



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

IPU action on health

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is the international organization of Parliaments. With a membership of 170 Parliaments, the IPU is a global forum for parliamentary dialogue, cooperation and action. It advances democracy and assists parliaments and parliamentarians throughout the world to fulfil their mandates.

Support to parliaments

IPU provides national parliaments with technical support on health issues to make their health work more effective and to deliver more fully on their commitments. IPU-led work has produced remarkable results: Rwanda has adopted revised legislation on access to reproductive and sexual health care; Uganda has increased its funding for health work after effective oversight; and the Bangladeshi Parliament has acted decisively across the country to end child marriage.

A venue for all

At its statutory Assemblies, IPU mobilizes the global parliamentary community through discussion, adoption and implementation of resolutions on health and through specialized events jointly organized with WHO, PMNCH and UNAIDS.

IPU Advisory Group

The Group offers guidance to parliaments on how to implement international commitments on health. Following field visits to Burundi, South Africa, Tanzania and Vietnam, the Advisory Group made recommendations to parliaments on how to use full oversight powers to ensure adequate funding for health; raise awareness to end marginalization and discrimination; and support advocacy efforts.

Global action

IPU provides a parliamentary perspective to key global events and processes relating to HIV/AIDS and women's, children's and adolescents' health. It is a long-time partner of WHO and UNAIDS and has been defined a "tireless advocate for women's and children's health" by the independent Expert Review Group.

Linking science and politics

IPU technical support to national parliaments is based on scientific evidence. That enables each parliament to deliver well-informed and better-designed national action. IPU has published parliamentary handbooks, guidelines and reports that have shaped parliamentary action on health.

