



Inter Pares Newsletter

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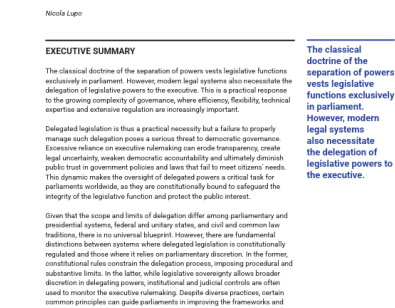
NEW PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEF: The Role of Parliament in Delegated Legislation: Principles for Safeguarding Legislative Transparency and Democratic Accountability



Parliament is central to democracy, serving as the forum where elected representatives debate and pass the laws that shape society. While parliaments also oversee the executive, approve budgets and represent citizens, their legislative role is the most visible. As bodies representing the public, they adopt laws that reflect diverse interests and challenges.

However, lawmakers cannot determine every technical detail required to implement legislation. Governments therefore issue regulations—such as decrees, orders and ordinances—to operationalize laws. As governance becomes more complex and increasingly reliant on technical and scientific expertise, the volume of such rules has grown.



This process, known as delegated legislation, is essential for effective administration but often receives less public debate and scrutiny than primary legislation. The challenge for parliaments is to ensure that delegated powers remain limited, transparent and subject to oversight.

[This publication](#) explores how different countries address this challenge and how parliaments can balance effective governance with democratic accountability when delegating rule-making powers to the executive.

PARTNER PROFILE:

HON. GABATSHOLWE DISHO: Member of the National Assembly of Botswana (for Okavango East)



Q: How did you first become involved in parliament work and what motivated you?

A: I became interested in parliament work because I grew up in a very underdeveloped area, where infrastructure is poor, health care services are limited, and education systems face serious challenges. Despite these hardships, my community is located in a region rich in natural resources and recognised as a world heritage site.

Seeing this contrast between natural wealth and human struggle, deeply motivated me. It made me realise that effective leadership and policy making are essential to ensure that the local

communities benefit from the natural resources.

My background as a naturalist has also shaped my perspective. It has given me strong appreciation for environmental conservation, sustainable development, and the importance of balancing economic growth with the protection of the natural heritage.

I am motivated to be part of parliamentary work because I want to advocate for equitable development, improve public services, and responsible resources management. I believe my lived experience, combined with my knowledge of the natural environment, allows me to contribute meaningfully to national progress and to represent communities like mine that are often overlooked.

Q: What is one project or initiative you are particularly proud of?

A: One initiative I am particularly proud of is supporting community-based organisations and community trusts. These structures empower people, especially in the north, to manage local resources and improve their livelihoods in a sustainable and inclusive way.

Q: What is the biggest challenge facing your parliament today?

A: The biggest challenge our parliament currently faces is limited resources, which affects the implementation of development projects. This is particularly evident in my area, where progress in infrastructure, health care, and other essential services is slowed by these constraints.

Q: How has international collaboration (like Inter Pares) influenced your work in parliament?

A: International collaboration through Inter Pares has helped me understand that many of our problems are not unique, but shared globally. It has broadened my perspective and strengthened my ability to approach these issues with more informed and collaborative solutions.

Q: How has your participation in the Human-Wildlife Coexistence Roundtable influenced your perspective on the role of parliaments in balancing community livelihoods with conservation goals and how do you plan to apply these insights in your work?

A: My participation in the Human-Wildlife Coexistence Roundtable has strengthened my understanding of the need to balance community livelihoods with conservation goals. It has shown me that parliament plays a crucial role in creating policies that protect natural resources while also supporting the well-being of local communities.

I plan to apply these insights by advocating for inclusive policies that involve communities in the conservation efforts, promote sustainable use of resources, and ensure that people directly benefit from protecting wildlife and their environment.

Q: If you weren't working in parliament, what would you be doing?

A: I would be leading tours in Northern Botswana (Okavango Delta, Chobe and central Kalahari reserve) and Southern Africa. I'm passionate about travel and would focus on showcasing Botswana's tourism potential, while privately promoting the country to a global audience.

RECENT PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES:

**WHEN PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE COLLIDE: THE INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY
ROUNDTABLE ON HUMAN-WILDLIFE COEXISTENCE**



In many parts of the world, the line between human life and wildlife is increasingly blurred. Fields overlap with migration routes, villages sit at the edges of protected areas, and livelihoods intersect directly with conservation. What was once seen as a distant environmental concern is now a daily reality for communities – and an urgent political question for lawmakers.

This perspective framed the International Parliamentary Roundtable on Human–Wildlife Coexistence, which was hosted by the National Assembly of Botswana in partnership with International IDEA, through its Inter Pares – Parliaments in Partnership and Climate Change and Democracy programmes, in Gaborone from 19 to 21 January 2026, with support from the European Union.

The roundtable brought together parliamentarians and practitioners from Botswana, nine other countries across Africa, Europe, and Asia – including Finland, Germany, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Romania, Sri Lanka, Sweden, and Zambia – alongside government officials, civil society representatives, local community members, and conservation experts. Across regions, participants agreed that human-wildlife coexistence is a global, cross-sectoral challenge that calls for collective parliamentary action, underpinned by peer learning and dialogue.

“Coexistence is not an abstract ideal but a policy choice that requires balance, courage, and foresight.... Our laws and decisions must secure both human livelihoods and the long-term survival of wildlife for generations to come,” said Hon. Dithapelo L. Keorapetse, Speaker of the National Assembly of Botswana in his closing remarks at the roundtable.

Human-wildlife coexistence is an escalating global challenge. In Africa, pressures from habitat loss, climate change, land use, and tourism intensify interactions between people and wildlife. In Europe, similar challenges are emerging through rewilding programmes and ecosystem restoration efforts. Parliamentarians are uniquely positioned to balance community concerns with national development priorities and international biodiversity commitments.

The three-day roundtable focused on strengthening parliamentary leadership, highlighting the role of parliaments in policy development, oversight, and budgetary decision-making, and fostering consultative, inclusive approaches. Participants exchanged knowledge, shared practical solutions, and built networks across regions to address wildlife conservation, climate change, and land-use challenges.

“The European Union strongly supports biodiversity and sustainable conservation, working with local communities and African parliaments. I value the National Assembly of Botswana’s leadership and its committees’ role in addressing human-wildlife coexistence, showcasing Botswana’s successes in community-based natural resource management and legislation. The EU will continue promoting cooperation on HWC through funding, policy guidance, and international partnership.” – said Petra Pereyra, Ambassador to the Republic of Botswana and Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Discussions explored drivers of conflict, such as land use and habitat loss, and practical solutions including community-based natural resource management, compensation and insurance mechanisms, early warning systems, climate-smart agriculture, and deterrent technologies. Parliamentarians also heard directly from local communities about their challenges and lived experiences, reinforcing the importance of evidence-based, participatory policymaking.

The roundtable strengthened participants’ capacity to develop policies that support human-wildlife coexistence and improve their ability to respond through legislation, oversight, and community engagement.

“Communities – whether in rural Botswana, Romania or Sri Lanka – confront similar concerns. This roundtable showed how valuable it is to learn from one another when navigating these shared dilemmas,” said Jonathan Murphy, Head of Programme, Inter Pares, International IDEA.

This gathering marked a significant step toward reinforcing parliamentary leadership and advancing peaceful, sustainable coexistence between people and wildlife. Looking ahead, a practical toolkit for parliamentarians on human-wildlife coexistence is due to be released later in 2026, providing guidance, best practices, and legislative approaches drawn from experiences across Africa, Europe, and Asia.

Read more [here](#). Also, [watch video reflections](#) from roundtable participants.

BUILDING EVIDENCE-BASED PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES: INSIGHTS FROM BENIN'S STUDY VISIT TO PRAGUE

From 1–5 December 2025, the National Assembly of Benin carried out a study visit to the Parliamentary Institute of the Czech Chamber of Deputies in Prague under the Inter Pares programme. The visit brought together parliamentary research professionals from Benin and counterparts from the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy and Slovakia for in-depth, peer-to-peer exchanges aimed at strengthening independent, evidence-based parliamentary research services.



Over the week, participants explored how parliamentary research services are structured, governed and resourced, and how they maintain independence while responding to the needs of Members of Parliament (MPs). Practical sessions examined the production and quality assurance of research outputs, internal coordination with legal, library and committee services, and the use of digital tools – including emerging applications of artificial intelligence – to improve efficiency without compromising impartiality. The programme also highlighted the value of external partnerships with academia, civil society and international networks in enriching parliamentary work.

Building on the momentum of the visit, partners agreed to pursue further collaboration in 2026, including exchange visits, joint or pilot research initiatives, targeted training on research methodologies and AI, and webinars focused on translating scientific evidence into concise, policy-relevant analysis for MPs. These next steps aim to further strengthen parliamentary research capacity in Benin while deepening long-term cooperation between European and African parliaments. Learn more [here](#).

To reflect on the week's discussions and share perspectives from the delegation, two MPs offered short video statements on the importance of strengthening parliamentary research services and international cooperation. Watch them:

- [Mr Fataou Djima, Director of the Parliamentary Institute of the National Assembly of Benin](#)
- [Mr Antonin Kpegouton, Head of the Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Department, National Assembly of Benin](#)

STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTARY PARTNERSHIPS: UKRAINIAN DELEGATION VISITS THE GERMAN BUNDESTAG



From 22 February to 1 March 2026, a study visit in Berlin brought together a delegation from the parliamentary administration of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, in cooperation with the German Bundestag, the National Assembly of France and with the support of Inter Pares. It coincided with the fourth anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

During the visit, Ukrainian, German and French parliamentary officials exchanged experiences on key aspects of parliamentary work, including European Union (EU) integration, the role of parliamentary committees, media and press relations, social media communication, and transparency in parliamentary processes.

Highlights included discussions with members of the Committee on European Union Affairs, official opening remarks by Paul Göttke, the Secretary-General of the German Bundestag, a reception with Omid Nouripour, Vice-President of the Bundestag, and exchanges with senior Bundestag officials.

Beyond the institutional programme, the visit also provided an opportunity for direct exchange between colleagues working in parliamentary administrations. Participants from Ukraine shared insights into how parliamentary work continues under extremely challenging circumstances, highlighting the resilience and dedication of parliamentary staff.

The study visit formed part of ongoing efforts to strengthen international parliamentary cooperation and peer-to-peer exchange among parliamentary administrations.

ARCHITECTS OF EQUALITY: ADVANCING INCLUSIVE DEMOCRACY IN MALAYSIA



On March 16, 2026, the All-Party Parliamentary Group, Malaysia on Gender Equality (APPGM-GE), in partnership with the Inter Pares programme, hosted a virtual exchange titled 'Building Modern and Inclusive Parliaments: A Global Exchange on Gender-Sensitive Parliament Assessments'.

A gender-sensitive assessment is a stocktake of a parliament's progress towards becoming a gender-sensitive parliament, looking at its rules, practices, culture, and outputs. During the exchange, international experts stressed that assessments are continuous processes of evolution rather than isolated events.

The event reinforced that inclusive representation is a fundamental democratic requirement. As the Hon. Speaker Tan Sri Dato' Dr. Johari bin Abdul noted in address, "gender equality is not peripheral to democracy, but lies at the very heart of our legitimacy. Half of its population cannot credibly claim to represent the will of the people".

This global exchange provided the Parliament of Malaysia with a strong foundation of international knowledge and practical advice as it embarks on its gender-sensitive assessment.

Read more [here](#).

EU CLIMATE AND ENERGY POLICY IN FOCUS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE INTER PARES – VERKHOVNA RADA WEBINAR SERIES



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“Recovery and reconstruction will not simply be about rebuilding what was destroyed, but about rebuilding in a way that is sustainable, resilient and aligned with European Union climate objectives....it is central to Ukraine’s recovery agenda and to its future within the EU.

– Jonathan Murphy, Head of Programme, Inter Pares, International IDEA

From 3–4 March 2026, *Inter Pares*, in partnership with the *Research Service of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine*, organised two webinars as part of the workshop series on the chapters of the EU acquis under Cluster 4: Green Agenda and Sustainable Connectivity.

The sessions focused on Chapter 27 – Climate and the Green Agenda and Chapter 15 – Energy, supporting knowledge exchange and strengthening parliamentary analytical capacity in the context of Ukraine’s European Union (EU) integration process.

The 3 March webinar examined the EU climate policy framework, including the EU’s climate targets for 2030–2050 and the European

Climate Law. Presentations were delivered by Gregor Erbach, from the European Parliamentary Research Service, and Axel Grislin, from the European Parliament Policy Department for Transformation, Innovation and Health. Jonathan Murphy, Head of Programme, Inter Pares, provided welcome remarks.

The 4 March webinar focused on the EU energy acquis, covering renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy security and the Energy Union. Expert presentations were given by Saša Butorac, from European Parliamentary Research Service, and Marianne Maquet, from the European Parliament Policy Department for Transformation, Innovation and Health. Ingrid Walker, Programme Manager, Inter Pares provided welcome remarks.

Both sessions provided a valuable opportunity for exchange between experts from the European Parliament and colleagues from the Verkhovna Rada, contributing to ongoing cooperation aimed at supporting parliamentary research and analysis on Ukraine’s path toward EU integration.

FROM DIALOGUE TO ACTION: SIERRA LEONE AND DENMARK SHARE LESSONS ON POLICY MOTIONS

On 12 February 2026, parliamentary staff from the Parliament of Sierra Leone and the Parliament of Denmark convened for a virtual peer exchange facilitated by International IDEA's Inter Pares programme.

The session focused on a powerful yet often underutilized legislative tool: policy motions.



While the Parliament of Sierra Leone operates within a constitutional framework granting full law-making authority, in practice the legislative agenda is largely executive-driven. Private Members' Bills remain rare, and Members of Parliament (MPs) face procedural and practical barriers in advancing legislative initiatives.

Colleagues from Denmark shared their experience with policy motions. Though not legally binding, adopted policy motions are politically binding and serve as an important accountability and agenda-setting mechanism.





Key reflections from the exchange:

- Policy motions create space for debate without the technical complexity of drafting full legislation.
- Even when not adopted, they can shape public discourse
- Annual government legislative agenda sent to Parliament — a Danish practice — could strengthen parliamentary scrutiny and planning in Sierra Leone.
- Institutional mechanisms like the Sierra Leone Parliament's Office of the Law Clerk are critical in empowering MPs to translate policy ideas into legislative action.

Inter Pares continues to support parliaments in enhancing their legislative, oversight, and representative functions through practical, experience-based dialogue.

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