Commission, USAID, Pact Nigeria, OXFAM Spain, OXFAM Novib, OXFAM Great Britain, CIDA, TY Danjuma Foundation, FES, NDI, ACTIONAID International, United Nations Millennium Campaign, Article 19, FRIDE, and Amnesty International.
- International Partners (Non-Funding): IRI, OXFAM America.

### Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• CISLAC has 10 full time staff and 8 full time interns.

## Pakistan: Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI)

www.cpdi-pakistan.org (English, Urdu)

Director: Mr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ali

**Organization Email:** <u>info@cpdi-pakistan.org</u>, <u>cpdi\_pakistan@yahoo.co.uk</u> **Parliament(s) Monitored:** Parliament of Pakistan (both chambers); Seven district councils

**About:** Centre for Peace and Development Initiatives (CPDI) is an independent, non-partisan and a not-for-profit civil society organization working on issues of peace and development in Pakistan. CPDI seeks to inform and influence public policies and civil society initiatives through research-based advocacy and capacity building in order to promote citizenship, strengthen democratic institutions, build peace and achieve inclusive and sustainable development. Mission of CPDI is "to promote citizenship and equitable development for guaranteed protection of human rights, strong democratic development, sustainable peace and improved quality of life." It has the mandate to work in the following program areas: 1. Promotion of peace and tolerance; 2. Rule of law and Access to Justice; 3. Transparency and right to information; 4. Budget watch; and 5. Legislative watch and democratic development.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- Assembly/council Activity Time frame Methodology: Concluded/ongoing; Senate of Pakistan: Monitoring of senate committee on Education, 2004 onward; Direct observation, committee reports, desk research, On going
- National Assembly of Pakistan: Monitoring of National Assembly sessions. 2008 onward; Monitoring the sessions of National Assembly against rules of procedures and generating a session report (jointly with FAFEN) after each session, Ongoing; Monitoring of National Assembly committee on Education, 2004 onward; Direct observation, committee reports, desk research, On going
- District council: Monitoring of district councils (District Jhang, Sargodha, Toba Tek Singh, Khushab, Jhelum and Rawalpindi), 2006 and 2009 on ward; Monitoring monthly sessions of district assemblies, performance of monitoring committees, budget tracking of district government, etc., on going

#### Sample: Parliamentary Alerts

 $(http://cpdi-pakistan.org/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=52&Itemid=79)$ 

## **Other Activities:**

CPDI monitors the budgeting process of national and district governments with special focus on education and health budget. CPDI monitors the implementation status of Police Order 2002, Local Government Ordinance 2001 and Right to Information Laws at Federal, provincial and district levels. CPDI monitors the performance of political parties against their election manifestos. CPDI also monitors the performance of public institutions against the government's stated policy of right to information.

### Active partnerships with international organizations:

The Asia Foundation; NED; Commonwealth Education Foundation; UNDP, FNS, ActionAid Pakistan, The Asian Development Bank, Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability, India

### Number of full time and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Two full time staff and 24 part time staff

## Pakistan: Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT)

www.pildat.org (English)

Executive Director: Mr. Ahmed Bilal Mehboob; Joint Director: Ms. Aasiya Riaz Organization Email: <u>info@pildat.org</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Pakistani Parliament

**About:** PILDAT is an *independent, non-partisan* and *not-for-profit* indigenous research and training institution with the mission to strengthen democracy and democratic institutions in Pakistan. PILDAT has been actively engaged with building the capabilities of elected Legislators towards a better discharge of their functions of *Legislation, Representation* and *Oversight*. PILDAT regularly conducts training/briefing workshops and sessions for Legislators belonging to the national and provincial assemblies as well as the Senate. As a non-partisan political research institution, PILDAT regularly carries out public-policy research in the shape of briefing/background papers, case studies and legislative briefs for use by Parliamentarians, Politicians, Government, News Media and others, etc.

### **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- Monitoring & Analysis: PILDAT monitors and assesses parliamentary performance after each session and legislative year. The Annual Performance Reports analyze the work of Parliament from citizens' perspectives, compiling, presenting and analyzing legislative data and comparing it with other legislatures such as India and UK.
- International Standards-Based Evaluation: In March 2009, PILDAT also carried out an Evaluation of the 13<sup>th</sup> National Assembly of Pakistan using the criteria developed by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). This was the first time that PILDAT undertook the Evaluation of the Parliament using the IPU framework. The report has served as a baseline using internationally comparable criteria.

Sample: <u>Evaluation of the National Assembly (IPU Framework)</u>, 2008-09 (http:/www.pildat.org/Publications/publication/Democracy&LegStr/evaluation of parliament 2008-2009.pdf); Overview of the Joint Session of Parliament, December 2009 (http://pildat.org/eventsdel.asp?detid=343)

## **Other Activities:**

- Assessing Democracy: PILDAT is working on a yearly project to assess the quality of democracy in Pakistan using the international framework developed by the Democratic Audit, UK and the International IDEA.
- Other Program Areas: Public Legislative Forum (for sensitizing civil society organizations to parliamentary advocacy); Legislative Strengthening Program for Parliamentarians and Legislative Staff; Civil-Military Relations Program; and the Political Parties Program, etc.

### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• FES, British High Commission, US Institute of Peace, Canadian Foreign Office, Parliamentary Centre (Canada)

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• PILDAT has 25 full-time staff (5 of whom work on parliamentary monitoring part-time) and 5 part-time staff.

## Peru: Manos Limpias

Director: Mag. Nora Bonifaz Carmona Organization Email: <u>manoslimpiasperu@hotmail.com</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Congress of the Republic of Peru

**About:** Manos Limpias is a collective of citizens that have organized to actively participate in the political, economic and social life of the country. It supports transparency, responsibility and ethics as an indispensable part of institutional strengthening and democracy in Peru. It considers the participation of civil society as fundamental to the fight against corruption. Manos Limpias seeks to create a democratic culture and dynamic political life in Peru. It supports the initiatives of citizens to participate in the legislative process, and support legislation that positively impacts Peruvian society.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

• **Monitoring:** Manos Limpias launched an "Adopt a Congressman" initiative. This initiative drafted more than 2,000 participants to be "vigilantes" who track the promises and functions of the congressperson "adopted." Manos Limpias provides training for the vigilantes and delivers a paper on Citizen Vigilance with the indicators for effective evaluation and monitoring of the congressperson. It then publishes extensive information on legislators across a variety of media including press conferences and web publications, in order to make this information accessible to a wide audience.

## **Other Activities:**

• Manos Limpias provides information on the registration of the political parties after the *Jurado Nacional de Elecciones* (JNE, National Panel on Elections). It monitors the registration process of the political parties when there is evidence of irregularities. It also is engaged in the budgetary process, monitoring the transparent and ethical use of public funds. Manos Limpias works with other civil society organizations on anti-corruption initiatives, and has created educational materials on rights and political freedoms for children and youth.

## Active partnerships with international organizations:

• Manos Limpias has good relationships with several other civil society organizations in Peru, as well as the University of San Marcos.

## Number of full-time staff and part-time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Manos Limpias has twelve part-time staff working on monitoring initiatives.

## Peru: Reflexión Democrática

www.reflexiondemocratica.org.pe (Spanish)

Director: Mr. José Elice Organization Email: <u>reflexion@reflexiondemocratica.org.pe</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Congress of the Republic of Peru

**About:** Reflexión Democrática (Democratic Reflection) is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to strengthen the Congress, to improve the quality of parliamentary representation and national legislation. Our mission is an ongoing effort to help ensure that the Congress of the Republic of Peru is perceived and functions as the principal representative institution of the country, and strengthened capacity to ensure the conditions of political stability, enable social and economic sustainable development of the country in a climate of freedom and legal order.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

Reflexión Democrática:

- Issued a quality indicator of legislative projects (2008).
- Published a book named Radiography of the Congress. It takes different topics about the work of the congressman. (2008)
- Edited and published a digital report about different aspects of the Congress' work.
- Is preparing an applicative web about each congressman and their work. (2009)

#### Sample: Evaluation of Proposed Laws

(http://www.reflexiondemocratica.org.pe/index.php?option=com\_content&view=publicaciones&catid=50&menid= 64)

## **Other Activities:**

• Currently Reflexión Democrática is designing a program to strengthen the public with the participation of the offices of corporate social responsibility of companies.

#### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• IRI; NDI; International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA); TI; Economics Peruvian Institute; Civil Association Calandria

## Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Four full time staff and 2 part time staff work on monitoring projects.

## Poland: Stowarzyszenie 61 (Association 61)

www.mamprawowiedziec.pl; www.art61.pl (Polish)

**Director:** Mrs. Róża Rzeplińska **Organization Email:** <u>art61@art61.pl</u> **Parliament(s) Monitored:** Polish Parliament (both houses); European Parliament

**About:** Association 61 is an independent and apolitical non-governmental organization. It was established and registered in 2005. The purpose of activities conducted by Association 61 is to create a transparent system of publicly available information on people serving elective public functions in Poland. Association 61 is realizing its aim by building an Internet site containing sections including a transparent database of public officials, information on the views and parliamentary decisions of representatives and a guide to citizen's rights. Its function is to enable the activation of citizen's participation in democracy.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- <u>Mamprawowiedziec.pl</u>: Association 61 has created a unique database on Polish MPs, which contains detailed information on their education, professional experience, affiliations with social and political organizations, membership in committees, parliamentary clubs etc. On Mamprawowiedziec.pl, which means "I have a right to know", every MP has his or her own profile (sub-site) which is divided into three separate parts: basic information (date/place of birth, number of votes, contact information, declaration of the financial interest etc.) biography and voting records. Association 61 pays great attention to accuracy and quality of collected data. The information displayed on our website is constantly updated and verified by a group of researchers and volunteers. The Mamprawowiedziec.pl site enables citizens not only to check biographical data on their MPs but also to follow legislative process and learn how their representatives voted on different issues.
- In the future, Association 61 plans to launch an application for sending MPs messages. It hopes the application will be another channel of communication between voters and their representatives. Among our further activities is also obtaining and presenting data on MPs travel expenses and other MPs activities in the Parliament e.g. speeches, interpellations and announcements.

## **Other Activities:**

- So far Association 61 runs two questionnaire based surveys for candidates in the 2007 parliamentary elections and 2009 European Parliament elections. We asked candidates about their competencies and experience qualifying them for functions they were running for. Questionnaires were sent via LimeSurvey, an open source tool designed for carrying out an internet surveys. Completed questionnaires were published on candidates' profiles.
- Presidential elections in 2010: Already Association 61 has completed project on presidential elections. Association 61 monitored and rewrote candidates' statements and declarations on selected topics which referred to most important for Poland current issues.

• Local elections in 2010: This autumn Association 61 will conduct a project on local elections, asking candidates about their experience, views in key issues and ideas for further development of their local communities.

## Active partnerships with international organizations:

• None

## Number of full-time staff and part-time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Three full time and seven part time staff/interns.

## Poland: Stefan Batory Foundation

www.batory.org.pl (Polish, English)

Director: Ms. Ewa Kulik-Bielińska Organization Email: <u>batory@batory.org.pl</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Polish Parliament

**About:** The Stefan Batory Foundation is an independent private Polish foundation established in 1988 by American financier and philanthropist George Soros and a group of Polish democratic leaders of 80's. The mission of the Foundation is to support the development of an open, democratic society in Poland and other Central and East European countries.

## **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

• In the years 2006 – 2008, the Anti-Corruption Program implemented the project "Monitoring legislative procedure". The Foundation engaged in actions aimed to promote legislative procedure that will eliminate corruption threats. The Act on Lobbing Activity passed by the Parliament on July 7, 2005 provides significant and much expanded opportunities for involvement in the legislative process by all interested parties. Each year the Foundation selected 3 - 5 acts for scrutiny. It actively observed the legislative way of the particular bills from the very beginning in ministries offices to the end in parliamentary commissions. The Foundation paid special attention on transparency of this process and observed legal and illegal lobbyists activities. At the end of 2008, the Foundation released report summarizing our findings and experiences. Now it is advocating on necessary changes in legislative procedure to make it more transparent and participatory.

## **Other Activities:**

- Monitoring of the electoral campaign finances
- Monitoring of selected public funds spending
- Monitoring of electoral promises of anti-corruption measures

## Active partnerships with international organizations:

 OSI - 2006 & 2007; European Union Transition Facility 2005 operated by Cooperation Fund - 2008

#### Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Four full time staff work on monitoring projects.

## Romania:

## European Institute for Participatory Democracy (Qvorum)

www.qvorum.ro (Romanian, English)

Director: Doru Frantescu

Organization Email: <u>qvorum@gmail.com</u>; <u>bucuresti@qvorum.ro</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Romanian Parliament, European Parliament

**About:** QVORUM is a non-governmental, non-partisan organization that aims at stimulating citizens' and the social partners' involvement in the policy-making process. Starting from the premises that a high level of public trust in the institutions is a prerequisite for the consolidation of democracy, QVORUM works for the achievement of such desiderate.

## Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:

- *European Parliament*: Qvorum has developed a strategic partnership with London-based NGO VoteWatch.eu. Based on the information provided by VoteWatch.eu at European level, Qvorum undertakes more in-depth analysis of the activities of Romanian MEPs, as well as pieces of legislation that may have impact on Romanian society. The news and analysis are disseminated via a monthly newsletter to stakeholders and a more thorough report is released every 6 months.
- **Romanian Parliament:** Qvorum will soon launch a new e-democracy website designed to provide citizens with a tool for easy monitoring of the Parliamentary activity. This website allows citizens to cast their vote on the bills and laws voted in the Parliament. Citizens can also react to the activity of the members of the Parliament by expressing their approval or disapproval to the positions taken by a MP. Moreover, the website allows citizens to report themselves on the MPs' activities in their own constituencies, thus encouraging active involvement. The MPs are then ranked by the way they match the preferences of the citizens.
- **Busola Politica/Political Compass (parliamentary elections):** Qvorum brought for the first time to Romania an on-line and easy to use test through which citizens can test their policy views against those of the political parties and then see which party best represents them. For maximizing the accuracy of such tool, Qvorum investigated the behaviour of the political parties in the Parliament, their voting patterns and their positioning regarding the main issues that the Romanian society was facing at that time. The test was submitted by some 20.000 people, within a wide range of ages and political affinities.

## Sample: <u>www.parlamentultau.ro</u>, <u>www.busolapolitica.ro</u> Other Activities:

• Organizes trainings aimed at increasing the level of political culture of the young generation, elaborates analysis of the political developments in Romania, provides consultancy for civil society organisations.

## Active partnerships with international organizations:

• Qvorum has developed a strategic partnership with London-based NGO VoteWatch.eu

**Number of full-time staff and part-time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:** 4 full time staff and 2 part time staff/interns work on monitoring projects

### Romania: Institute for Public Policy (IPP)

www.ipp.ro/pagini/index.php (Romanian, English)

Director: Mrs. Violeta Alexandru

Organization Email: <a href="mailto:office@ipp.ro">office@ipp.ro</a>

**Parliament**(s) **Monitored:** Parliament of Romania (both houses), European Parliament, municipal councils, county councils

**About:** Institute for Public Policy (IPP) is a Romanian nongovernmental organization whose aim is to support an increased quality of the processes related to the development of public policies in Romania. We committed to advancing high quality policies in the following main areas: transparency of the legislative process, reform of the local government system, fight against corruption and promotion of integrity at all local government levels, organization and operation of election systems and processes, funding of political parties, promoting the rights of the disabled, which made of IPP one of the most respected and experienced think-tank in Romania. Together with its departments which coordinates the programs and activities of the Institute, the specialized divisions were created in the last two years to offer professional services to partners and clients, such as public authorities or private entities, that are interested in the Institute' fields of excellence.

### **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- Monitoring & Analysis: Issue reports on parliamentary performance after each legislative session.
- **Openness:** Spearheaded the regional effort *A plea for Open Parliaments in the Black Sea Region*, a tool for gauging parliamentary openness.

**Sample:** <u>A plea for Open Parliaments in the Black Sea Region</u> (<u>http://www.ipp.ro/eng/pagini/a-plea-for-open-parliaments-in-the-black.php</u>)</u>

#### **Other Activities:**

• IPP has programs in: Administrative transparency and rule of law; Reform of the local public administration; Human rights; Electoral systems and processes, and; European values and foreign affairs.

### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• IPP is founding member of PASOS – Policy Association for an Open Society, a network of 40 policy centers in Europe and Central Asia.

### Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• 5 full-time staff, 1 part-time staff, and 2 part-time interns/volunteers work on IPP's parliamentary monitoring projects.

### Russia: The INDEM Foundation

www.indem.ru (Russian, English)

Director: Mr. Georgiy Satarov (President) Organization Email: <u>2000p@indem.ru</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: State Duma of the Russian Federation

**About:** INDEM ("Information Science for Democracy") founded in 1990 is one of the first Russian NGOs. INDEM promotes the ideals and values of democracy through assistance in development of civil society and consultancy to Russian public officials and government bodies. In its activities, INDEM addresses a wide range of issues: anticorruption, justice assistance, governance reform, political, ethnic, federalist and regional issues, international cooperation, etc. For research purposes INDEM develops unique sociological, statistical, and IT methods.

### **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

• Internet monitoring of parliament activities: This project has three aims: 1. To stipulate the activity of internet users to make it permanent, task oriented, effective and growing, 2. To create community of Internet users interested in political affairs and organize their effective work, and 3. To consolidate institutes of civil society by improving their communicational instruments. The project assumes support of 2 communication flows: 1. Information from federal center to regional correspondents concerning deputies of State Duma and Federal Assembly activities, and 2. Information about viewpoints of project members in regions (individual and common) regarding problems and draft laws, discussed in Federal Assembly chambers. Creation of these two information flows stipulates three types of performing tasks: technical, informational-analytical and organizational. For more information, see: http://www.indem.ru/en/parliament.htm

### **Other Activities:**

• INDEM conducts activities in the following programmatic areas: Anticorruption; Justice Assistance; Election Monitoring; Russian Political Parties; International Activities; Ethnopolitical and Regional Studies.

### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• INDEM is a founding member of Altus Global Alliance. With members spanning five continents, Altus promotes safety and justice from a multicultural perspective, encouraging comparative analysis across countries and a larger role for civil society in advancing justice.

### Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• One part time staffer works on monitoring projects.

### South Africa: Parliamentary Monitoring Group (PMG)

www.pmg.org.za (English)

Director: Ms. Gaile Moosmann Organization Email: <u>info@pmg.org.za</u> Parliament(s) Supported: The Parliament of South Africa

**About:** The Parliamentary Monitoring Group monitors parliamentary committees with the purpose of making the work of the parliamentary committees accessible and to enable civil society to follow parliamentary proceedings and intervene in the law and policy-making process. This information is provided to promote participatory democracy in South Africa and transparency in the parliamentary committees. Furthermore, this information promotes accountability of the parliamentary committees and the executive over which they have oversight, and facilitates the work of Parliament.

### **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- **Monitoring & Analysis:** PMG attends every parliamentary committee meeting and provides detailed reports of the proceedings plus all the relevant documents released to the committees within 3 working days. It also provides an audio recording of the meeting on the same day as the meeting to improve access, accuracy and immediacy.
- **Reporting:** PMG provides the Ministers' Replies to MPs Written Questions which is an important oversight aid as it contains up-to-date data on pressing governance issues. It provides the unrevised version of the Hansard as well (as the finalised version takes months before it is available to the public).
- **Public Participation:** PMG encourages public participation by alerting its subscribers to calls for public comment on policy, tabled bills, draft bills and regulations. It provides committee programmes and legislative programmes, new bills and media briefings by ministers.

#### **Other Activities:**

• The Parliamentary Monitoring Group sends out calls for submissions by departments (draft bills & regulations/draft policy). It is currently making contact with grassroots civil society organisations to ensure they also receive regular updates on government sector(s) that interest them.

#### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• Open Society Foundation, USAID, Raith Foundation

### Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• PMG has 9 full time staff and 35 part time staff and interns.

### Slovakia: Institute for Public Affairs (IVO)

www.ivo.sk/92/sk/uvod (Slovak)

Director: Dr. Grigorij Meseznikov Organization Email: <u>ipa@ivo.sk</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: National Council of the Slovak Republic

**About:** The Institute for Public Affairs is an independent non-governmental, nonprofit organization. It was founded with the aim of promoting the values of an open society and a democratic political culture in public policy and decision-making. The aims of the Institute are as follows: to analyze societal, political, economic, legal, and cultural issues of public interest and to make the findings available to the public; to contribute to expert dialogue, initiate discussion on important issues, and to actively participate in shaping public discourse; to elaborate expert positions on important issues, to offer consultations for organizations and individuals in the areas that fall under the Institute's scope of expertise; to organize seminars, conferences, discussion forums, interdisciplinary round tables, workshops and trainings; to stimulate an active approach of citizens to issues of public interest; to provide a platform for experts in various areas of public policy, and create conditions for their effective and fruitful cooperation.

### **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- **Monitoring & Analysis:** Provides an annual analytical report of the country's development (Global Report on Slovakia) which includes a chapter on domestic politics (with an analysis of parliament's performance) and a chapter on legislation (with analysis of the approved laws).
- Monitoring & Analysis: The quarterly report "IVO Barometer" includes a chapter on legislation.

Sample: <u>IVO Barometer</u> (http://www.ivo.sk/buxus/docs/IVO\_barometer/Barometer\_04\_09.pdf)

### **Other Activities:**

• Research various policy areas of interest, such as political parties, the party system, different aspects of social policy, migration, the media and gender issues.

### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• OSI Think Tank Fund

### Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• One full-time staff

### Sweden:

### **Open Source Project: Citizen Intelligence Agency**

http://cia.sourceforge.net/ (English)

Director: Mr. James Pether Sörling Organization Email: <u>pether.sorling@gmail.com</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: The Riksdag, Sweden

**About:** An open source project with the goal to increase the surveillance of the national legislative assembly (The Riksdag) in the Kingdom of Sweden. Citizen Intelligence Agency is independent and non-partisan voluntary project. It is not supported by the King of Sweden, EU, any government or by any lobby.

### **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

• **Monitoring:** This will be done by analyzing the votes of each member of parliament and create views related to the relations between them.

Sample: http://www.riksdagsmonitor.com

### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• None

### Number of full-time staff and part-time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• One part-time volunteer runs the project.

### Switzerland: Politools – Political Research Network

http://www.politools.net (German);

www.smartvote.ch (German, French, English, Romansh, Italian)

Director: Dr. Daniel Schwarz Organization Email: <u>info@politools.net</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Federal Assembly, Switzerland

**About:** Politools is a non-partisan interdisciplinary research network dedicated to the development and operation of web-based applications for the politically interested general public. The applications are aimed at raising public knowledge about Swiss politics and civic education.

### **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

• Monitoring & Analysis: Development of a comprehensive monitoring website until summer 2010.

### Sample: <u>www.smartvote.ch</u>

### **Other Activities:**

- Development and operation of online vote advice "smartvote" application (http://www.smartvote.ch) which has operated in Bulgaria, Austria and Luxembourg as well.
- Civic education projects in collaboration with textbook publishing houses.

### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• Center of Democracy of the University of Zurich, National Center of Competence in Research, "Challenges to Democracy in the 21st Century" of the Swiss National Science Foundation (project "smart-voting", located at IDHEAP Lausanne, Switzerland): Research partner, 2005-2012.

### Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Three part time staff

### Turkey: Association of Committees for Monitoring Parliamentarians and Elected Officials (TUMIKOM)

www.tumikom.org (Turkish, English)

**Director:** Mr. Mustafa Durna

**Organization Email:** <u>durnamustafa@yahoo.com</u>; <u>mustafa.durna@tumikom.org</u> **Parliament(s) Monitored:** Turkish Grand National Assembly (TBMM)

**About:** The Association of Committees for Monitoring Parliamentarians and Elected Officials (TUMIKOM) as a voter movement puts primarily voters as base for democracy and carries out activities for democracy and voter rights. TUMIKOM has been working for lasting and a sustainable democracy; conducting politics based on legal ground and rules of ethics and the determination of the will of the voters and the parliament in the social life. TUMIKOM is on the side of democracy. To demonstrate this, TUMIKOM besides monitoring parliament and MPs activities, shares its opinions and recommendations on country's democratization, transparency and ethical issues, primarily with voters, political parties and the public. MISSION: Making contribution forming an opinion and increasing the quality of preferences of voters by informing them on the performance of their MPs. To contribute for MPs to be open, transparent and accountable to citizens, to work for applying public audit on lawmakers and to work for clarification of their roles in democracy. To contribute to permanent cooperation and improved communication between voters and the elected officials.

### **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

TUMIKOM monitors parliament in three ways:

- 1. **Monitoring Report (National):** TUMIKOM prepares comparative and measurable monitoring and performance reports of TBMM, political party groups and individually for MPs (550 MPs) based on all legislative activities for one legislative year. This report covers MPs' legislative and auditing activities in the legislative year as well as other general assembly and committee activities, attendance to general assembly and committee meetings, information about MPs whose parliamentary immunity is requested to be lifted and alleged accusations about them. The report is made public through national media.
- 2. **MP Monitoring Reports (Local):** Each TUMIKOM representative in provinces are preparing reports on promises made by MPs at the provincial level and whether those promises have turned into policies and/or services. These reports are based on measurable and comparative performances of MPs parliamentary activities within a legislative year in the same provinces. Those reports are made public at the districts of MPs at meetings attended by local media.
- 3. Government Report (Ten Promises): It covers answers to ten questions asked by TUMIKOM to the political parties participating in elections. It explains the results of promises given to TUMIKOM by the ruling party or other parties before the election. Evaluated in three categories; 1 kept promises, 2 unkept promises, 3 partially kept

promises. It is declared to national media and the general public. In 2009, 29 local reports published in 29 provinces where TUMIKOM representatives are established. TUMIKOM currently preparing its 6th national report and continues its monitoring activities.

Sample: Monitoring MPs Report (http://www.tumikom.org/23 1 2 pdf ekler/report summary.pdf)

### **Other Activities:**

• The public disclosure of the responses received to ten questions asked by TUMİKOM to the political parties about the democratization of the country, political ethics and the transparency in a scorecard format prior to the elections. The public disclosure of MPs promises to the voters before the elections in the provinces.

#### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• NDI; NED; NORWAY Embassy

### Number of full-time staff and part-time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Two full time staff and 10 part time staff/interns

### Uganda: African Leadership Institute (AFLI)

www.aflia.org (English)

Director: Mr. David Pulkol Organization Email: <u>info@aflia.org</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: Parliament of Uganda

**About:** The Africa Leadership Institute (AFLI) was conceived in the late 2003 as an Independent, non-partisan, public policy Pan African Think tank. It is spearheaded by African policy experts, some of whom are former senior Government and United Nations staff, others Former parliamentarians, senior civil society actors, University lecturers, and media practitioners. AFLI was established with the broad aim of promoting excellence in Leadership, security, good governance and sustainable development in Africa.

### **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

AFLI has several parliamentary monitoring programs within its Democracy & Governance Projects:

- <u>The Scorecard Project</u>: The Parliamentary Scorecard Project seeks to provide Ugandans with this critical information, thereby empowering them to monitor their elected representatives and to make informed choices at election time. The Scorecard is distinctive in that it offers objective, reliable, and transparent measures of how Members of Parliament perform in plenary sittings and parliamentary committees, as well as In their constituencies. By disseminating accurate, objective, and comprehensive information about the performance of each of Uganda's elected MPs, the Africa Leadership Institute (AFLI) hopes to help foster greater transparency and ultimately greater democratic accountability in Uganda.
- <u>Monitoring the Constituency Development Fund (CDF)</u>: AFLI is assessing and monitoring implementation of CDF with the view towards proposing and refining its policy guidelines and legislation. AFLI has developed a CDF policy proposal, which is a by-product of a study pertaining to the MPs Performance Report Card undertaken by AFLI. The purpose of the paper is to propose to the Government of Uganda a legal policy and implementation framework to govern the disbursement of the CDF funds which aid poverty eradication.
- <u>The Mock Multi-Party Parliamentary Debate</u>: The Africa Leadership Institute (AFLI) has been active in activities relating to facilitation of the transition from Movement (no party) to Multi-party political system. It is under this programme that AFLI hosted Uganda's first Mock Multi-Party Parliamentary debate between 29th and 30th, September 2005. The objectives of the Mock Parliamentary debate to familiarize and educate current political leadership, aspirants, and the general public on the workings of a multi-party parliamentary system through active participation.

#### **Other Activities:**

• In addition to its governance program, AFLI's programmatic areas include: Peace Support and Security Sector Reform Projects, Minority Communities and Leadership Programme Projects, Leadership Excellence and Socio-Economic Development Projects, and Promotion of Regionalism and Partnerships Projects.

### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• Stanford University and Colombia University (evaluation); Defending Dem Program, Kampala (Embassy of the Netherlands, Embassy of Ireland, DFID, DANIDA, CIDA, Embassy of Norway).

### Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Twenty-four full time staff and 34 part time staff work on monitoring projects.

### United Kingdom: Hansard Society

www.hansardsociety.org.uk (English)

Director: Ms. Fiona Booth

Organization Email: <u>hansard@hansard.lse.ac.uk</u>

**Parliament(s) Monitored:** United Kingdom Parliament, London; The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh: National Assembly for Wales. Cardiff

**About:** The Hansard Society is an independent, non-partisan political research and education charity. It aims to strengthen parliamentary democracy and encourage greater public involvement in politics. The Hansard Society's work is based on the belief that an effective parliamentary system is central to a successful democracy. Activities undertaken are dependent on securing funding and therefore change on a yearly basis. The Hansard Society undertakes research on a range of parliamentary and political issues. Research is often accompanied by recommendations - many of which have resulted in change. The Hansard Society's projects fall into four broad research categories: public engagement, parliamentary and constitutional reform, the nature of representation, and democratic innovations.

### **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

The Hansard Society is made up of several research and education programs that inform decision makers and engage the public by:

- **Digital Democracy**: Focusing on online political communication and citizen engagement, the Society's work explores the many faces of digital inclusion, citizen engagement, political campaigning and parliamentary process.
- **Parliament and Government**: Focusing on the role of Parliament and parliamentarians, political accountability and transparency, and the public's engagement with politics and the political process.
- Education: A wide range of educational activities provided for young people, teachers, and international students that provide them with the opportunity to learn about parliamentary democracy and the ways in which they can get involved.

#### Sample: <u>Audit of Political Engagement</u>

(http://www.hansardsociety.org.uk/blogs/publications/archive/2010/03/03/the-7th-annual-audit-of-politicalengagement.aspx);

Parliament 2020 (http://hansardsociety.org.uk/blogs/edemocracy/archive/2009/01/28/parliament-2020.aspx);

### **Other Activities:**

• The Hansard Society runs a range of bespoke political education training and study programmes for organisations (including overseas parliamentary delegations) that want to know more about British politics – whether it the way in which Westminster works, parliamentary procedures or how to communicate with decision-makers.

Active partnerships with international organizations: Biblioteca del Congreso Nacional de Chile (Library of the National Congress of Chile); New Zealand, Australian and Canadian Parliaments; University of Koblenz; European eParticipation Network (PEP-NET)

### Number of full-time staff and part-time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Nine full-time staff

### United Kingdom: mySociety

www.mysociety.org; www.theyworkforyou.com; www.whatdotheyknow.com (English)

Director: Mr. Tom Steinberg

Organization Email: <u>hello@mysociety.org</u>

Parliament(s) Monitored: UK Parliament; Scottish Parliament; Northern Ireland Assembly

**About:** mySociety is a not-for-profit company that builds websites of a democratic bent for other people, such as the <u>No 10 Downing Street Petitions Website</u>, for the Prime Minister's Office. It runs most of the best-known democracy and transparency websites in the UK, sites like <u>TheyWorkForYou</u> and <u>WriteToThem</u>. mySociety is also a community of volunteers and (paid) open source coders. mySociety.org has two goals: To be a charitable project which builds websites that give people simple, tangible benefits in the civic and community aspects of their lives, and; To teach the public and voluntary sectors, through demonstration, how to use the internet most efficiently to improve lives.

**Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:** mySociety builds and maintains websites that monitor parliaments, encourage interaction between MPs and citizens, and facilitate access to government information.

- <u>TheyWorkForYou.com</u> allows users to get information on their representatives, monitor debates in the House of Lords and the House of Commons, and read the latest written Ministerial Statements.
- <u>HearFromYourMP.com</u> is a service that encourages MPs to communicate with constituents about things they think are important, and gives citizens a chance to talk back. Over 118,000 people have signed up to talk with their MPs on HearFromYourMP.com and over 200 MPs have actively used the service so far.
- <u>WriteToThem.com</u> makes it easy for constituents to contact their MPs for free.
- <u>WhatDoTheyKnow.com</u> helps visitors make freedom of information requests to government agencies, including the Parliament, and allows visitors to explore requests made by others.

### **Other Activities:**

- mySociety has partnered with Open Society Institute to <u>help people in Central and Eastern Europe</u> to build democracy and transparency websites suited to the needs and realities of their countries.
- mySociety has <u>received a grant from the Omidyar Network</u> to help build capacity and provide expertise to develop open source websites for transparency-focused organizations in Africa.
- mySociety.org runs a variety of public service websites, including:
  - <u>No. 10 Petitions Website</u>: a petitions system with over eight million signatures.
  - <u>FixMyStreet</u>: A site where people can report, view, or discuss local problems like graffiti, fly tipping, broken paving slabs, or street lighting.

### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• OSI, Omidyar Network

### United States: Civic Impulse

www.civicimpulse.com; www.govtrack.us; www.govtrackinsider.com (English)

Director: Mr. Joshua Tauberer Organization Email: jt@occams.info Parliament(s) Monitored: United States Congress

**About:** Civic Impulse builds tools at the intersection of civics and technology. Its two main projects, GovTrack.us and GovTrack Insider, provide a detailed look into the U.S. Congress's legislative activities.

### **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

Detailed reference information on legislation including bill text, votes, etc. Legislative statistics for Members of Congress: missed votes, leader-follower score, ideology score. Tracking for bills and subject areas with email updates, RSS feeds. Articles on recent congressional activity. Maps for congressional districts.

Sample: <u>GovTrack.us;</u> <u>GovTrackInsider.com</u>

#### **Other Activities:**

Participation in the general open government community in the US.

### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• None

#### Number of full time and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Three part time staff

### United States: Sunlight Foundation

www.sunlightfoundation.com (English)

Director: Mr. Mike Klein and Ms. Ellen Miller Organization Email: <u>http://sunlightfoundation.com/contact/</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: U.S. Congress

**About:** The Sunlight Foundation is an organization designed to use the power of the Internet to catalyze greater government openness and transparency and to provide new tools and resources for media and citizens alike. It is committed to improving access to government information by making it available online—indeed redefining "public information" as meaning "online"—and by creating new tools and websites to access that information and engage communities in their use. The Sunlight Foundation strives to catalyze a demand for greater government transparency through strong communities—communities of technologists, policy wonks, open government advocates and ordinary citizens—engaging them in demanding policies that will open government enabling all of us to hold government accountable. Sunlight develops and encourages new policies inside the government to make it more open and transparent; facilitates searchable, sortable and machine readable databases; builds tools and websites to enable easy access to information; fosters distributed research projects as an community building tool; engages in advocacy for 21st century laws to require that government make data available in real time; and trains thousands of journalists.

### **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

- **Transparency Projects:** Sunlight Foundation's transparency in government projects include:
  - <u>OpenCongress.org</u> brings together official government data with news and blog coverage, social networking, public participation tools, and more to give you the real story behind what's happening in Congress.
  - <u>Foreign Lobbying</u>, a joint project of ProPublica and the Sunlight Foundation, digitizes information that representatives of foreign governments, political parties and government-controlled entities must disclose to the U.S. Justice Department when they seek to influence U.S. policy.
  - For easy access to information about the U.S. Congress on the go, Sunlight Foundation has developed phone applications, including: <u>RealTimeCongress.org</u> and <u>Congress</u>.
- **Transparency Grants:** The Sunlight Foundation offers "transparency grants" for organizations that are using the Web to further our mission of making government information more accessible to the American people. Our goal is to support groups and individuals who are going beyond the traditional, single subject public disclosure database, and who are interested in creating cutting-edge tools to enable the media, bloggers and citizens to sift, share and combine government data in ways that are useful for them.

Recipients include: <u>OpenSecrets.org</u>, <u>MAPLight.org</u>, <u>Follow the Money</u>, <u>Taxpayers for Common Sense</u>, and others.

• **Open Government Advocacy:** Sunlight's policy work has helped push many changes to fruition including updating Franking rules to allow lawmakers to use social media sites like Twitter and YouTube, getting the House and the Senate to post office expenditure reports online and roll call votes posted in .XML format. Among Sunlight's projects in this area is the <u>Open House Project</u>, a collaborative cross-partisan effort to identify concrete reforms the House of Representatives could make in its use of information and the Internet.

### **Other Activities:**

• Sunlight has many other initiatives to promote transparency on all levels of government.

### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• None

### Number of full time staff and part time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• None

### United States: Voter Information Services (VIS)

www.vis.org (English)

Director: Mr. Hubert Hubik Organization Email: <u>info@vis.org</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: The United States Congress

**About:** Voter Information Services (VIS) is a non-partisan, non-profit organization. VIS does not support or oppose any politician, advocacy group, or issue. The goal of VIS is to help interested citizens learn about the effects of the laws enacted (or not enacted) by the United States Congress on our everyday lives and about the role of individual members of Congress in the legislative process.

### **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

**Tracking Activity:** VIS gathers information about legislation considered by the U.S. Congress published by policy-monitoring entities such as interest groups, lobbies and individual citizens.

**Monitoring & Analysis:** VIS correlates the position on legislation of the monitoring entities with the legislative actions (voting records, sponsorship of legislation, etc.) of members of the U.S. Congress. Each report card is a graphical report that shows how closely the position on legislation of a member of Congress matched the position on legislation of one or more advocacy groups over a period of up to six years.

Reporting: VIS publishes reports with the above information on the vis.org web site.

**Sample:** <u>Report Cards</u>, searchable by Congress member or district. (<u>http://www.vis.org/crc/getReportCard.aspx</u>)

#### **Other Activities:**

• None

### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• None

### Number of full-time staff and part-time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• Three part time staff/interns

### United States: WashingtonWatch.com

www.washingtonwatch.com (English)

Director: Mr. Jim Harper Organization Email: <u>webmaster@washingtonwatch.com</u> Parliament(s) Monitored: The United States Congress

**About:** WashingtonWatch.com provides legislative data to the U.S. public in a more usable form and fosters discussion, voting, and wiki editing on individual bills. WashingtonWatch.com tracks the bills in Congress, along with estimates about their costs or savings.

### **Parliamentary Monitoring Activities:**

WashingtonWatch.com undertakes automated collection and display of legislative data, adding cost information when available. The site hosts a blog intended to bring legislative stories to life, and WashingtonWatch.com monitors comments to foster productive discussion. It also sends out a newsletter notifying subscribers of new legislation and regulation.

Sample: WashingtonWatch.com Wiki (http://washingtonwatch.com/wiki/tutorial/)

### **Other Activities:**

None. All of WashingtonWatch.com's activities are centered around monitoring the bills before Congress.

### Active partnerships with international organizations:

• Sunlight Foundation

### Number of full-time staff and part-time staff/interns working on monitoring projects:

• One part time staffer/intern

**APPENDIX 5: Sample PMO Survey Questionnaire** 

### **Appendix 5: Sample PMO Survey Questionnaire**





#### Parliamentary Monitoring Organization (PMO) Questionnaire

Dear Esteemed Colleague,

The World Bank Institute (WBI) and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) are currently collaborating on a global mapping of parliamentary monitoring organizations ("PMOs"). This joint initiative seeks to collect information about PMOs, the types of activities that they conduct and the effectiveness and impact of their monitoring efforts. The project will then identify best practices for parliamentary monitoring, suggest opportunities to the international donor community on how to best support parliamentary monitoring initiatives, and potentially provide a basis for establishing an international network of PMOs. As part of this effort, profiles of participating organizations (based on information that you provide in this survey) will be published on NDI's website and shared with PMOs and international organizations alike.

This research stems from a recognition that there is a growing number of civil society organizations, often funded by the international community, who are engaged in monitoring, evaluating and assessing the functioning of national and sub-national legislatures. These efforts often face common challenges and PMOs could benefit from sharing methodologies and lessons learned. At the same time, efforts within the international community to codify emerging international benchmarks or norms for democratic parliaments provide an opportunity for more qualitative monitoring of parliamentary development. Understanding the experiences of PMOs and the opportunities and constraints that they face is important in improving legislative performance around the world.

This questionnaire contains four sections comprising 32 multiple-choice and short-answer questions in total. These questions are aimed at helping us learn about your organization, its activities, organizational capacities, and experiences monitoring and evaluating parliaments. It should take no longer than 30 minutes to fill out. However, because this survey is the primary mechanism that this project will use for gathering information on how PMOs function, we ask that you provide candid and thoughtful responses where possible. Our ability to produce a study that accurately reflects your hard work and benefits the larger PMO community depends on the depth of information that you provide.

The survey can be completed in one of three ways:

- 1) You can complete it online at <u>http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5DWL8BG</u>. This is the easiest and fastest way to complete the survey.
- 2) You can open this document in Microsoft Word and enter your responses directly into the document. After saving the document, you can email it to <u>Andrew.g.mandelbaum@gmail.com</u>.
- 3) You can print out this document and enter your responses using pen. It can then be faxed to Andrew G. Mandelbaum at NDI Morocco at (+212) 5 37 67 16 25.

The questionnaire is available in English, French and Spanish. We hope to receive completed questionnaires by January 15, 2010. If you have any questions, please contact Andrew G. Mandelbaum at <u>Andrew.g.mandelbaum@gmail.com</u> or (+1) 973-968-4879 (agm3jordan on Skype) or David Kuennen at <u>dkuennen@ndi.org</u> or (+1) 202-728-6301.

Over the coming weeks, we will be completing profile sheets for each organization based on your answers to this survey. We will also be reviewing the information provided in order to identify commonly shared opportunities and constraints, and lessons learned. In addition, several PMOs will be contacted to participate in more in-depth interviews aimed at assisting us in establishing international best practices for parliamentary monitoring and evaluation. These, along with profiles of all participating organizations, will be shared among participating PMOs and the international donor community.

Please note that the PMO profiles will describe the types of activities that an organization conducts, but will not include specific information related to the challenges or difficulties faced, as this information is being collected strictly for the purposes of research and developing solutions to commonly shared challenges. Your organization will be asked to review the profile sheet prior to its publication.

If you have not yet submitted to us an example of your recent parliamentary monitoring work, these can be sent to: <u>Andrew.g.mandelbaum@gmail.com</u>. A space for providing a link to your organization's parliamentary monitoring work can be found at the end of this survey.

Sincerely,

Andrew G. Mandelbaum Joint Consultant NDI/WBI

Andrew.g.mandelbaum@gmail.com Phone: (+1) 973 968-4879 Skype: agm3jordan

### Section I. Organization Background Information

1.	Organization name:	
2.	Organization acronym (if any):	
3.	Website address (if any):	
4.	Organization's general email address (if any):	
5.	Organization (physical) address:	
6.	Organization phone number:	
7.	In what country (countries) is your organization based?	

	Salutation (highlight correct answer)	First Name	Last Name
8. What is the name of your organization's director?	Dr. Ms. Mr. Mrs.		
9. What is the email address of your organization's director?			
	Salutation (highlight correct answer)	First Name	Last Name
10. What is the name of the person who completed this questionnaire?	Dr. Ms. Mr. Mrs.		
11. What is the email address of the person who completed this questionnaire?			

# 12. What percentage of your organization's activities are currently devoted to parliamentary monitoring and evaluation?

Highlight or circle the one (1) answer that best applies.

A. 0%	D. 41 – 60%	
B. 1 – 20% C. 21 – 40%	E. 61 – 80% F. 81 – 100%	

13. Does your organization consider itself to be non-partisan (not affiliated with a political party or		
cause)?Highlight or circle the answer that applies.		
A. Yes	B. No	

### Section II. Profile Sheet Information

Information provided in this section will help us craft your organization's profile sheet. Please increase or decrease the amount of space provided in the answer sections as you see fit.

#### 14. Briefly describe your organization and its mission:

Please limit your response to no more than a few sentences.

#### 15. Which national and sub-national parliament(s) does your organization monitor or evaluate?

Please specify country. **Examples:** 1) Legislature of Santa Fe, Argentina 2) Delhi Assembly, India 1)

2) 3) 4)

Survey continues on next page.

# **16.** Describe the parliamentary monitoring and/or evaluation activities conducted by your organization and the methodologies that inform them:

Please note <u>when</u> these activities took place and whether they are <u>ongoing</u>. Please note whether the activities are <u>ongoing</u> or have been <u>concluded</u>. In countries having a federal system, please include activities at the <u>national</u> level, as well as at the <u>sub-national</u> level. In countries which have <u>constituency</u> <u>development funds (CDFs)</u> or where MPs have the ability to distribute development or other funds through members items or "earmarking," please include a description of any monitoring that you have done of these expenditures.

Survey continues on next page.

<b>17. Please mark the most relevant description of your organization's activities:</b> Mark at least one (1) answer below, and as many as three (3), according to their importance by writing a "1," 2" and "3" in the adjacent boxes.	Rank "1," "2" or "3" the three or fewer most relevant choices in the boxes below:
A. Information aggregation and dissemination (providing access to parliamentary information such as transcripts, voting records and documents produced by the legislature)	
B. Research and analysis (synthesizing and analyzing information provided by the legislature and other sources)	
C. Assessment and evaluation (assessing the performance of MPs, the parliamentary institution and/or administration, etc., including through the use of scorecards or report cards)	
D. Advocacy campaigning (lobbying parliament on issues related to parliamentary performance, including transparency and corruption)	
E. Civic education (holding conferences and events and producing reports to educate citizens and citizen-based organizations about parliament, parliamentary performance, legislative topics, etc.)	
F. Single-issue or -policy monitoring (monitoring parliament as part of a greater effort aimed at monitoring a single issue or policy area, such as transparency, corruption, campaign finance, or the budget process)	
G. Other(s) (please describe):	

### 18. Briefly describe your organization's non-parliamentary monitoring activities:

Please limit responses to no more than a few sentences.

# **19. List and describe all domestic and international funding and non-funding partners that actively contribute to the conduct of these parliamentary monitoring or evaluation activities:** *Please limit all descriptions to <u>no more than 1 sentence</u> and add or subtract numbers as needed.*

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
organization's activities on a full-	time and part-time basis? Full-time interns/volunteers:
Full-time staff:	Part-time interns/volunteers:
Part-time staff:	T art-time interns/volunteers.
	embers and interns/volunteers on average contribute to your nitoring and/or evaluation activities on a full-time and part-tim
	Full-time interns/volunteers:

Full-time staff:	Full-time interns/volunteers:
	Part-time interns/volunteers:
Part-time staff:	

Survey continues on next page.

### Section III. Parliamentary Monitoring or Evaluation Activities

Please complete the questions below related to your monitoring or evaluation activities. Please increase or decrease the amount of space provided in the answer sections as you see fit.

<b>22. What are the products or outputs of your organization's parliamentary</b> <b>monitoring or evaluation activities?</b> Select the answers that best describe the products or outputs of your organization's parliamentary monitoring or evaluation work from the list below.	Mark an "X" in the box next to each answer that applies:
A. Website(s) specific to parliamentary monitoring	
B. Section of an organization's website dedicated to monitoring and evaluation	
C. Weblog	
D. Social networking page (i.e. Facebook page)	
E. Webcasting (visual and/or audio)	
F. Parliamentary monitoring 'newsletters'	
G. Publication of MP profiles	
H. Scorecards, report cards	
I. Report(s) assessing the performance of the legislature	
J. Report(s) assessing the legislature's institutional capacities, its internal rules, and/or administrative apparatus	
K. Assessment(s) of political institutions or issues that includes, but is not limited to, an assessment of parliament	
L. Summaries of specific pieces of legislation	
M. Legislative tracking services	
N. Summaries of a parliament's activities during a legislative session or year	
O. Advocacy campaign(s) directed towards the parliament	
P. Public awareness campaign(s)	
Q. Other(s) (please describe):	

23. Which of the following are the principal actors that your activities aim to monitor or evaluate? Select <u>no more than three (3)</u> answer(s) that correspond with the principal groups or actors that your activities aim to monitor or evaluate.	Mark an "X" <u>in</u> <u>three (3) or fewer</u> boxes below:
A. Members of parliament	
B. Political parties	
C. Parliamentary blocs, caucuses or party groups	
D. Parliamentary committees (permanent or ad hoc)	
E. The institution of parliament (i.e. comparing the powers or qualities of parliament to those of other actors in the political system, international standards, etc.)	
F. The parliamentary administration (the organizational structure and administrative capacity)	
G. All of the above	
H. Not applicable	
I. Other(s) (please describe):	

# 24. Please describe the three (3) most important impacts that your organization has had on the parliament(s) or political arena(s) associated with its monitoring or evaluation activities:

(Examples include: Providing information to other civil society organizations that successfully lobby parliament to amend a law; Conducting an evaluation that leads to a reform process of the parliamentary administration.)

<b>25. Does your organization engage in any of the following activities?</b> Select the answer(s) below that correspond with activities that your organization conducts.	Mark an "X" ir the box next to each answer that applies:
A. Monitoring constituency development funds or other development plans that parliamentarians are responsible for implementing	
B. Monitoring party campaign finances	
C. Writing opinion articles published by the media	
D. Issuing press releases stating opinions on affairs related to parliament	
E. Evaluating the parliament based on a tool created by an international organization, (i.e. the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Transparency International)	
F. Testifying in parliamentary committee hearings or plenary sessions	
G. Fulfilling requests of MPs, political party leaders, or parliamentary staff for information about policy issues, legislation or parliamentary reforms	
H. Proposing a code of ethics or conduct for members of parliament	
I. Proposing amendments to legislation, the Constitution or Rules of Procedure (internal rules) that would improve the parliament's effectiveness or representativeness	
J. Making requests for information under a freedom of information law	
K. Engaging in public interest litigation	
L. Conducting public opinion polls	
M. Conducting polls or surveys of members of parliament	
N. Monitoring elections	
O. Monitoring the 'state of democracy' in your country or countries	
P. Not applicable	

Survey continues on next page.

### Section IV. General Questions on Monitoring and Evaluation

Please increase or decrease the amount of space provided in the answer sections as you see fit.

<ul> <li>26. What are the most important sources of financial support for your organization's monitoring and/or evaluation activities?</li> <li>Mark at least one (1), and no more than three (3), funding sources below in order of importance by writing a "1," 2" and "3" in the adjacent boxes.</li> </ul>	Rank "1," "2" or "3" the three or fewer most relevant choices in the boxes below:
A. Grants from international donor agencies	
B. Grants from local government/government agencies	
C. Grants from local donors	
D. Contributions from individuals	
E. Organization membership fees	
F. Sales of products (reports, books, etc.) produced by organization	
G. Other:	

27. Does your organization have any MPs or former-MPs on the board or committee that oversees its parliamentary monitoring or evaluation work?

Highlight or circle the answer that applies.

- A. Yes
- B. No

C. Do not know

D. Not applicable

<b>28. What are the main obstacles that your organization faces in its efforts to conduct parliamentary monitoring and/or evaluation activities?</b> <i>Mark an "X" in the box to the right of the most pertinent answers.</i>	Mark an "X" in the box next to each answer that applies:
A. Difficulty gaining access to desired information	
B. Difficulty gaining access to MPs, parties and/or parliamentary staff	
C. Resistance to the activity's goals by MPs, parties and/or parliamentary staff	
D. Maintaining credibility and impartiality	
E. Competitive rather than cooperative relationships with other civil society organizations	
F. Existing tools for parliamentary evaluation are insufficient in application to local context	
G. Lack of international donor support	
H. Lack of interest from local citizens and organizations	
I. Lack of local financial support from local funding sources	
J. Insufficient technological knowhow	
K. Insufficient technological resources (i.e. software, hardware, source code, etc.)	
L. Insufficient political space to conduct comprehensive activity	
M. Lack of grant-writing skills	
N. Other(s) (please describe):	

# 29. Briefly describe the major constraints indicated in the previous question (28) and how your organization has dealt with them:

## **30.** Have any democracy assessment tools or parliamentary monitoring or evaluation tools produced by international organizations contributed to the methodology(ies) used by your organization?

Highlight or circle the answer that applies.

- A. Yes B. No
- $C. \ Do not know$ 
  - D. Not applicable

31. If you responded "A. Yes" to the previous question (30), please list these tools and the organization that created them in the space provided below:

**32.** Do you have any other ideas, comments, or suggestions related to parliamentary monitoring and evaluation that you would like to share with the international community?

If you have not yet submitted to us an example of your recent parliamentary monitoring work, please send one to: <u>Andrew.g.mandelbaum@gmail.com</u>. Or, you can provide a link to an article on your website here:

Thank you for your participation in the NDI-WBI Parliamentary Monitoring Organizations Survey!





