

AFRICA OPEN PARLIAMENT INDEX 2022

Maiden Release
West Africa Edition



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An Initiative of Parliamentary Network Africa (PNAfrica)
in collaboration with the Africa Parliamentary Monitoring
Organisations Network (APMON)

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This Publication is the result of a collaboration between Parliamentary Network Africa (PNAfrica) and the Africa Parliamentary Monitoring Organisations Network (APMON) represented by APMON Working Group which is made up of Africa Parliamentary Press Network (APPN), Ghana Centre for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), Mzalendo Trust (Kenya), Pan-Africa Parliament Civil Society Forum, and Parliamentary Monitoring Group (South Africa).

The Initiative benefited from technical support from Directorio Legislativo which is an Argentina-based organisation that has been pivotal in the founding of the Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency and the Latin American Index for Legislative Transparency which has successfully released a similar Index in Latin America for over a decade. It was made possible through the funding support of the National Endowment for Democracy.

The views expressed in this Report do not necessarily represent those of the organisations listed above.

COVER PHOTO DESCRIPTION

Front Page: From top to bottom, Parliamentary Network Africa and the Social Watch Bénin teams pay courtesy call on the President of the National Assembly of Bénin to introduce the OPEN West Africa Project to the Assembly. Open Parliament Engagements and Networking in West Africa Workshop being held for Parliamentary Engagements & Monitoring Organizations in Liberia Parliamentary Network Africa and their country partners, CREFDI pay courtesy call on the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire to present the OPEN West Africa project to the Assembly.

Back Page: From top to bottom, APMON pays courtesy call on the Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana. Middle picture-PNAfrica's Programs Manager having a training for members of the National Youth Parliament of The Gambia on monitoring parliamentary elections campaign promises. Open Parliament Engagements and Networking in West Africa Workshop being held for Parliamentary Engagements & Monitoring Organizations in Bénin

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ABBREVIATIONS

APMON	-	Africa Parliamentary Monitoring Organisations Network
ATI	-	Access to Information
AU	-	African Union
CSO/CSOs	-	Civil Society Organisation(s)
ECOWAS	-	Economic Community of West African States
IPU	-	Inter-Parliamentary Union
MP	-	Member of Parliament
OPI	-	Open Parliament Index
OGP	-	Open Government Partnership
PMO	-	Parliamentary Monitoring Organisation
PNAfrica	-	Parliamentary Network Africa
RTI	-	Right to Information

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We are eternally grateful to the Members of the APMON Working Group, the staff of PNAfrica, and the team at Directorio Legislativo for the awesome work done to

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We relied on information made available by the IPU, OGP and Open Parliament e-Network on their respective platforms and we acknowledge their usefulness.

We thank our funders – the National Endowment for Democracy, for providing the financial assistance needed for this Project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To strengthen Africa's Parliaments towards advancing parliamentary openness; foster collaboration between civil society and parliaments to promote the principles of open parliament; identify, compare and exchange knowledge and best practices among national Parliaments, and among civil society organisations, the Parliamentary Network Africa (PNAfrica) coordinated the development of the African Open Parliament Index (OPI) which will be released once every two years.

The OPI is an initiative of the Africa Parliamentary Monitoring Organisations Network (APMON) – a coalition of civil society organisations monitoring and engaging national, sub-national and transnational legislative assemblies across the Continent which was initiated in 2015. The Index will contribute to strengthening African Parliaments through effective CSO-Parliament collaborations.

In this maiden edition of the Index, which is the first in a series of biennial OPIs, we assessed one out of the five regions of the Continent – the West Africa Region. We are hopeful that expanded partnerships in the coming years will make it possible to cover the whole of Africa.

The Africa OPI is a statistical tool that provides for the capturing and analyses of data relating to parliamentary openness from three dimensions – transparency, civic participation and public accountability. It is

designed with a set of 44 indicators that have been carefully crafted to allow for comparison between parliaments whether at the national, sub-national or transnational level as the case may be. Its ability to compare the performance of participating parliaments and rank them in order of performance comes along with the added advantage of tracking progress made by a single parliament over a series of OPIs, as it is meant to be released biennially.

The process of developing this tool commenced in January 2021 and ended July 2022, within which the indicators, methodology and mode of assessment were discussed and concluded. The results of the index show a West African average of 44.59%, indicating the low level of openness of Parliaments in Africa, considering that more than half of the countries assessed performed below average. Ghana (63.03%) came first as the most open parliament in West Africa with Cape Verde and Sierra Leone taking the second and third places, while Guinea Bissau sat at the bottom of the ranking with a score of 23.36%. The findings show that only the first three countries – Ghana, Cape Verde and Sierra Leone – scored above 50.

This OPI was funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) through a grant to PNAfrica to implement the "Open Parliament Engagements and Networking in West Africa (OPEN West Africa)" project.

INTRODUCTION

The Legislative Branch of government remains a very important arm in the democratic architecture. Playing the critical roles of lawmaking, oversight of the government, and representation of the people, Parliaments have long remained the fulcrum around which functional democracies revolve. As democracies and democratic institutions everywhere face various challenges, including the opacity of many of these institutions and the resultant decline in public trust in these bodies, Parliaments – which are supposed to be the 'House of the People' – are getting further removed from the people.

Africa, a Continent of 55 countries¹, is no exception, as the National Assemblies of its various countries continue to be regarded and/or act as though they were subordinate branches to the Executive Arm instead of their rightful places as co-equal arms of government. These have led to increasing cases of strong Executive Arms, the concentration of power, loss of credibility and legitimacy in the legislature, and the resultant effect of a decline in democracy.

With Open Governance becoming an important global conversation, state actors, civil society and other non-state actors on the Continent are striving to make gains in this area. As more than a fifth of member countries of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) are in Africa², and with conversations around Open Parliaments growing fast on the Continent, it is not surprising that a tool such as this Africa Open Parliament Index (OPI) has been introduced at this time when we are seeing

efforts by parliaments to introduce best practices at reaching and including citizens in their work mostly through the use of digital tools and the passage of access to information laws³. These should have positive implications in erasing the age-old view of parliaments as institutions that are not approachable by citizens with Members who are 'untouchables.'

The OPI is an initiative of the Africa Parliamentary Monitoring Organisations Network (APMON) – a coalition of civil society organisations monitoring and engaging national, sub-national and transnational legislative assemblies across the Continent which was initiated in 2015. It is intended to contribute to the institutional strengthening of Parliaments through CSO-Parliament collaborations. The Index, which will be released once every two years, is coordinated by Parliamentary Network Africa (PNAfrica), which manages the APMON.

This maiden OPI was funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) through a grant to PNAfrica to implement a project dubbed "Open Parliament Engagements and Networking in West Africa (OPEN West Africa)."

In the sections below, this narrative report offers an analysis and discussion of the assessment done on Parliaments in West Africa and offers recommendations that need to be taken into account by the various legislatures.

1. Selon les États membres de l'Union africaine (UA)

https://au.int/en/member_states/countryprofiles2

2. <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/our-members/#national>

3. Environ 75 % des pays africains ont des lois ou des règlements sur l'AI ou un projet de loi ou d'initiative sur l'AI en attente, conformément à <https://www.article19.org/right-to-information-around-the-world/>



ABOUT THE AFRICA OPEN PARLIAMENT INDEX (OPI)

The Africa OPI is a tool that seeks to periodically measure the level of openness of legislative assemblies on the Continent. It combines indicators from global best practices on openness, and minimum standards in parliamentary transparency, civic participation and public accountability, to objectively and independently rank the parliaments of the selected countries in a way that identifies the success stories and the Open Parliament gaps.

It makes recommendations, which when pursued diligently over time, can show real progress and improvements in the level of openness in the assessed Parliaments.

The OPI is developed with three specific objectives as stated below:

1. To strengthen parliamentary institutions towards the advancement of parliamentary openness across national, sub-national and regional parliaments;
2. To identify, compare and exchange knowledge and best practices among parliaments, and among CSOs that work with parliaments; and
3. To foster collaboration between civil society and parliaments towards achieving the principles of open parliament, providing a platform for amplifying open parliament initiatives.

The OPI defines an Open Parliament as one that is transparent and accountable to the people that it is set up to serve, and encourages citizens' participation in its work.

To this end, three broad dimensions are considered in the measurements with the following working definitions:

OPI DIMENSIONS



1. TRANSPARENCY: Parliament that discloses more information, improves the legal or institutional frameworks to guarantee the right to information, improves the quality of parliamentary information disclosed to the public, and improves the transparency of its decision-making processes or systems.

2. CIVIC PARTICIPATION: Parliament that creates or improves opportunities, processes or mechanisms for the public to inform or influence decisions; creates, enables or improves participatory mechanisms for minorities or under-represented groups; and enables a legal environment that guarantees freedoms of assembly, association and peaceful protest.

3. PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY: Parliaments whose Members are answerable to citizens on their performance and integrity of their conduct in office; and Parliament that reports on their institutional performance regularly and in a transparent manner.

It is hoped that the results will provide citizens, CSOs, the press, Parliaments and other decision-makers, with an evidence-based document that reflects the state of affairs in various parliaments, and encourage advocacy, further research and co-creation of reforms that will seek to ensure progress.

To this end, the announcement of this maiden OPI results is not an end in itself. Instead, it is the beginning of a collaborative process to ensure that when the next Index results are announced two years from now, we will be able to record traceable progress

and celebrate improvements in the overall state of parliamentary openness in Africa.

The Africa OPI is developed in a way that allows for comparison among national parliaments, and can also be applied to compare and measure the level of openness in subnational parliaments such as State Legislatures in a single country, or transnational parliaments such as the Pan African Parliament and the subregional/community parliaments in Africa such as the ECOWAS Parliament, the East African Legislative Assembly etc.

AFRICA OPEN PARLIAMENT INDEX 2022

This maiden Index result is the first in a series of biennial OPIs. Although the ultimate goal is to be able to rank all national parliaments in Africa, this 'pilot edition' focused on one out of the five regions of the Continent – the West Africa Region. We are hopeful that expanded partnerships in the coming years will make it possible to cover the whole of Africa.

West Africa has fifteen (15) countries, representing over a quarter of all African States. The diverse nature of this Region makes it a very good starting point for an OPI which is expected to measure parliaments of very varied natures. For example, of the 15 West African countries, five are Anglophone, eight are Francophone, and two are Lusophone countries.

Additionally, three of its countries have bicameral parliaments while the remaining

twelve are unicameral, with many practising the presidential system, while others adopt something similar to the parliamentary system or 'hybrid' systems of governance. Three of the countries in West Africa (Mali, Guinea and Burkina Faso) currently have military governments, which have in effect, toppled their democratically elected legislatures.

All the countries have either a Network of civil society organisations that monitor and engages their national assemblies, which have been created with the support of PNAfrica, or independent CSO coalitions that were contacted and engaged for the purpose of this Index. All national Parliaments in these countries were also contacted for this OPI.

However, only 13 countries were assessed for this Index which took into account the state of parliamentary openness as of the end of the year 2021.

COUNTRIES ASSESSED

1. BENIN



2. BURKINA FASO



3. CAPE VERDE



4. COTE D'IVOIRE



5. THE GAMBIA



6. GHANA



7. GUINEA-BISSAU



8. LIBERIA



9. NIGER



10. NIGERIA



11. SENEGAL



12. SIERRA LEONE



13. TOGO



Below are brief descriptions of the parliaments of the various countries assessed in this year's OPI. Details of these parliaments can be found on the Parliamentary Resource Hub⁴ created as part of this Project.

A. BENIN

The National Assembly of Benin is a unicameral legislature with 83 representatives of the people elected by universal suffrage for a renewable four-year term. It uses voluntary party quotas and is led by a President of the National Assembly who is elected by Members of the Assembly. He or she is assisted during the term by two Vice Presidents, two Quaestors and two Secretaries elected at the same time. The elected members of the legislature are called "Deputies".

The francophone country allows dual nationals to run for any political office. The Deputies from parliamentary groups by political affinity within the parliament. To become a Member of the National Assembly, an aspiring candidate must belong to a political party. Members of the armed forces and public security forces must resign from their positions to run for office. A sitting member of parliament or mayor may not hold another political or government position at the same time, and the country's Constitution does not allow for by-elections.

Therefore, when constituting the lists, the candidate chooses a substitute who becomes his or her replacement in case he or she is appointed or designated to hold a government position as a minister, mayor or head of an institution, or is unable to work, in case of death. Women constitute 7% of Deputies, but with the constitutional reform,

the parliament will be able to count after the legislative elections of 2023, at least 24 women, at a rate of one per electoral district. The same reform will see a total of 109 deputies elected for an exceptional three-year term. From 2026, the country will hold all elections in the same year. The terms of office of the President of the Republic, deputies and mayors will be aligned over 5 years.

B. BURKINA FASO

This landlocked country with an estimated population of 21 million people, has French as its official language. The country has since January 2022 been under military rule with its previous unicameral parliament replaced by a Transitional Legislature. Despite having a non-democratically elected legislature at the moment, Burkina Faso was included in this year's OPI because the OPI measured the level of openness in parliaments as at the end of the year 2021, at which time the ousted Parliament existed.

The previous parliamentary period, which formed the bases of the country's assessment, was made up of 127 directly elected members with a 5-year term mandate, and had 11.02% of its membership being women. The National Assembly elections of Burkina Faso are done through the voting system of the Party-list, with proportional representation of seats according to the simple electoral quotient and highest remainders. Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitute members elected at the same time as the substantive Deputies, unless vacancies arise in the second half of the term of the Assembly. Only Burkinabe citizens who are 18 years and above are required to vote and those who are 21 and above can contest for seats in the Assembly.

4. <https://resourcehub.parliamentafrica.com>

C. CAPE VERDE

Cape Verde is an island country in the central Atlantic Ocean with a total population nearing 600,000 people. It has Portuguese as its official language and is hence one of the two Lusophone countries in West Africa. The Country's main legislative body is the National Assembly which is unicameral and composed of 72 statutory members who are directly elected into office for a tenure of 5 years. Women constitute about 23.61% of the Assembly. Six members represent Cabo Verdean citizens abroad: two each from the Americas, the rest of Africa, and Europe.

Election of members to the National Assembly is done through Proportional representation; a closed party-list system (cumulative voting) using the d'Hondt method. Vacancies arising between general elections are filled by substitutes elected at the same time as titular members. There are no reserved seats for women, ethnic minorities, or other categories. Government members, judges, diplomats, and members of the armed forces on active duty are not qualified to run for the National Assembly elections.

D. COTE D'IVOIRE

The legislature of this francophone country is bicameral, made up of a National Assembly which is located in Abidjan – which is the economic capital city of the country, and a Senate which is located in Yamoussoukro, which is known to be the political-administrative capital. The current population is estimated at over 27 million people.

The National Assembly is composed of 255 members with 10.59% making up the women's representation being elected directly to serve a five-year term of office.

Members of the Ivorian National Assembly are elected on simple majority voting systems and vacancies arising between general elections are supposed to be filled within three months through by-elections.

For candidates to vie for membership of the National Assembly, they must be 25 years old and above, as well as be Ivorian citizens. Some categories of persons who are ineligible to contest for seats in the National Assembly are Judges, Inspectors of Administrative Affairs, and non-elective public office holders. The Ivorian 2016 elections were followed by the approval of a new constitution that loosens eligibility conditions for the presidency and the Senate to be the representative body of territorial communities and Ivorians abroad.

The Senate, on the other hand, is composed of 99 Members of which 66 are indirectly elected through electoral colleges in the various regions of the country, and 33 are appointed by the President. Members of the Senate serve a five-year term of office, and women constitute 12.12%. Senators must be 35 years and citizens of Cote d'Ivoire.

E. THE GAMBIA

The National Assembly of The Gambia is a unicameral legislature which is made up of 58 members, of which 53 are directly elected by single-member constituencies through a simple majority vote, and the additional five members are appointed by the President. All National Assembly Members serve for a term of five years. The current National Assembly is the Sixth Legislature, but only the second after the era of dictator Yahya Jammeh.

About 8.8% of Members are women. The age required to vie for the position of National Assembly Member is 21 years and the candidate should be able to speak and understand English. The candidate should also be a resident of that constituency for at least one (1) year to nomination day, as persons are ineligible to contest if they hold dual or more citizenships.

F. GHANA

The Anglophone country with a population of over 30 million people, runs a unicameral Parliament, presided over by a Speaker of Parliament who is elected by Members of Parliament upon their first day of swearing into office. The Speaker may be an incumbent member of parliament or any person who qualifies to be elected as an MP. In an instance where an incumbent MP is elected a Speaker, his/her seat becomes vacant, and a by-election is held. Ghana's current Parliament presents an interesting perspective on the history of the country's politics and parliamentary affairs, as the elected Speaker of Parliament is from the largest opposition party. Both the ruling party and the largest opposition party hold the same number of seats – 137, with one independent candidate being the only exception.

The Ghanaian Parliament is composed of 275 statutory members who are directly elected for a four-year term with 14.55% being women. Parliamentary elections are done through a direct simple majority system and vacancies arising between general elections are filled through by-elections with only Ghanaian Citizens above 21 years being eligible to contest. Connected election officers, traditional chiefs, members of the armed forces and public servants are ineligible to contest for seats in the Parliament.

G. GUINEA BISSAU

A country with a population of a little over 2 million, Guinea Bissau has Portuguese as its official language, making it one of the two Lusophone countries in West Africa. Its legislative body is the People's National Assembly which is unicameral. The Assembly is composed of 102 Members who are elected to serve a four-year mandate, with 13.73% of its current membership being women.

The People's National Assembly consists of 27 multi-member constituencies in the country and 2 single-member constituencies for two seats reserved for Guinea-Bissau citizens living abroad (one for Africa and the other for Europe). Proportional voting and List Proportional Representation are the procedure for electing members of the Assembly.

Voters must be citizens of Guinea-Bissau and 18 years of age as well as 21 years for candidates.

H. LIBERIA

The Liberian Legislature is bicameral comprising the House of Representatives (the Lower House) and the Senate (Upper House). The House of Representatives is composed of 73 Members who are directly elected by each county, with the seats apportioned based on each county's population. Members of this Lower House serve a six-year term and currently 12.33% of its membership is women. The Senate, on the other hand, is made up of 30 seats occupied by Senators from the counties who serve a nine-year term.

The current Senate has 6.67% of its membership being women. The House of Representatives is led by a Speaker, and makes room for the position of a Chief Clerk,

while the Senate is presided over by the Vice-President of the Republic of Liberia and The President Pro-Tempore.

In October 2016, the House of Representatives passed the Equal Representation and Participation Bill, creating five seats for women, one for youth, and one for people with disabilities. However, the Ministry of Justice had not incorporated the changes into a new consolidated election law before the last elections of 2017 took place.

I. NIGER

Another landlocked country with French as its official language, Niger has an estimated population of more than 25 million. Its legislative body – The National Assembly - is unicameral, and is made up of 171 members out of which five are representatives of the diaspora.

The members of the National Assembly are elected by proportional list voting, with a first past the post system for special constituencies and proportional representation at the highest average for ordinary constituencies.

For special constituencies, the candidate who has obtained the relative majority of votes is declared elected. In the event of a tie vote, a second round shall be held within ten (10) days of the proclamation of the results by the Constitutional Court.

Between general elections, vacancies are filled by alternate members. However, by-elections are held whenever more than one-third of the seats become vacant. Nigerian citizens must be 18 years of age to vote, and over 21 years of age for candidates.

J. NIGERIA

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa with over 200 million people. It is an anglophone country and runs a federal system made up of 36 States. The two chambers of its bicameral legislature are the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The House of Representatives is composed of 360 members who are directly elected through a 'first past the post' system to serve a four-year term of office. Out of the total number of members of the house, women make up 5.56%. In between general elections, vacancies that arise are filled through by-elections. The Senate on the other hand is composed of 109 members who are directly elected with 6.48% being women, serving a four-year mandate. Members of the Senate are elected through the Multi-Member Plurality Systems.

K. SENEGAL

The Republic of Senegal is a Francophone country with an estimated population of about 17 million people. The legislative body of Senegal is the National Assembly which is unicameral and composed of 165 members who are directly elected to serve a 5-year term of office with 41.82% of its current membership being women. Senegal uses the mixed system of voting to elect members to the National Assembly.

These include the Party Block Vote where 105 members are elected from constituencies and the List Proportional Representation system where 60 members are chosen from lists of candidates presented by parties, coalitions of parties and independent persons at the national level. Vacancies that arise between general elections in the National assembly are normally filled by the "next-in-line" candidate on the list of the same party, a coalition of parties,

or independent persons which held the seats in question. By-elections are only held within three months should there remain no more names of potential members on the list concerned.

Only Senegalese citizens who are 18 years and above are required to vote and electors must be 25 years and above before they can contest for the membership of the National Assembly.

L. SIERRA LEONE

This Anglophone country runs a unicameral parliament made up of 146 members of which 12.33% are women. 136 Members of Parliament (MPs) are elected through plurality vote in single-member constituencies and 14 Paramount Chiefs also sit in Parliament as indirectly elected Members from the 14 districts of the Country.

Mps are elected into office for five years. The death of any member will result in having a by-election, except if the member died within six (6) months to the next general elections.

M. TOGO

With an estimated population of 8 million inhabitants, Togo is a francophone country with a unicameral legislature. Members of the National Assembly are elected for a term of five years. The National Assembly is made up of 91 seats from 30 electoral constituencies. In addition to MPs from political parties, there are also independent elected representatives in the Togolese Parliament.

NON ASSESSED COUNTRIES

Two countries in West Africa were not assessed for this maiden Index. They are Guinea and Mali, and the reasons for their non-inclusion have been explained below:

A. GUINEA

This Francophone country experienced a military coup on 5th September 2021, thereby causing the democratically elected parliament to be dissolved. Considering that the previous Parliament of Guinea did not run for the entire period for which this Index is being considered (up to the end of the year 2021), we considered them not eligible for assessment.

B. MALI

Mali, just like the case of Guinea explained above, was not included in this maiden Index as its democratically elected Legislature did not run for the entire period for which this Index considered (up to the end of the year 2021), as the country experienced a coup d'état on 18th August 2020. The Francophone country has remained under military rule since the Coup.

METHODOLOGY

The Africa OPI is a statistical tool that provides for the capturing and analyses of data relating to parliamentary openness from three dimensions – transparency, civic participation and public accountability.

It is designed with a set of 44 indicators that have been carefully crafted to allow for comparison between parliaments whether at the national, sub-national or transnational level as the case may be. Its ability to compare the performance of participating parliaments and rank them in order of performance comes along with the added advantage of tracking progress made by a single parliament over a series of OPIs, as it is meant to be released biennially.

We leveraged three main universal source documents to develop the indicators. First is the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness – a global initiative of CSOs calling on national, sub-national and transnational parliaments for an increased commitment to openness and citizen engagement in parliamentary work.

To ensure that the measure of openness is not only taken from a civil society perspective, this Index also considered the Indicators for Democratic Parliaments Based on SDG targets 16.6 and 16.7 developed by the Inter-Parliamentary Union which is the global organisation of National Parliaments.

Third, the standards of the OGP and its Open Parliament policy area, together with the compendium of knowledge materials it has developed in this field greatly informed the development of this Index.

As this maiden Africa OPI focused on the West Africa Region, the development process involved the gathering of quantitative and qualitative information on the assessed national parliaments, through administering questionnaires to CSOs and the respective national Parliament, gleaning data from official websites of the Parliaments involved, conducting interviews and validation sessions with officials from parliaments and civil society, and other forms of literature review.



The following stages were undertaken to arrive at the final results of this maiden OPI:

PRE-DEVELOPMENT ENGAGEMENTS

The process which commenced at the beginning of the year 2021, involved a deep dive into the Latin American Index for Legislative Transparency which is a successful example of a CSO-led tool for assessing multiple national parliaments at a regional level.

The Africa OPI Team sought to learn about the Latin American journey which spans more than a decade, and how the Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency have worked together to sustain it. This involves a series of meetings and virtual learning sessions with officials of the Argentina-based Directorio Legislativo who graciously put their many years' experience at the disposal of our team.

These engagements, which lasted for almost a year, allowed the Africa OPI Team to appreciate what worked and what did not work with the Latin American Index, as well as how the success stories from that Region can be localised for the African Context.

ENGAGEMENT WITH PARTNERS IN WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Between September 2021 and March 2022, the Africa OPI Team visited 11 out of the 15 countries in West Africa (Cape Verde, Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Mali were not visited) to engage various stakeholders about the Index. These visits saw PNAfrica meeting various CSOs and supporting efforts to establish country networks of CSOs that monitor and engages parliaments specifically in the following countries; Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso,

Gambia, Benin, Niger, Togo, Nigeria and Ghana. Officials of the Parliaments in most of these countries were also engaged during these visits to discuss the Index initiative, the role expected of the Parliaments and the benefits it brings to the institutional strengthening efforts of parliaments.

These conversations and visits were very successful and proved useful for the Index development process, as they helped soften the grounds for better engagements and allowed the team to better appreciate the dynamics of the parliamentary spaces in these countries.

DEVELOPMENT OF INDICATORS

In the first quarter of the year 2022, a team of experts developed the draft indicators for the Index using the three main source documents described in the introductory part of this Methodology section. These were thoroughly discussed by the APMON Working Group in its Regional Meeting held physically in Accra in April 2022, and discussions continued with virtual engagements throughout the month. The final set of indicators was agreed to by the working group, culminating in the preparation of the standardised questionnaire that can be found in 'Appendix 2' of this document.

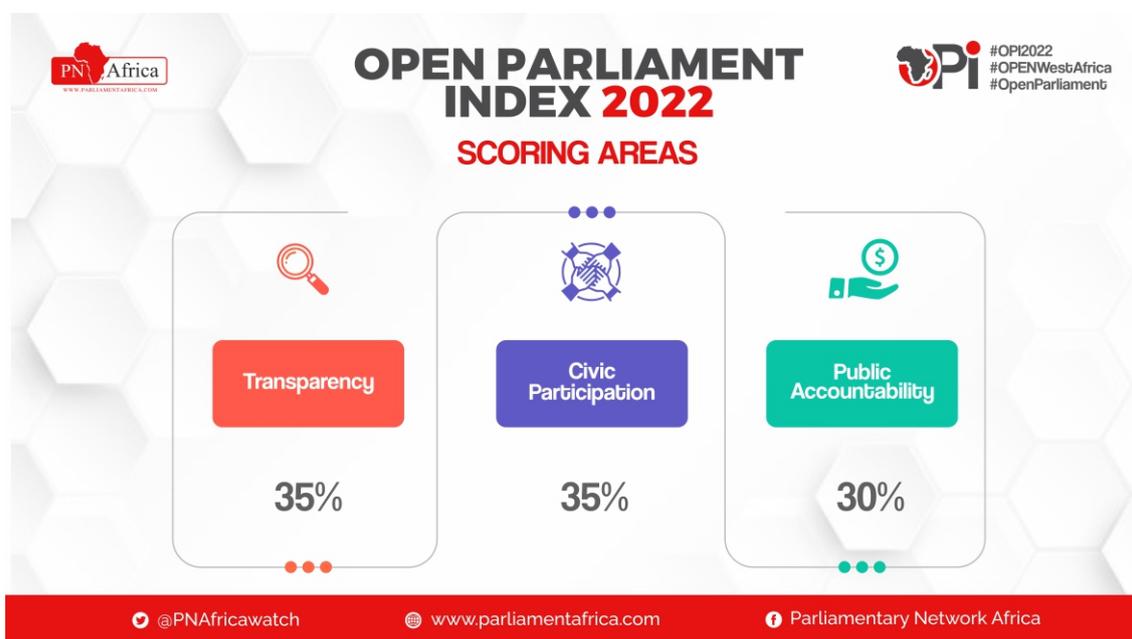
This led to a standardized questionnaire that had 44 Indicators, grouped under the three dimensions of the Index – Transparency, Civic Participation, and Public Accountability. Each Indicator provided a set of five options to choose from, which were allocated marks from 0 to 4, where '4' represented the best-case scenario and '0' represented a case where the parliament is taking no action on that Indicator. This led to the development of a scoring formula as captured in the table below:

Table 1: Formula for Scoring Parliaments

	Number of Indicators	Total Possible Score (Max mark of 4 x No. of Indicators)	% Allocated per indicator
Transparency	18	72	35%
Civic Participation	15	60	35%
Public Accountability	11	44	30%
TOTAL	44		100%

It would be observed from *table 1* above that although the Transparency dimension had more indicators than 'Civic Participation', they were both allocated the same percentage score of 35%, signalling that the Index gave more weight to actions that promoted citizens' participation in parliamentary work as compared to the existence of transparency laws and measures which could exist but may not be effectively applied.

In the same vein, Indicators under the 'Public Accountability' dimension has higher real unit values than the other two dimensions because the Index considers accountable Parliaments as a very important measure of openness.



The questionnaires, indicators, weight and explanatory notes were then translated into French and Portuguese. Civil Society and Parliamentary Officials in most of the countries assessed, were engaged for validation through the Zoom teleconferencing platform in the month of May 2022. This helped to standardise the vocabulary used across all three languages, as we acknowledged that similar concepts may have different interpretations in each country's context.

Experts from reputable institutions such as the OGP and Directorio Legislativo also reviewed these materials and shared their feedback which was factored into the end product.

DATA COLLECTION

In May and June 2022, data was collected from the various countries assessed through civil society and the national parliaments. Each parliament was written to and invited to participate in the process by completing one set of questionnaires in the case of unicameral parliaments and two sets for those who operate the bicameral system. Networks of PMOs/CSOs in the various countries were also contacted to complete the same set of questionnaires from a civil society perspective.

This was to allow us to compare responses from Parliaments with those received from civil society stakeholders who regularly engage with or monitor these parliaments.

The services of Research Associates domiciled in each of the assessed countries (except Cape Verde and Guinea Bissau) were engaged and trained to liaise with the Parliament and CSO respondents to ensure timely submission of completed questionnaires. A Portuguese-speaking Research Associate

was assigned to Cape Verde and Guinea Bissau although not resident in either of these countries, thereby engaging Parliament and CSO stakeholders virtually. Besides the extensive virtual training held for these Research Associates, they also met with the Africa OPI Team on a weekly basis via Zoom Teleconferencing to provide feedback on their work and to afford the opportunity to measure progress and resolve challenges faced in the field. There were high levels of participation in these weekly meetings, as it allowed the team to support country-level CSO and parliament partners who had challenges understanding and/or completing the questionnaires.

Considering that the Index is designed in a way that allows us to review and input responses from all completed questionnaires that get submitted, responses from either Parliament or CSOs or both were received and assessed. CSO responses were received from all 13 assessed countries, while responses/validations were received from eight countries (representing over 60% response rate) from Parliaments.

These responses came from the Parliaments of Benin, The Gambia, Liberia, Niger, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Ghana. Although the Parliaments of Togo, Nigeria and Cape Verde had signalled to the OPI Team that they were working on the questionnaires, no responses were received from them before the launch of the results. No feedback was received from the National Assembly of Guinea Bissau, while the Transitional National Assembly of Burkina Faso stated in a letter its ability to provide responses to this year's Index due to time constraints.

The questionnaire made provisions for parliament and CSOs to provide Evidence for their answer to each Indicator, as well as

provide optional comments /recommendations under each Indicator.

RESULTS CALCULATION AND RANKING

The methodology for the calculation was uniform for all the countries. The OPI Team, upon receiving the responses from either CSOs or Parliaments or both, entered the raw scores which are later reviewed based on the evidence provided and information publicly available such as information on the websites of the various parliaments. The final score for each indicator after this rigorous exercise has been undertaken is entered into Excel, which has been formulated to automatically calculate the total values for each indicator and dimension, percentage scored and the eventual position on the OPI ranking.

Responses from the various Chambers of bicameral parliaments were put together and assessed with the goal of achieving a common result for the level of openness of the institution of Parliament in that country, which is the net effect of the combination of both Chambers.

A simple mean method was used to arrive at the various scores and final results. Appendix 1 of this Report shows the results sheets for the various Dimensions. The full results are available online at www.parliamentafrica.com/OPI and the complete database of raw scores, question-

naires received from various countries, final grading etc. are also available in reusable formats for anyone who may want to perform further analyses with the data.

It is worth noting that opportunities were provided to all participating parliaments to see their analyzed score, provide feedback or validate the same. Some Parliaments availed themselves for this exercise.

RESULTS DISSEMINATION

This full Report is publicly available in English, French and Portuguese. Other audiovisual materials that simplify the results will also be in circulation and can be accessed at all times on the dedicated webpage for the Africa OPI -www.parliamentafrica.com/OPI.

Detailed country results with 'Menu of Option' available to National Parliaments to help them improve on their level of openness will also be made available to parliaments and CSO stakeholders in the respective countries. The goal is to encourage the co-creation of reforms by CSOs and Parliaments to ensure that the various legislatures improve on their scoring when the next Index is announced. Media engagements will also be held with journalists from the various countries to answer any questions they may have concerning their country's performances to popularize the Index in the respective countries.

MAIN RESULTS

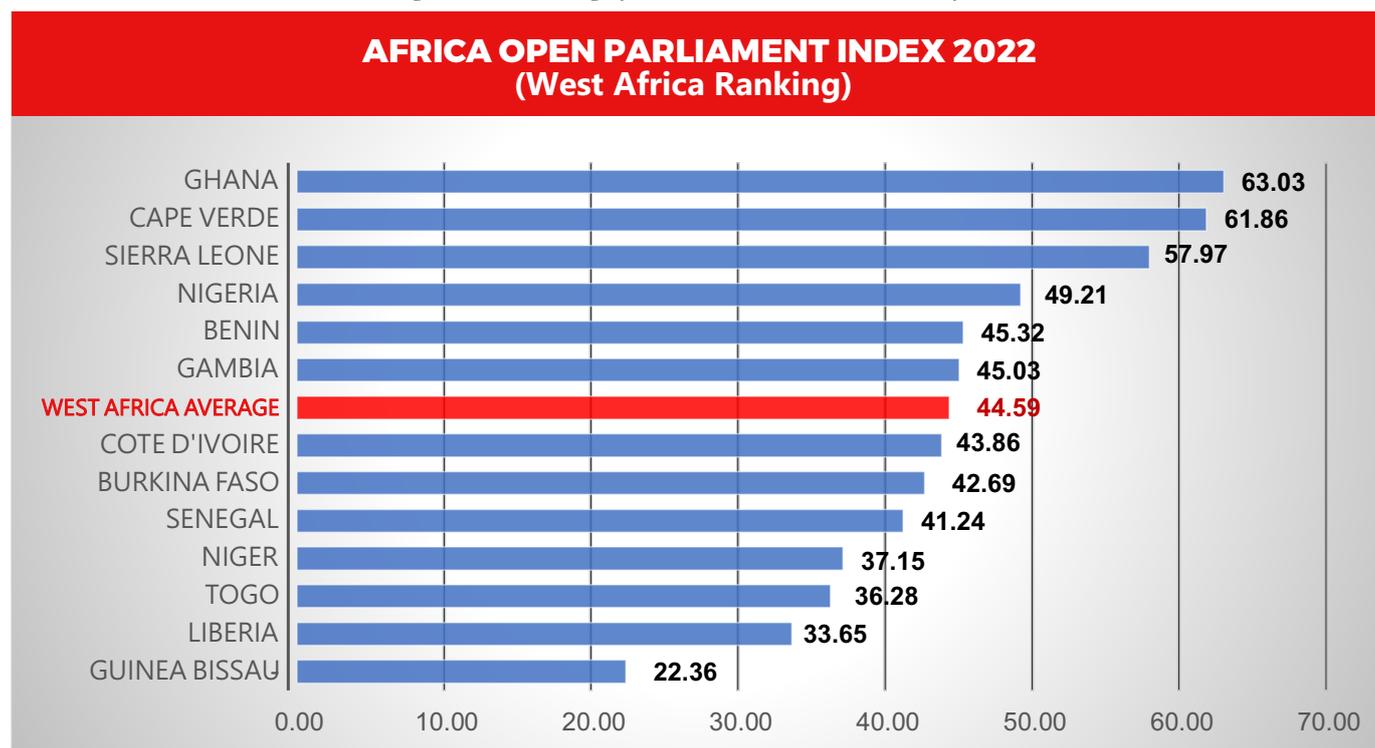
With a West Africa Regional average of 44.59% as per the ranking in *Figure 1*, it is clear that the level of openness of Parliaments in this part of the World is low, as more than half of the countries assessed performed below average.

Ghana came first with Cape Verde and Sierra Leone taking the second and third places, while Guinea Bissau sat at the bottom of the ranking with a paltry score of 23.36%. It will

be observed that only the first three countries scored above 50%, with the most open parliament in West Africa (Ghana) scoring 63.03%.

This shows that there is so much room for improvement, as there remains a big gap between what we consider to be optimal performance in openness by parliaments and the final results as shown below.

Figure 1: Ranking of Parliaments across West Africa



Below are the drilled-down results for the three main dimensions of this Index, which remains consistent with the state of overall

poor performance by the respective parliaments.

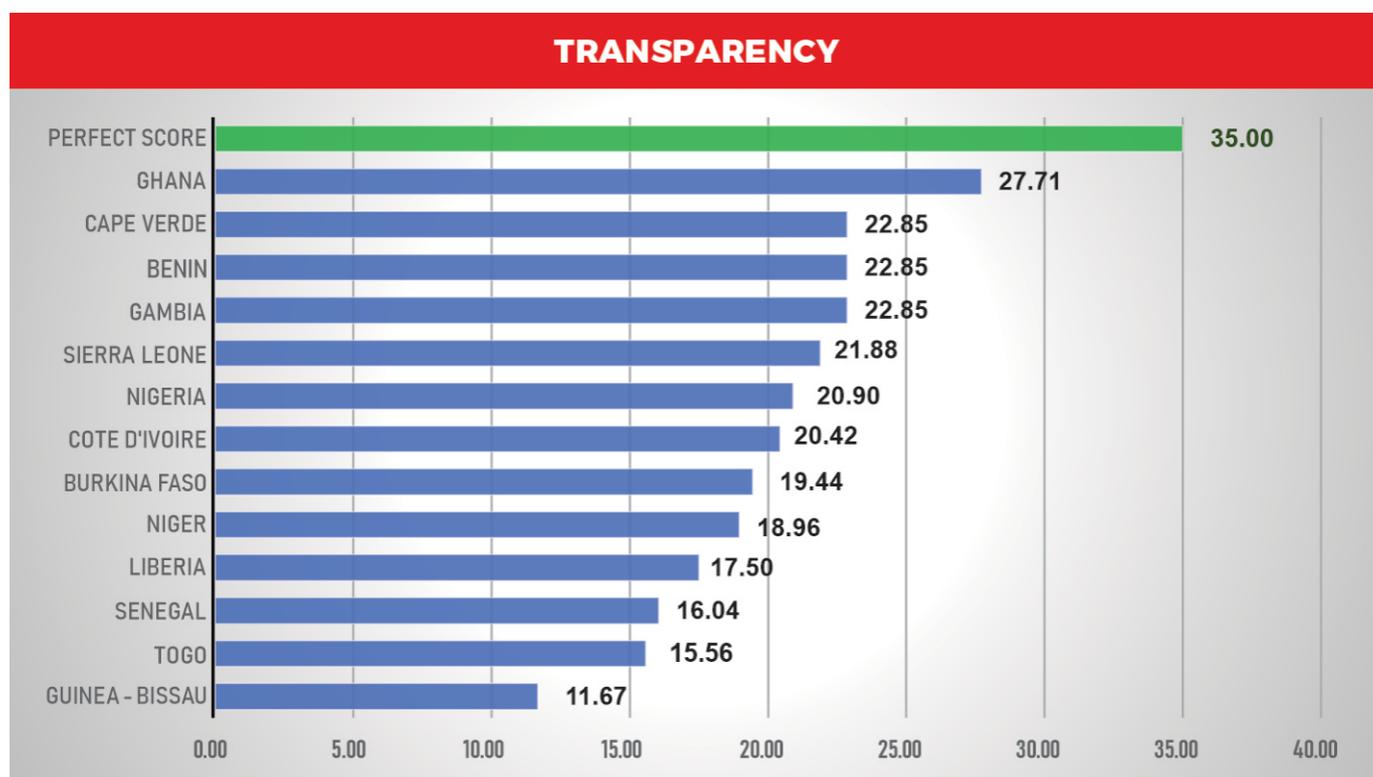
TRANSPARENCY



The Africa OPI defines a transparent Parliament as one that discloses more information, improves the legal or institutional frameworks to guarantee the right to information, improves the quality of parliamentary information disclosed to the public, and improves the transparency of its decision-making processes or systems.

Transparency accounted for 35% of the total Index score. As can be seen in the results table below, this is the only Dimension that had many of the Parliaments scoring more than half of the 'Perfect Score', although the details show that there is still so much left undone by parliaments. Ghana and Cape Verde maintained their top spots under this Dimension, while Guinea Bissau trailed every other country.

Figure 2: Ranking of Parliaments under the Transparency Dimension



The 18 Indicators under this Dimension focused on areas such as parliaments' enactment of ATI laws as well as its own internal rules of procedure, that guarantees the public's right to parliamentary and government information without restriction, and the effectiveness of such

legislation, including legal and judicial recourse available when people's right to information is in dispute. Parliament's role in guaranteeing a culture of openness, including safeguarding freedoms of expression and assembly, and having legal regimes for transparency in political and

The 18 Indicators under this Dimension focused on areas such as parliaments' enactment of ATI laws as well as its own internal rules of procedure, that guarantees the public's right to parliamentary and government information without restriction, and the effectiveness of such legislation, including legal and judicial recourse available when people's right to information is in dispute. Parliament's role in guaranteeing a culture of openness, including safeguarding freedoms of expression and assembly, and having legal regimes for transparency in political and party financing, were also essential elements under this Dimension. How transparently parliaments gather and put out information about their work done at plenary and in Committees, ensuring that such information is provided at the best times and reflects the completeness of parliamentary actions, also featured heavily under this dimension.

Nearly all the countries in the Region have right to information laws (RTI), backed by national Constitutions that guarantee people's rights to information, expression and assembly.

However, the effectiveness of these laws has been called into question in many of these countries. Article 19 – the international human rights organisation that works to defend and promote freedom of expression and freedom of information worldwide – indicates that there are pending RTI Bills/initiatives in Senegal and Cape Verde, while Guinea Bissau has no known legislation or initiative in place to enact an RTI law⁵.

Although all the Parliaments assessed for this Index have some systems that ensure the dissemination of parliamentary infor-

mation, the existence of clearly developed transparency policies for parliament, documented frameworks for parliamentary oversight, and Codes of Conduct for protection against perceived or actual conflicts of interests and ethical violations, were largely absent.

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CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Civic Participation under this OPI represents a state where Parliaments create or improve opportunities, processes or mechanisms for the public to inform or influence decisions; creates, enables or improves participatory mechanisms for minorities or underrepresented groups; and enables a legal environment that guarantees freedoms of assembly, association and peaceful protest.

As shown in the *Figure 3* below, Cape Verde takes the top spot under this Dimension, while only three other countries (Ghana, Sierra Leone and Nigeria) scored above half of the perfect score required under this section. Liberia and Guinea Bissau were jointly bottom-placed in this category.

The 35% allocated to this Dimension and its corresponding 15 Indicator questions were concerned with issues such as parliament's promotion of civic education and the active engagement of civil society and citizens, particularly youth, in the activities of parliament. It looked at citizens' right to petition parliament and the monitoring of parliament by media and civil society.

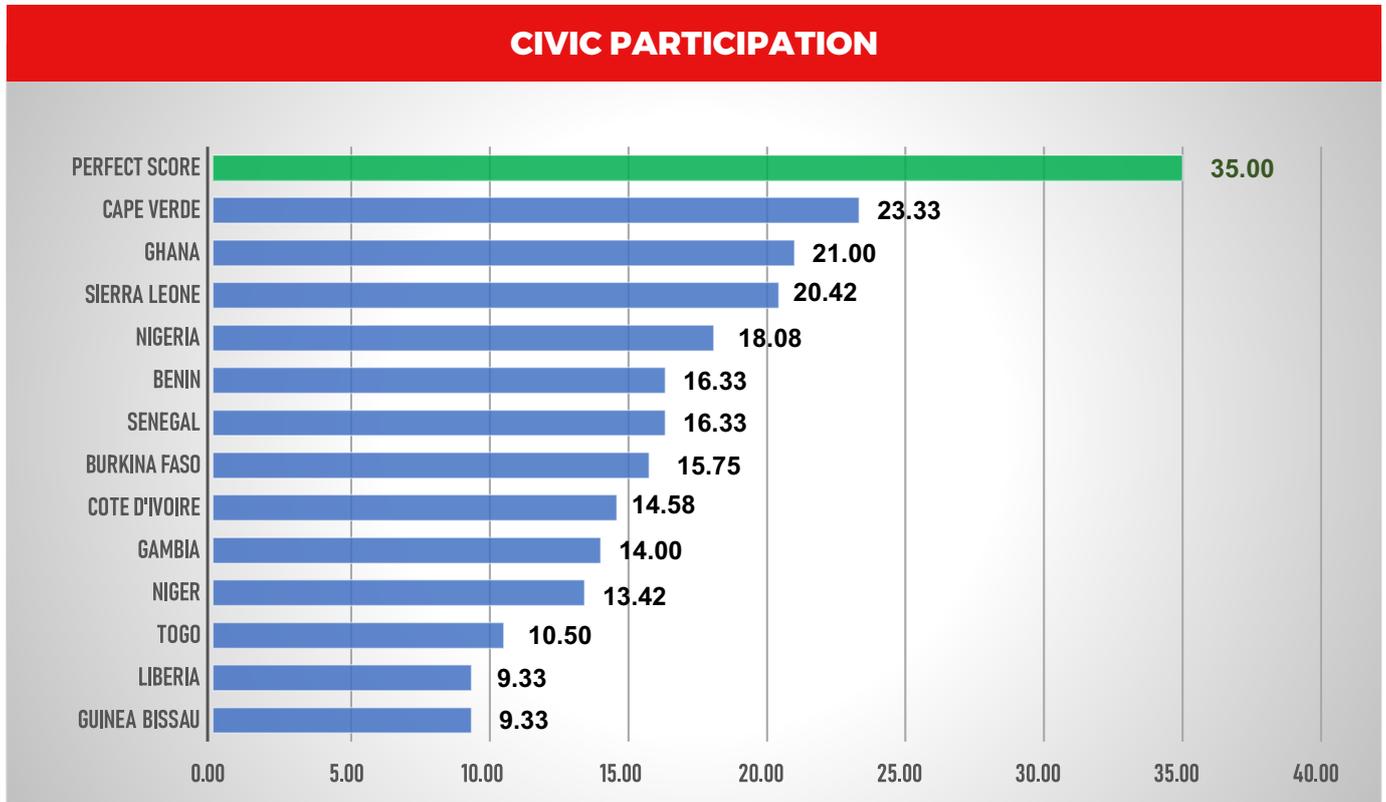
An important aspect of this Dimension is how Parliaments leverage various media

5. <https://www.article19.org/right-to-information-around-the-world/>
(sourced 27 June 2022)

including radio, their website and other digital and in-person channels to ensure access to legislative processes, the Members, the administration and other

aspects of parliaments' work, irrespective of geographical location and other barriers.

Figure 3: Ranking of Parliaments under the Civic Participation Dimension



PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY



The Africa OPI defines an accountable Parliament as one whose Members are answerable to citizens on their performance and integrity of their conduct in office; and Parliaments that report on their institutional performance regularly and in a transparent manner. This dimension accounted for 30% of the total scores of the Index, yet the most weighted of the dimensions when looked at in terms of the number of Indicators (11) that make up the category.

Areas of interest under this section included

the provision of regular and sufficiently updated information about MPs, their staff, assets, parliamentary expenses, non-parliamentary income, the contact information of their constituency and parliamentary offices, as well as their voting records at plenary and in committees.

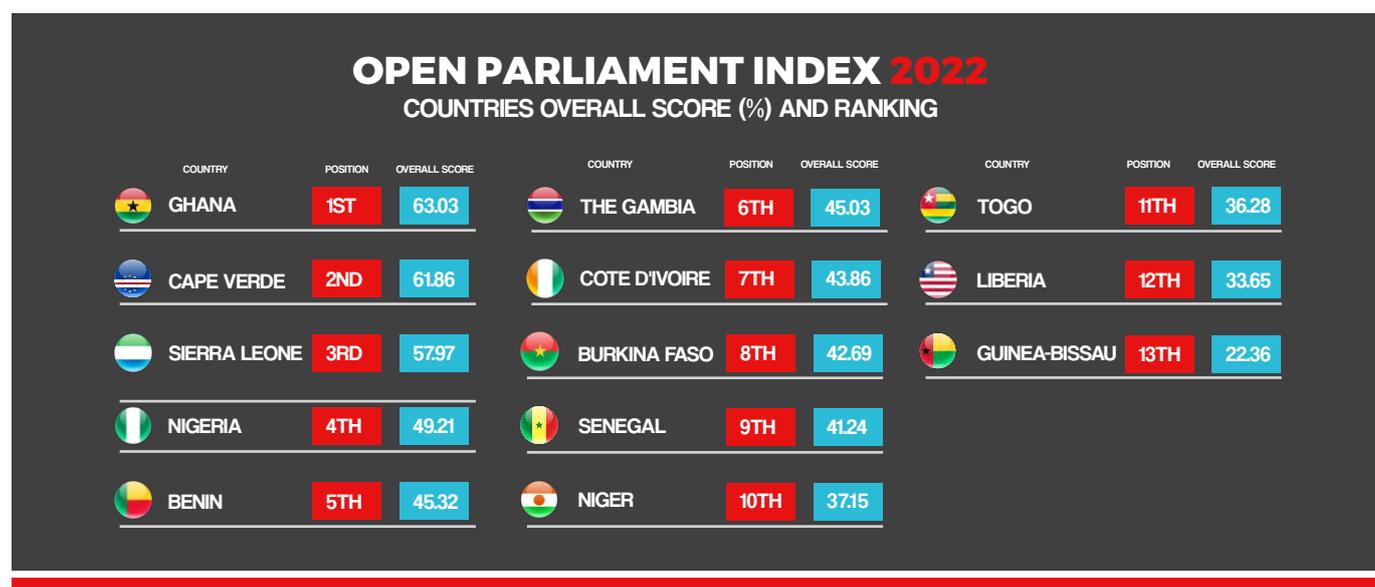
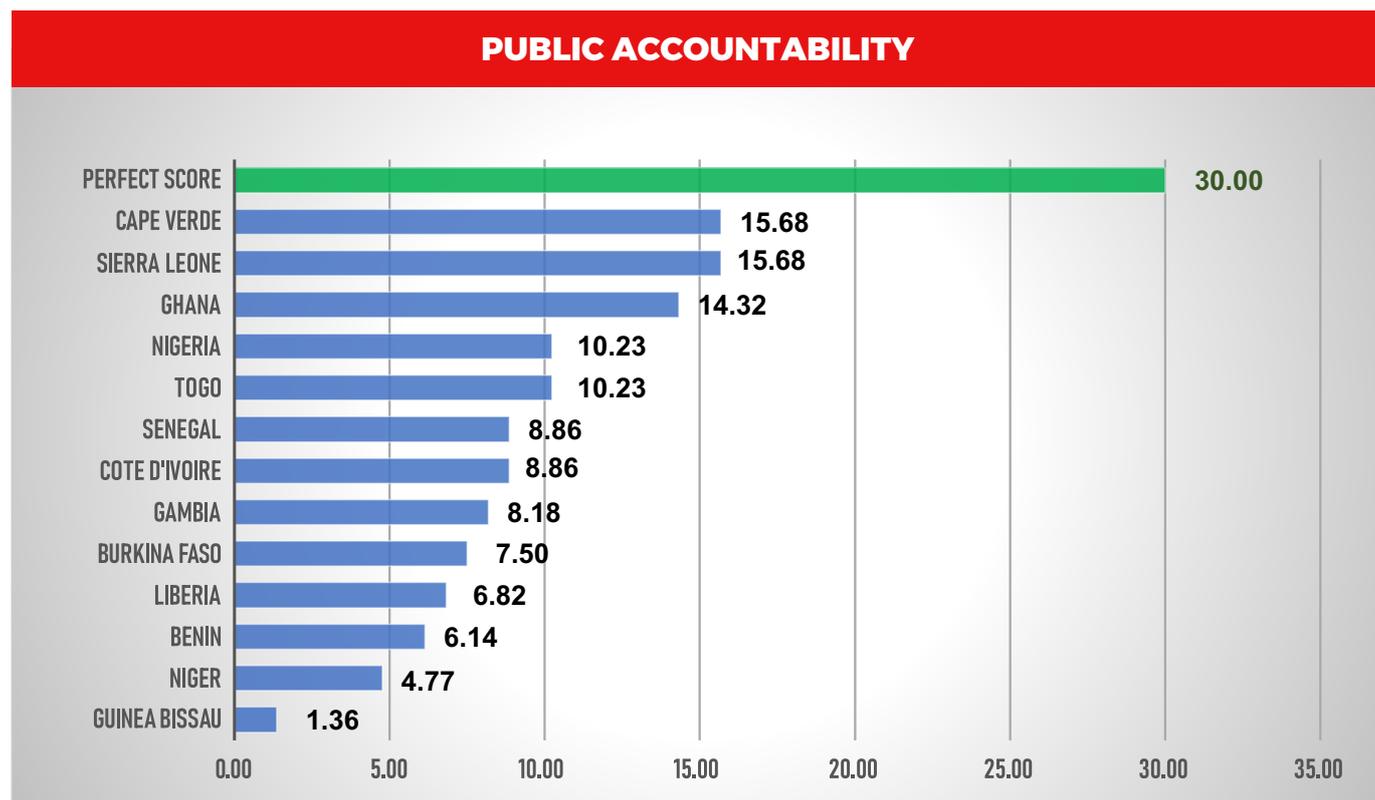
It also looked at the accountability of the parliamentary administration, including the provision of information on parliament's budget, budget execution, bids, contracts, code of conduct for members and staff of

parliament, as well as how allegations of unethical behavior/conflict of interest/corruption involving Members and staff of parliament are handled.

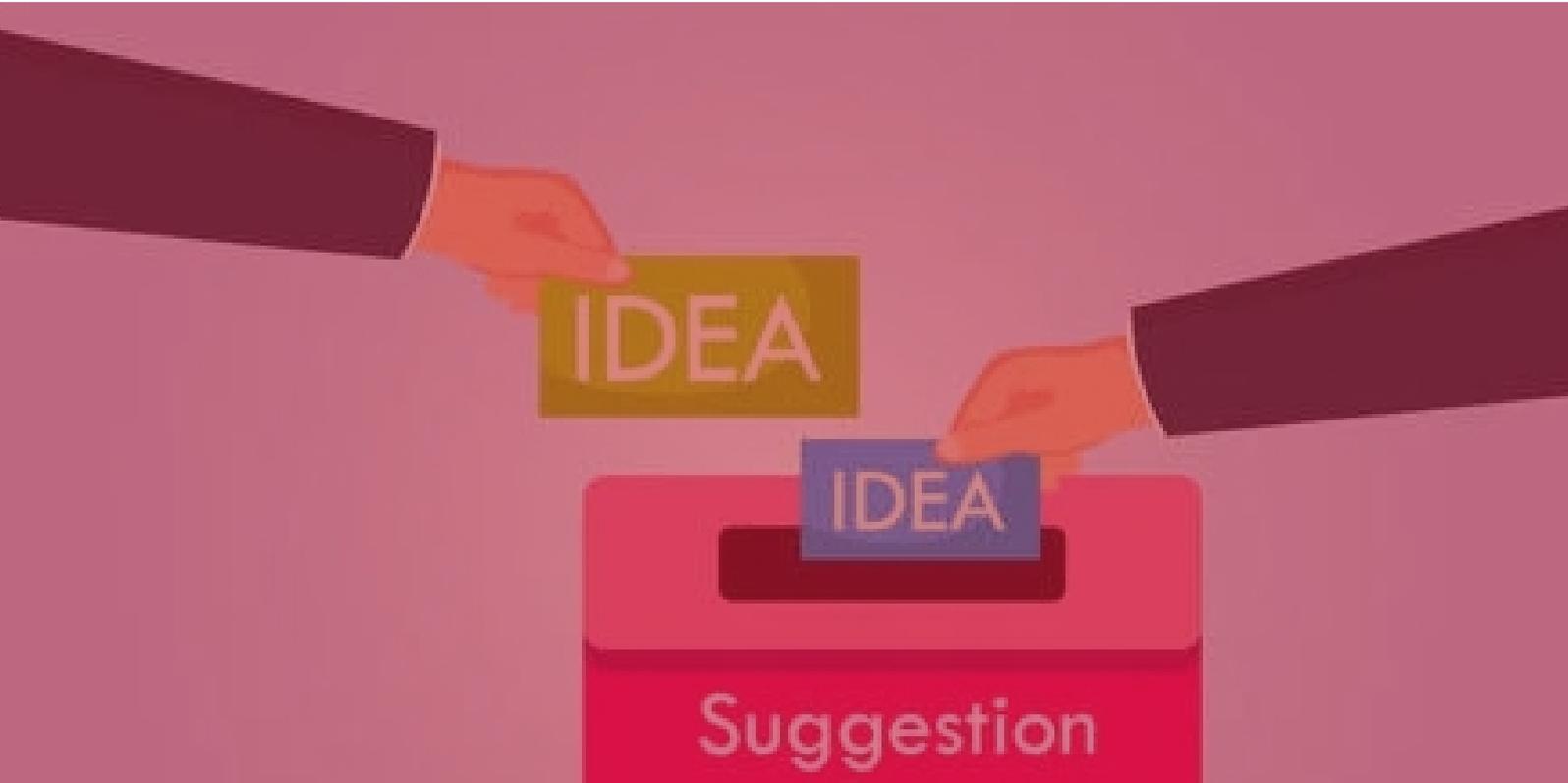
Cape Verde and Sierra Leone came joint tops under this Dimension, gathering just above

half of the perfect score. It proved to be the Dimension that saw the worse performance by all the Parliaments including the leading Parliament of Ghana which failed to make even half the mark under this Dimension

Figure 4: Ranking of Parliaments under the Public Accountability Dimension



OBSERVATION & RECOMMENDATION



The following observations were made from the various country assessments, and they have been presented together with some recommendations which we hope parliaments will take seriously to promote their state of openness.

1. PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION

Generation and retention of authoritative records of parliamentary proceedings and actions is one of the areas in which parliaments across the Region are doing very well. With experienced parliamentary staff in the various countries and the use of modern technologies in some instances (a case in point being Ghana), the accuracy and reliability of information generated from the various parliaments – which are considered 'houses of records' – are mostly guaranteed. This together with the impressive presence of RTI laws in the various West Africa coun-

tries, making it obligatory for parliaments to ensure the public's right to the information they generate, should have culminated in a situation where citizens have easy access to parliamentary and other governmental information, but this is sadly not the case.

It was noticed that information made available to the public by parliaments is mostly not complete and/or does not reflect the entirety of parliamentary actions. Privacy and security limitations coupled with the overemphasis on parliamentary privileges, continues to limit the extent to which citizens are allowed to reuse and republish parliamentary information.

National Parliaments in West Africa are encouraged to recognize that parliamentary information belongs to the public and hence proactive disclosure of all of this information

is the way to go in promoting a culture of openness.

2. MEDIA PLATFORMS FOR PARLIAMENTARY ACCESS

One of the areas we found a lot of work going on with Parliaments in West Africa, is in the use of multiple channels to provide access to parliamentary information. As the Commentary to the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness describes “Parliaments have an obligation to communicate and engage the diversity of their constituents irrespective of their proximity to parliament, access to technology, or other social or cultural barriers.” For this reason, providing multiple channels for observing parliamentary proceedings and receiving information about its work is key.

We observed that various parliaments in the Region are at different stages in the use of platforms such as print media, radio, television, internet and mobile device technology. A common thread is how all the parliaments assessed, engages both private and public media platforms (print and electronic especially) to provide coverage on the work that happens in parliaments, and how they have leveraged their own websites and other internet-based platforms to provide information to citizens.

Three legislatures in francophone West Africa have established dedicated radio stations mainly within the precinct of the parliaments, to provide live coverage of proceedings and other parliamentary education and information to the public. They are Radio Hemicycle (103.4 FM) in Benin, La Voix du Parlement (89.7 FM) in Burkina Faso, and Voix de l'Hémicycle (95.10 FM) in Niger. Although no Parliament in West Africa has cable-based or open televi-

sion stations, most of them have taken advantage of Facebook Live and YouTube to provide live and/or delayed coverage of their proceedings, with the Parliaments of Ghana and Nigeria producing some of the best quality coverages of daily proceedings which attracts thousands of viewers always. The Ghana Parliament's channel adds sign language interpretation to its coverage.

The Gambia National Assembly reports that its “own channel is in the offing” while it currently collaborates with development partners to produce weekly parliamentary programs on an external radio station. Whereas some of these channels only broadcast the plenary sessions, others also broadcast committee sessions, while a few add broadcasts of meetings between legislators and civil society/other stakeholders or educational programs or general information. Some national parliaments only broadcast their proceedings during notable sitting days such as when the National Budgets gets read or the Head of State visits Parliament.

Even with the above positive examples, the challenge remains with access to parliamentary information for some geographical locations in the various countries, especially in places where the frequencies of the established radio stations do not reach or where internet access and usage is limited. It is recommended that Parliaments, working with civil society and other partners, build strategic relationships with community and local radio stations to ensure that the broadcast of parliamentary information is democratized to reach people living everywhere in their countries.

3. PARLIAMENTARY WEBSITES

More than 90% of the parliaments assessed have websites, with the Liberian Legislature being the only one without a website. We also considered the website of the National Assembly of Guinea Bissau as not fit for purpose. This general recognition of online dissemination of information as essential means of communication by the various Parliaments, has led to some (Ghana and Sierra Leone) going a step further to provide comprehensive mobile applications on their parliaments. It was obvious that the level of efforts and resources dedicated to the websites of the various national parliaments vary, as there were some that were quite comprehensive and regularly maintained, while others were not. Although some websites are updated with the electronic format of parliamentary information, the level of citizens awareness of the existence of these websites and their usage by the public remains low.

Parliaments are however not very receptive to modifying their traditions and publishing data in reusable formats to allow patrons of their websites such as citizens, CSOs, journalists and information technology programmers to effectively use uploaded parliamentary information for analyses and other purposes. This is a vital component of legislative transparency as technologies for analyzing and comparing information require easy, complete and timely access to legislative information. Most of the websites do not make it easy to find the desired information, as they do not upload information in open formats to enable both simple and complex searches. There were very few examples where parliamentary information on these websites has been linked to other related information such as linking draft legislation to associated reports prepared

by Committees or subject experts.

Although none of these websites employ membership or registration requirements to restrict public access, we did not see the existence of concise privacy policies governing the websites to inform patrons of how their personal information volunteered on the portals may be used. There were no guarantees that measures against tracking of personally identifiable information without explicit consent of users were in place. Although the WhatsApp social networking App is gaining popularity as one of the ways through which information on parliaments gets shared to the public, there was a noticeable gap in the use of other technology services such as emails, SMS and text messaging to alert the public to categories of parliamentary actions.

4. OPENNESS OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES AND PLENARY

Nearly all the parliaments included in this Index have their plenary sessions and premises accessible and open to the public, except when there are space limitations and demonstrable public safety concerns such as during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, we observed that all plenary proceedings of the Parliaments are published in the form of written transcripts/Hansard, while in some instances as discussed in examples under Point 2 above, there are live audio/video transmissions of plenary proceedings using different platforms. The case is different for access to parliamentary committees, as nearly all the parliaments assessed have the majority of their committee meetings closed to the public and media. Sierra Leone, The Gambia and Cote d'Ivoire showed some good examples of opening up parliamentary committees to the public and media. Consequently,

there remain a great level of opaqueness around reports created by parliaments and their committees, with the biggest challenge being citizens' access to reports requested/required to be submitted to the parliaments, their offices or committees by external bodies and witnesses that appear before them.

It was also observed that although various parliaments provide schedules and agenda for their plenary sittings, there remain a gap in providing similar information on Committee meetings to the public. What is lacking in many of the parliaments is the availability of full session calendars released timeously to provide for information regarding scheduled votes, scheduled parliamentary committees' hearings and all other information regarding matters under consideration or to be considered by the legislature. The Ghana Parliament showed one of the best examples of full sessional calendars and legislative agenda which are provided to the public, but even these do not get provided in real-time and as soon as such information is available to Members and officials.

These gaps, especially in relation to the very low access to parliamentary committees, are regrettable because committees of parliament remain the engine-rooms where most of the work in parliament including legislation gets done, and are the best channels through which citizens and civil society can be engaged and provide input to Members of Parliament regarding items under consideration. We therefore recommend that parliaments should:

i) institute reforms to make hearings of their committees public, and aspire towards the best practice of ensuring that reports of such

plenary and committee proceedings, including documents created and received, the testimony of witnesses at public hearings, transcripts and records of Committee actions are all made public promptly.

ii) Publicize their online platforms through which they provide the public access to what happens in the legislature, as many of these platforms are unknown to the public even where they exist. The same situation is true for how parliaments must make their libraries accessible to the public, especially researchers, students etc, with the ultimate goal being for parliaments to ensure that all their historical records/information gets digitized and made available to the public in perpetuity for reuse free of legal restrictions or fees. Digital availability of parliamentary information helps to reduce the barriers faced by the public in physically accessing the parliamentary premises, as these premises are mostly considered security zones with enormous challenges posed to citizens that wish to go there.

5. ENGAGEMENT ON BILLS AND DRAFT LEGISLATION

It was observed that very few draft legislations are published by the Parliament assessed and made public upon their introduction (with some parliaments not publishing any at all). This is inconstant with the recommended best practice that calls for parliaments to recognize the need for citizens to be fully informed about and provide input into items under consideration. We observed that none of the parliaments invests time and resources into providing public access to preparatory analyses and background information on these draft legislations to encourage a broad understanding of policy discussions about the proposed legislation.

In fact, IPU's Guidelines for Parliamentary Websites emphasize this point by noting that parliaments should provide an explanation of the legislative process, the text and status of all proposed legislation, links to relevant parliamentary and government documentation, the text and final status of previous legislation, the text and actions taken on all enacted legislation, and a searchable database of current, previously proposed and enacted legislation. Fortunately, there are many capable civil society organisations in the various countries that have the ability to partner with parliaments to make these possible.

For the legislative process to be fully participatory, citizens must have an understanding of the information shaping each phase of the legislative process and opportunities to influence the process at every phase. Transparency and participation provide an opportunity to bring the wisdom of the public to bear in all aspects of the legislative process. It is for this reason that parliaments must encourage collaborative public processes as opposed to secrecy.

6. RECORDS OF PARLIAMENTARY VOTES

The worst performance of all the parliaments assessed was discovered under this area of not recording parliamentary votes. These Parliaments rely heavily on voice voting and in some instances roll calls to take decisions at plenary and in committees. This has deprived constituents of the opportunity to ensure accountability of their Members of Parliament for their voting behavior, as no records of the voting behavior of individual parliamentarians are maintained or made available.

As the Commentary to the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness observes, "a parliamentary vote tells citizens how a member of parliament stands on an issue. It is critical information for citizens who will eventually be asked to make choices regarding which members or parties should be returned to parliament in the next elections. As a result, it is critical [for] citizens to understand the positions of their elected officials and have unfettered access to their voting records on all individual votes, including information on abstentions and absences. Using roll call or electronic voting helps to ensure that individual votes are 'on the record.'" Data on voting records is critical for the effective monitoring of parliaments.

7. INFORMATION ON MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND THEIR INTEGRITY

The IPU's Guidelines for Parliamentary Websites notes the duty of parliaments to publish member information online, including: a list of all current members, biodata, photo, constituency, party affiliation, committee membership and roles in parliament, contact information, parliamentary activities and other similar data [such as electoral mandate, attendance to plenary and committee sittings, identities of personal staff and working contact information of parliamentary and constituency offices]. We observed strong deficit in the publication of such information about legislators, with Sierra Leone, Ghana and Senegal being the only three that provide the majority of such information on their websites and/or mobile applications, while the rest provided very minimal information about their legislators. Although all such information is known to the institutions of parliaments, most of them do not proactively disclose them, with Niger and Liberia being the worse culprits as no such information was found online.

Although some parliaments complained about the flooding of their inboxes and telephone numbers with junk mail and calls, we observed that many of the parliaments were not used to providing parliamentarians with official email addresses and official telephone numbers to serve as the first points of call for constituents. The trend with some individual Members of Parliament putting up information on themselves through their personal social media platforms was also observed.

Although Asset Declaration regimes applicable to Members of Parliament differ from one country to the other, we observed that many parliamentarians, even in countries where they are required to declare their assets, do not comply with those requirements. The best practice is that there must be sufficient information to allow citizens to make informed judgements regarding the integrity and probity of individual members of Parliament, including information on their asset disclosures, their parliamentary expenses and their non-parliamentary income, including interests, dividends, lease payments or other in-kind benefits.

In addition to the absence of such information, we discovered that most citizens are not satisfied with the nature in which Parliaments investigate or cause to be investigated, charges of unethical behavior, conflict of interest or corruption involving its Members and officials, as in the rare cases where these are identified and investigated, the findings on such judicial or parliamentary investigations are not made public.

8. INFORMATION ON PARLIAMENTS' STRUCTURES & SYSTEMS

Many of the Parliaments assessed do not

make available to the public basic information such as: information on their administrative functioning, the structure of staff that manages and administer parliamentary processes, contact information for staff responsible for providing information to the public, hiring announcements; Parliament's constitutional role, structure, functions, internal rules, administrative procedure and workflow, including those of Committees. In the few cases that such information have been made available, such as the case of Cape Verde, Sierra Leone, Senegal and the Legislative Handbook of The Gambia, these information have not been presented in easy-to-read plain language formats to allow citizens who lack the required technical expertise to understand the primary legal source materials of parliaments.

It is recommended that parliamentary and administrative information are compiled and released digitally, using non-proprietary, open and structured formats, and other best practices to improve its usability and allow easy reading and processing by computers for analyses, and these must be available to citizens for unrestricted access and is downloadable for reuse and sharing, free of charge.

9. DOCUMENTED POLICIES

Three policy documents considered by this OPI as very necessary for all parliaments to have in their quest to promote openness are Transparency Policies, Codes of Conduct, and Parliamentary Oversight Models. By adopting such explicit policies, parliaments signal a necessary commitment to transparency and openness to the country's citizens. We observed however that many gains have not been made in these areas by the Parliaments assessed.

None of the Parliaments assessed had clearly adopted transparency policies which are publicly available and specify terms for their periodic review. Although provisions on parliamentary transparency may appear in constitutions, statutes, rules of procedure, or other regulations, parliaments are particularly encouraged to have clearly defined and publicly available transparency policy.

We noticed also that all the Parliaments assessed have oversight frameworks either enshrined in their national constitutions or the parliamentary Rules of Procedure or Standing Orders, however we did not find a single case of a clearly developed Oversight Model/Policy Document for any of parliament, and citizens considered their national parliaments as weak and unable to hold their governments to act in fully a transparent manner. It was noted that although various parliaments continue to do some appreciable work in the area of oversight, the processes and results of these efforts are not effectively explained to citizens.

A Code of Conduct by the Ghana Parliament, Cape Verde's Parliamentary Code of Ethics, and the efforts by the National Assembly of Benin to pass a resolution on the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct of Beninese MPs, were some of the few examples of efforts by parliaments towards adhering to the best practice that calls on parliaments to develop, adopt and periodically review appropriate guidelines for ethical conduct. These should address the issue of conflict of interest, whether actual or perceived, with a view to enhancing transparency, accountability and public confidence. Adopting and enforcing codes of conduct, including rules on conflicts of interest and the acceptance of gifts are critical for parliaments in this Region.

Where Parliament may not have the immediate capacity to publish comprehensive policies in these areas, they may consider developing partnerships with civil society to achieve this.

10. BUDGETS AND EXPENDITURES

Parliamentary examples of good budget transparency practices were completely missing in all parliaments assessed for this OPI. Aside the Parliament of Cape Verde that makes provisions on its website for matters relating to the parliament's budget and its execution, none of the Parliament's assessed proactively publishes any information regarding the parliament's own budget, including information about their budget execution, bids and contracts. These accounted for why all the parliaments assessed had very low results on the Accountability Dimension.

Although part of the national budget which is usually made public, Parliaments must begin to publish their own budgets and information on their budget execution as a good and ethical example from an institution that performs financial oversight on governments. This information must be made public in its entirety, using a consistent taxonomy, along with plain language summaries, explanations or reports that help promote citizen understanding. Information regarding public contracting by the administrators of parliaments, salaries and other benefits of Members of Parliament are completely shielded from the public. An Open Parliament is not just about playing legislative, oversight and representative functions well, but also about how the parliament itself functions internally and is accountable for its activities.

Parliaments must also go beyond making available the national budgets that get laid in Parliament, to ensure that they publish comprehensive, detailed, and easily understandable information about the national budget and public expenditures, including allowing for easy comparison of past, current, and projected revenues and expenditures. Citizens, as taxpayers, have the right to access information about public funds and their use. For public participation in the budget process to be effective, citizens must have access to all budgetary, spending, and audit information accessible by parliament and the executive.

Raw budget data should be released in an open format and using a consistent taxonomy that allows for comparison and automated analysis. IPU's Guidelines for Parliamentary Websites recommend that parliaments publish explanations of budget processes and roles, proposals, reviews, and documentation regarding the review of past and present activities in a searchable database.

11. PARLIAMENT-PUBLIC RELATIONSHIP

In the face of shrinking civic space across the world, civil society organisations in the various countries engaged for this OPI expressed missed reactions about the levels at which their parliaments participate in exchanges with them and the public in parliamentary processes and decision-making. In Sierra Leone, Parliament has signed a memorandum of understanding with CSOs there with the aim of facilitating a better parliament-civil society relationship including plans to set up a CSO desk in Parliament to coordinate both in-person activities and interactive technology tools for two-way communication between

citizens/CSOs on one hand and Parliament/its members on the other hand. This is to enable citizens to provide meaningful input to legislation and parliamentary activities.

In almost all countries, citizens and civil society are allowed to petition parliament, however the petition processes are not clearly documented and/or known to the public. Additionally, although most of the Parliament recognises the right and duty of civil society, media and the general public to monitor their work and that of their Members, not much effort have been put in place by them to set up permanent structures to reduce barriers faced by the public, civil society and media in engaging and effectively monitoring parliament. Ghana's Parliament has set up a state-of-the-art press center for the association of journalists reporting from the Parliament, while the existence of a Parliamentary Assistance Coordination Department in the Parliament of Sierra Leone stood out as a good example worthy of emulation by other parliaments.

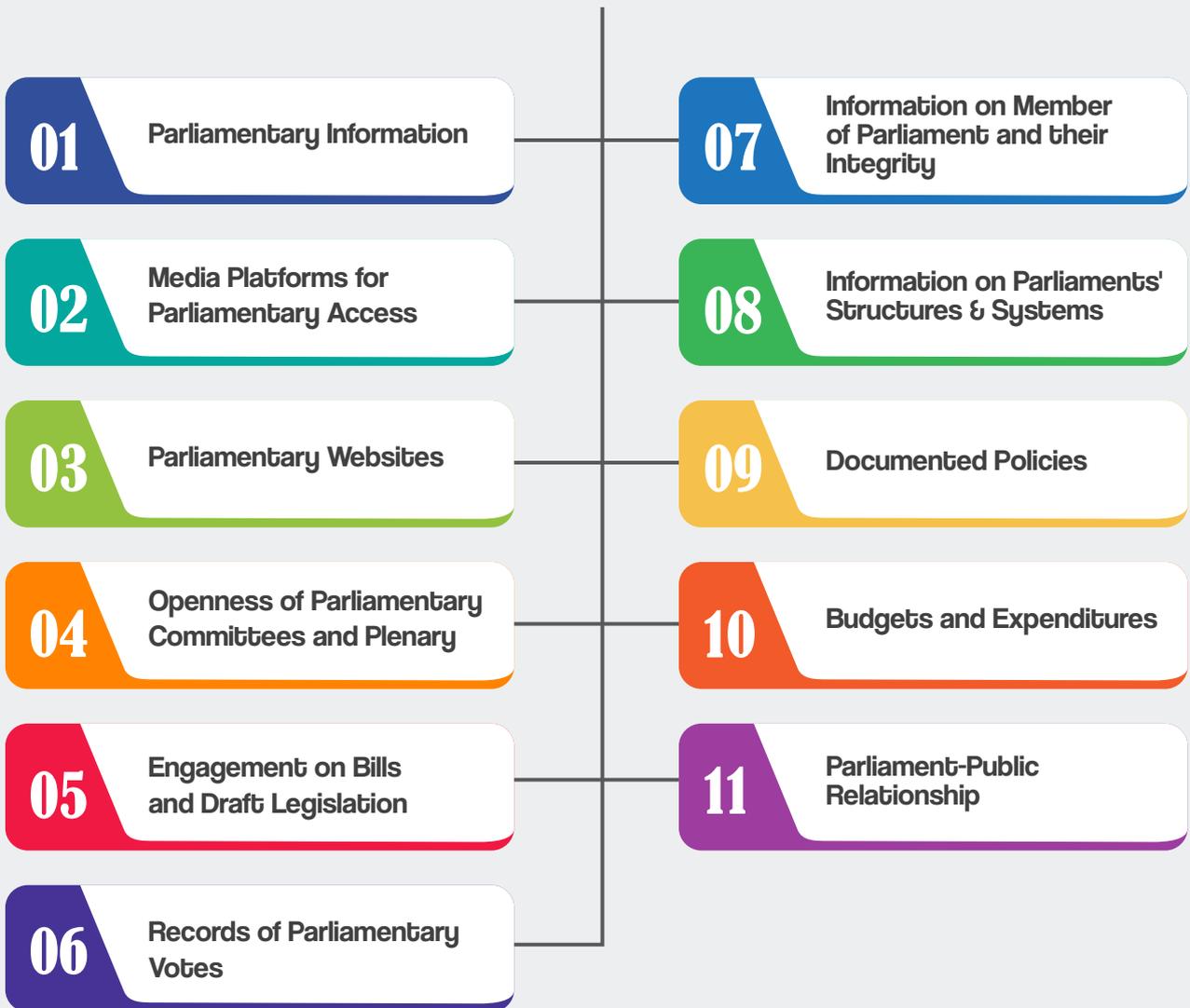
However, the same Parliament of Sierra Leone did not show a good example of parliament-media relations as the unavailability of clearly defined and publicly available policies on media access and engagements seem to allow successive parliamentary leadership to meddle in the affairs and independence of journalists reporting from that Parliament. Parliaments are expected to have non-partisan media relations facilities and ensure that journalists are given full access to parliamentary proceedings, with the criteria and process for providing media access being clearly defined and made available publicly.

The institutionalization of activities such as

Parliament Open Days in The Gambia, Sierra Leone and Benin, including citizens/students visit programs to some parliaments; the existence of Youth Parliaments in Ghana and Benin which are coordinated by the national parliaments, and a Young People's Parliament in Cape Verde, are some ways in which parliament

are actively promoting civic education of the public, particularly youth, in the West Africa Region. These initiatives help to promote understanding of parliament's rules and procedures, parliament's work, and the role of parliament and its Members.

OBSERVATIONS & RECOMMENDATION AREAS



CONCLUSION



Conclusions

This OPI has provided an overview of the realities in parliamentary openness across West Africa, and it is our hope that this will be built upon through other actions by national parliaments and stakeholders in parliamentary development to correct some of the negative structural and institutional culture existing in various Parliaments, while good practices and examples are maintained and improved.

It is the hope of the APMON and PNAfrica teams that this initiative will lead to Parliaments and civil society working together to co-create reforms and strategies that will strengthen parliaments to enable them to be more transparent, accountable and involve the public in their work. PNAfrica will be providing technical and financial assistance to PMO Networks in the various countries to pursue this agenda, while we call on partners to collaborate with us on same.

We also look forward to this Index serving as a reference document to promote better relationships and peer-to-peer learning

among national parliaments for knowledge exchanges on best practices to improve the general state of parliamentary openness in Africa. The importance of exercises like this includes how it measures actions and inactions of public institutions against optimum globally accepted benchmarks and also allows for comparisons that prove that given similar contexts, transparency, accountability and civic participation in parliament's work can be better, if there is political will and deliberate mechanisms are put in place.

As the maiden OPI, we look forward to these results serving as the baseline to which improvements in parliamentary openness in the various countries will be measured in the future, so to monitor the level of progress in enhancing the principles of open parliament.

You may visit www.parliamentafrica.com/OPI for additional information on this and future editions of the Africa Open Parliament Index.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Results Sheets for the Various Dimensions

Indicator	TRANSPARENCY																		Total
	101/i	102/ii.a	103/ix	104/ii.b	105/iii	106/viii	107/x	108/xi	109/xii	110/xiii	111/xix	112/xxi,xxx	113/xxii	114/xxvi	115/xxvii	116/xxviii	117/xi	118/xliii	
Benin	3.00	4.00	2.00	4.00	2.00	4.00	1.00	2.00	4.00	2.00	2.00	4.00	1.00	2.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	47.00
Burkina Faso	3.00	4.00	2.00	4.00	2.00	4.00	1.00	2.00	3.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	3.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	40.00
Cape Verde	3.00	2.00	0.00	3.00	2.00	4.00	3.00	4.00	4.00	1.00	2.00	4.00	2.00	4.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	0.00	47.00
Cote d'Ivoire	3.00	4.00	2.00	3.00	1.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	3.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	1.00	42.00
Gambia	3.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	4.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	2.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	47.00
Ghana	3.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	4.00	1.00	2.00	4.00	3.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	57.00
Guinea-Bissau	2.00	2.00	0.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	24.00
Liberia	2.00	4.00	2.00	3.00	2.00	4.00	0.00	1.00	4.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	36.00
Niger	3.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	4.00	2.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	39.00
Nigeria	2.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	2.00	4.00	1.00	3.00	4.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	43.00
Senegal	2.00	2.00	1.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	3.00	1.00	4.00	1.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	33.00
Sierra Leone	3.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	4.00	0.00	1.00	3.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	45.00
Togo	1.00	4.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	3.00	1.00	4.00	1.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	32.00

Indicator	CIVIC PARTICIPATION															Total
	201/iv	202/v	203/vi	204/xiv	205/xvii	206/xviii	207/xxix	208/xxxi	209/xxxii	210/xxxiii	211/xxxiv,xxxix	212/xxxv,x	213/xxxvii	214/xli,xlii	215/xliv	
Benin	4.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	0.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	28.00
Burkina Faso	3.00	2.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	3.00	27.00
Cape Verde	4.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	4.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	2.00	3.00	3.00	4.00	40.00
Cote d'Ivoire	3.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	3.00	0.00	2.00	1.00	2.00	0.00	1.00	3.00	3.00	2.00	0.00	25.00
Gambia	4.00	2.00	0.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	3.00	1.00	24.00
Ghana	3.00	2.00	2.00	3.00	3.00	2.00	4.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	36.00
Guinea-Bissau	1.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	16.00
Liberia	1.00	4.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	4.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	16.00
Niger	2.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	2.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	3.00	1.00	23.00
Nigeria	1.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	4.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	4.00	31.00
Senegal	2.00	1.00	0.00	4.00	2.00	1.00	4.00	1.00	3.00	2.00	1.00	2.00	3.00	2.00	0.00	28.00
Sierra Leone	3.00	2.00	2.00	4.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	1.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	35.00
Togo	1.00	1.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	2.00	3.00	2.00	1.00	18.00

Indicator	PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY											Total
	301/vii	302/xv.a	303/xv.b	304/xvi	305/xx.a	306/xx.b	307/xxiii.a	308/xxiii.b	309/xxiv	310/xxv.a	311/xxv.b	
Benin	3.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	9.00
Burkina Faso	3.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	11.00
Cape Verde	3.00	3.00	1.00	4.00	1.00	0.00	2.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	23.00
Cote d'Ivoire	2.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	13.00
Gambia	2.00	2.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	12.00
Ghana	3.00	4.00	1.00	3.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	21.00
Guinea-Bissau	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00
Liberia	2.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	10.00
Niger	2.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	7.00
Nigeria	3.00	3.00	0.00	2.00	1.00	0.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	2.00	15.00
Senegal	2.00	4.00	1.00	4.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.00
Sierra Leone	4.00	4.00	2.00	3.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	23.00
Togo	2.00	3.00	1.00	3.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	15.00

APPENDICES

Appendix 2 – Questionnaire Administered to Parliaments and CSOs

OPEN PARLIAMENT INDEX

AN ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR PARLIAMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ACROSS WEST AFRICA

Questionnaire: Open Parliament Index

TRANSPARENCY

- This section addresses such issues as whether Parliament discloses more information; improves the legal or institutional frameworks to guarantee the right to information; improves the quality of parliamentary information disclosed to the public; or improves the transparency of its decision-making processes or systems.
 - The Section has 18 Indicators, all of which must be responded to.
 - Each Indicator has five options provided. You can choose among the five, one option that best describes the situation in your Parliament at the end of the year 2021.
- Depending on the option you select, you will have to provide in the “**Evidence**” column, verifiable information to prove that the option you have chosen represents the situation in your Parliament. Evidence may include (but is not limited to): reference to legislations, rules of procedures of parliament, administrative documents, media reports and/or other online or offline documentation or examples that relates to the subject matter and supports your selected option.
- In the “**Comments/Recommendations**” column, kindly provide relevant additional comments or information that you will want to be taken into consideration by the assessors, as well as recommendations on how parliament, civil society and other state/non-state actors can work together to improve upon the situation as relates to that specific Indicator.

Indicator Number: 101/i				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Citizens are allowed to reuse and republish parliamentary information, in whole without any exceptions or restrictions.	Citizens are allowed to reuse and republish parliamentary information, in whole or in part subject to exceptions or restrictions that are narrowly defined by law.	Citizens are allowed to reuse and republish parliamentary information with restrictions and exceptions which are not clearly defined by law.	Citizens require permission to reuse or republish parliamentary information at all times.	Citizens are not allowed to reuse or republish any parliamentary information.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 102/ii.a				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament has enacted an access to information law, as well as its own internal rules of procedure and codes of conduct that guarantees the public's right to government and parliamentary information.	Parliament has enacted an access to information law as well as its own internal rules of procedure that guarantee the public's right to government and parliamentary information, but has no codes of conduct.	Parliament has not enacted an access to information law, but has its own internal rules of procedure and also codes of conduct that guarantee the public's right to information.	Parliament has neither enacted an access to information law nor a code of conduct, but has internal rules of procedure that guarantee the public's right to information.	Parliament has neither enacted a right to information law nor a code of conduct. It however has internal rules of procedure but these rules of procedure do not guarantee the public's right to information.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Questionnaire: Open Parliament Index

Indicator Number: 103/ix				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament has enacted legislation that ensures that citizens have access to legal or judicial recourse in instances where citizens' access to government or parliamentary information is in dispute.	Parliament has enacted legislation that ensures that citizens have access to legal or judicial recourse in instances where citizens' access to government information is in dispute, but this does not cover citizens' access to parliamentary information.	Parliament has enacted legislation for citizens' access to legal or judicial recourse in instances where citizens' access to government and parliamentary information is in dispute, but this legal recourse provision is considered ineffective.	Parliament has other measures (not legislation) that ensure that citizens have legal recourse in instances where citizens' access to government and parliamentary information is in dispute.	Parliament does not have any enactment that ensures legal recourse in such instances.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 104/ii.b				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament has enacted legislation, internal rules of procedure and/or codes of conduct that promotes a culture of open government, provides for transparency of political finance, safeguards freedom of expression and assembly, and ensures engagement by civil society and citizens in the legislative process.	Parliament has enacted legislation, internal rules of procedure and/or codes of conduct that promotes a culture of open government, safeguard freedom of expression and assembly, and ensures engagement with civil society and citizens in the legislative process, but has not provided for transparency of political finances.	Parliament has enacted legislation, internal rules of procedure and/or codes of conduct that safeguards freedom of expression and assembly and ensures engagement by civil society and citizens in the legislative process, but has not provided for transparency of political finances and the promotion of the culture of open government.	Parliament has enacted legislation, internal rules of procedure and/or codes of conduct that safeguards freedom of expression and assembly but has not provided for transparency of political finances, engagement by civil society and citizens in the legislative process, and promotion of a culture of open government.	Parliament has not enacted legislation, internal rules of procedure and/or codes of conduct that promotes a culture of open government, or provides for transparency of political finances, or safeguards freedom of expression and assembly, or ensures engagement by civil society and citizens in the legislative process.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 105/iii				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament has documented framework/tools for making robust use of its oversight powers to ensure that government acts in a fully transparent manner, and guarantee that laws ensuring government openness are implemented effectively by public institutions. These oversight efforts are effectively communicated to citizens.	Parliament has clearly documented framework/tools for making robust use of its oversight powers to ensure that government acts in a fully transparent manner, and guarantee that laws ensuring government openness are implemented effectively by public institutions. Yet these oversight efforts are not communicated to citizens.	Parliament makes use of its oversight powers to ensure that government acts in a fully transparent manner, and guarantees that laws ensuring government openness are implemented effectively by public institutions, yet these efforts are neither clearly documented nor effectively communicated to citizens.	Parliament has a framework/tool for oversight but these are never used and not communicated to the public.	Parliament has no systems to guarantee that laws ensuring government openness and transparency are implemented.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Questionnaire: Open Parliament Index

Indicator Number: 106/viii				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament participates in exchanges with civil society organizations to increase openness and transparency of parliamentary information and participates in international and regional exchanges of good practice with other Parliaments to strengthen adherence to democratic principles.	Parliament participates in exchanges with civil society organizations to increase openness and transparency of parliamentary information, but does not participate in international and regional exchanges of good practice with other Parliaments towards strengthening adherence to democratic principles.	Parliament participates in international and regional exchanges of good practices with other parliaments to strengthen adherence to democratic principles, but does not participate in exchanges with civil society organizations to increase openness and transparency of parliamentary information.	Parliament is affiliated with international and regional parliamentary organizations but does not actively participate in exchanges	Parliament does not participate in exchanges with civil society organizations or international and regional exchanges with other parliaments
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				
Indicator Number: 107/x				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament's information available to the public are complete, reflects the entirety of parliamentary actions, and is not subject to limitations of privacy, security or access privileges.	Parliament's information available to the public are complete, and reflects the entirety of parliamentary actions, but is subject to narrowly and precisely defined exceptions.	Parliament's information available to the public are complete, and reflects the entirety of parliamentary actions, but is subject to exceptions that are not narrowly and precisely defined.	Parliament's information available to the public does not reflect the entirety of parliamentary actions, as they are subject to exceptions that are not narrowly and precisely defined.	Parliament's information available to the public are neither complete nor reflects the entirety of parliamentary actions, and is subject to exceptions
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				
Indicator Number: 108/xi				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament provides schedules and agenda for its plenary and Committee sessions/meetings/sittings to the public in advance, and all other information regarding matters under consideration by the legislature is provided to the public in real-time and as soon as such information is available to Members and officials.	Parliament provides schedules and agenda for its plenary and Committee sessions/meetings/sittings to the public in advance, and all other information regarding matters under consideration by the legislature are provided to the public as quickly as they are available internally but not at the same time they made available to Members and official.	Parliament provides schedules and agenda for its plenary and Committee sessions/meetings/sittings to the public in advance, and all other information regarding matters under consideration at plenary is provided to the public as soon as such information is available to Members and officials or as quickly as they are available internally. However, this is not the case for information, schedules, agenda or matters under consideration in Parliamentary Committees/ Commissions	Information regarding matters under consideration by Parliament is provided to the public either in real-time, as soon as they are available to Members and officials, or as quickly as they are available internally. However, Parliament does not provide a schedule and agenda for plenary and committee sessions/meetings/sittings to the public in advance.	Parliament does not provide information on its schedules, agenda or matters under consideration at both plenary and Committee to the public in a timely manner
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				
Indicator Number: 109/xii				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament retains authoritative copies of all of its records, preventing duplication or the entry of accidental changes over time, and guarantees that the information it releases to the public is accurate.	Parliament retains authoritative copies of most of its records, preventing forgery or the entry of accidental changes over time, and guarantees that the information it releases to the public is accurate.	Parliament retains authoritative copies of some of its records and prevents forgery or the entry of accidental changes over time, but cannot fully guarantee that all information it releases to the public is accurate.	Parliament retains authoritative copies of some of its records but has no systems to prevent forgery or the entry of accidental changes over time, hence unable to guarantee that the information it releases to the public is accurate.	Parliament has no processes/systems to retain authoritative records or guarantee that information it releases to the public are accurate.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Questionnaire: Open Parliament Index

Indicator Number: 110/xiii				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament has transparency policies that ensure the proactive dissemination of parliamentary information, the format in which such information should be published and the terms for which these policies may be reviewed periodically. These policies are publicly available.	Parliament has transparency policies that ensure the proactive dissemination of parliamentary information, which is made publicly available. Either the format in which such information should be published or the terms for which these policies may be periodically reviewed have been specified but not both.	Parliament has transparency policies that ensure the proactive dissemination of parliamentary information but does not specify the format in which such information should be published nor the terms for which these policies may be periodically reviewed. These policies are not publicly available.	Parliament has systems that ensure the dissemination of parliamentary information but these systems are not documented	Parliament does not have any policies on parliamentary transparency.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 111/xix				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Hearings of Parliamentary Committees are public. The reports of such committee proceedings, including documents created and received, the testimony of witnesses at public hearings, transcripts and records of Committee actions are all made public promptly.	Hearings of Parliamentary Committees are either public or in-camera. However, the reports of such committee proceedings, including documents created and received, the testimony of witnesses at public hearings, transcripts and records of Committee actions are all made public promptly.	Hearings of Parliamentary Committees are either public or in-camera. Some of the following information (not all) are made available to the public - reports of such committee proceedings, including documents created and received, the testimony of witnesses at public hearings, transcripts and records of Committee actions.	Hearings of Parliamentary Committees are either public or in-camera. However, reports of such committee proceedings, including documents created and received, the testimony of witnesses at public hearings, transcripts and records of Committee actions are all not made public.	No Parliamentary Committee hearings are public and no records of Committee Proceedings are published.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 112/xxi,xxx				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
All plenary proceedings of Parliament are published both in the form of written transcripts/Hansard and live audio/video transmissions, in permanent locations (online and/or offline) which are known to the public	All plenary proceedings of Parliament are published both in the form of written transcripts/Hansard and audio/video transmissions (not live), in permanent locations (online and/or offline) which are known to the public	All plenary proceedings of Parliament are published in the form of written transcripts/Hansards, but only some proceedings are transmitted in audio/video formats (live/delayed). All these can be found in permanent locations (online and/or offline) which are known to the public.	Some (not all) plenary proceedings of Parliament are published both in the form of written transcripts/Hansard and audio/video transmissions (not live). These are sometimes kept in online and/or offline locations that may/may not be known to the public	Parliament does not publish records of plenary proceedings
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 113/xxii				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
All reports created by Parliament and those requested/required to be submitted to Parliament, its offices and Committees, are made public in their entirety with no exceptions.	All reports created by Parliament and those requested/required to be submitted to Parliament, its offices and Committees, are made public in their entirety, except in circumstances that are narrowly defined by existing law.	Some of the reports created by Parliament and those requested/required to be submitted to Parliament, its offices and Committees are made public, with exceptions only as are defined by law	Reports created by Parliament are made public, but those requested or required to be submitted to Parliament are usually not made public	No reports created by or provided to Parliament are published/made public
Evidence:				

Questionnaire: Open Parliament Index

Indicator Number: 114/xxvi				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament grants the public access to its library, and all historical records/information of Parliament have been digitized and made available to citizens in perpetuity for reuse free of legal restrictions or fees.	Parliament grants the public access to its library, and some (not all) of the historical records or information of Parliament have been digitized and made available to citizens in perpetuity for reuse free of legal restrictions or fees.	Parliament grants the public access to its library and the historical records/information for reuse free of legal restrictions or fees, but its historical records or information have not been digitized.	Parliament grants the public access to its library and its historical records/information which are either digitized or not. However, these are subject to payment of fees and/or some legal restrictions	Parliament does not have a library or does not grant the public access to its library, and its historical records/information are also not digitized
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 115/xxvii				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament always provides multiple channels for observing its proceedings and receiving information about its work, by using all the following channels – print media, radio, television, internet and mobile device technology.	Parliament always provides multiple channels for observing its proceedings and receiving information about its work, by using most of the following channels – print media, radio, television, internet and mobile device technology.	Parliament always provides multiple channels for observing its proceedings and receiving information about its work, by using at most two of the following channels – print media, radio, television, internet and mobile device technology.	Parliament sometimes provides multiple channels for observing its proceedings and receiving information about its work, using some of the following channels – print media, radio, television, internet and mobile device technology.	Parliament does not use multiple channels to provide access to proceedings or information about its work
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 116/xxviii				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament and its plenary sessions are physically accessible and open to all citizens without any limitations	Parliament and its plenary sessions are physically accessible and open to all citizens, subject only to demonstrable public safety and space limitations	The offices of Parliament are accessible and open to citizens, but physical access to plenary sessions of Parliament is restricted	Parliament allows physical access to its offices and /or plenary sessions only on specific occasions as determined by Parliament but not all the time	No physical access is granted to citizens to Parliament and/or its plenary sessions
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 117/xl				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament regards online dissemination of information as an essential means of communication, and hence has a comprehensive website that is maintained and regularly updated with the electronic format of all parliamentary information	Parliament regards online dissemination of information as an essential means of communication, and hence has a comprehensive website that is maintained and regularly updated with the electronic format of some parliamentary information	Parliament has a website that is maintained and updated regularly, but it does not have the electronic format of parliamentary information	Parliament has a website but it is not regularly maintained and/or updated with the electronic format of parliamentary information	Parliament does not have a website
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

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Indicator Number: 118/xliii				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament provides citizens with emails, mobile app, SMS text messaging and/or other technology subscription services to alert them to all categories of parliamentary actions in real-time.	Parliament provides citizens with emails, mobile App, SMS text messaging and/or other technologies subscription services to alert them to some categories of parliamentary actions in real-time.	Parliament provides citizens with emails, mobile app, SMS text messaging and/or other technology subscription services to alert them to some categories of parliamentary actions, but these alerts are not delivered in real-time.	Parliament is currently working on such alert services for citizens.	Parliament does not use alert services.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

CIVIC PARTICIPATION

- This section addresses such issues as whether Parliament creates or improves opportunities, processes or mechanisms for the public to inform or influence decisions; whether parliament creates, enables or improves participatory mechanisms for minorities or underrepresented groups; and whether Parliament enables a legal environment that guarantees freedoms of assembly, association and peaceful protest.
 - The Section has 15 Indicators, all of which must be responded to.
- Each Indicator has five options provided. You can choose among the five, one option that best describes the situation in your Parliament at the end of the year 2021.
- Depending on the option you select, you will have to provide in the “**Evidence**” column, verifiable information to prove that the option you have chosen represents the situation in your Parliament. Evidence may include (but is not limited to): reference to legislations, rules of procedures of parliament, administrative documents, media reports and/or other online or offline documentation or examples that relates to the subject matter and supports your selected option.
- In the “**Comments/Recommendations**” column, kindly provide relevant additional comments or information that you will want to be taken into consideration by the assessors, as well as recommendations on how parliament, civil society and other state/non-state actors can work together to improve upon the situation as relates to that specific Indicator.

Indicator Number: 201/iv				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament actively promotes civic education of the public, particularly youth, as it organizes throughout the year activities aimed at promoting understanding of parliament’s rules and procedures, parliament’s work, and the role of parliament and its Members.	Parliament actively promotes civic education of the public, particularly youth, as it organizes activities aimed at promoting understanding of parliament’s rules and procedures, parliament’s work, and the role of parliament and its Members, at least once every two years.	Parliament promotes civic education of the public, particularly youth, as it organizes activities aimed at promoting understanding of parliament’s rules and procedures, parliament’s work, and the role of parliament and its Members, at least once during the lifespan of each parliament.	Parliament considers civic education of the public not to be part of its core functions but participates in such engagements when organized by civil society and other institutions.	Parliament does not engage in the civic education of the Public.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 202/v				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament actively engages citizens and civil society in parliamentary processes and decision-making without discrimination, with the aim	Parliament engages some citizens and selected civil society organizations in parliamentary processes and decision-making, with	Parliament engages some citizens and selected civil society organizations in parliamentary processes and decision-making, with	Parliament engages some citizens and selected civil society organizations in parliamentary processes and decision-making, with	Parliament does not engage citizens and civil society and does not admit petitions from the public.

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of effectively representing citizens' interests. Citizens and civil society are also allowed to petition parliament, and the petition processes are clearly documented and known to the public.	the aim of effectively representing citizens' interests. Citizens and civil society are also allowed to petition parliament, and the petition processes are clearly documented and known to the public.	the aim of effectively representing citizens' interests. Citizens and civil society are also allowed to petition parliament, although the petition processes are not clearly known to the public.	the aim of effectively representing citizens' interests, however, Parliament does not admit petitions from citizens and civil society.	
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 203/vi				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament has passed legislation that ensures that civil society organizations can operate freely within legislative matters and plays a vital role in overseeing government actions where there have been allegations of repression by the government over the NGO sector. There is also legislation that encourages private philanthropy, provides favored tax status for civil society organizations and provides public grants to support a vibrant civil society.	Parliament has passed legislation that ensures that civil society organizations can operate freely and without restrictions, and plays a vital role in overseeing government actions where there have been allegations of repression by the government over the NGO sector. Some of the following measures - encouraging private philanthropy, providing favored tax status for civil society organizations or providing public grants to support a vibrant civil society – have also been provided for.	Parliament supports measures that ensure that civil society organizations can operate freely and without restrictions, and plays a vital role in overseeing government actions where there have been allegations of repression by the government over the NGO sector.	Parliament occasionally plays a role in overseeing government actions where there have been allegations of repression by the government over the NGO sector and sometimes supports measures that ensure that civil society organizations can operate freely and without restrictions.	Parliament does not support measures that ensure that civil society organizations can operate freely and without restrictions
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 204/xiv				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament has made available to the public information about its constitutional role, structure, functions, internal rules, administrative procedure and workflow, including those of its Committees. This information has been presented in easy-to-read and plain language format.	Parliament has made available to the public information about its constitutional role, structure, functions, internal rules, administrative procedure and workflow, including those of its Committees.	Parliament has made most (not all) of the following information available to the public - its constitutional role, structure, functions, internal rules, administrative procedure and workflow, including those of its Committees.	Parliament has made a few of the following information available to the public - its constitutional role, structure, functions, internal rules, administrative procedure and workflow, including those of its Committees.	There is no publicly available information about the roles and functions of parliament.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

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Indicator Number: 205/xvii				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament always publishes in advance, its calendar for each session, its Agenda which includes information regarding scheduled votes, the order of business, and the schedule of committee hearings and other parliamentary business, to allow the public and civil society to provide input to members regarding items under consideration.	Parliament publishes in advance, its calendar for each session, its Agenda which includes information regarding scheduled votes, the order of business, and the schedule of committee hearings and other parliamentary business, to allow the public and civil society to provide input to members regarding items under consideration. The only exception to this is during rare instances involving urgent legislation.	Parliament mostly publishes in advance, its calendar for each session, and/or its Agenda which includes information regarding scheduled votes, the order of business, and the schedule of committee hearings and other parliamentary business, to allow the public and civil society to provide input to members regarding items under consideration.	Parliament sometimes publishes its Agenda and/or session calendar either in advance or belatedly.	Parliaments do not publish its agenda and or session calendar either in advance or belatedly.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 206/xviii				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
All draft legislations are published by Parliament and made public upon their introduction, together with preparatory analyses and background information to these draft legislations, to enable citizens to provide inputs into items under consideration.	All draft legislations are published by Parliament and made public upon their introduction, to enable citizens to provide inputs into items under consideration. However, Parliament does not often publish preparatory analyses and background information on these draft legislations.	Most (not all) draft legislations are published by Parliament and made public upon their introduction, to enable citizens to provide inputs into items under consideration. However, Parliament does not often publish preparatory analyses and background information on these draft legislations.	Very few draft legislations are published by Parliament and made public upon their introduction, to enable citizens to provide inputs into items under consideration.	Parliament does not publish or engage citizens on draft legislation.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 207/xxix				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament has a non-partisan media relations facility and ensures that journalists are given full access to parliamentary proceedings, and the criteria and process for providing media access are clearly defined and publicly available.	Parliament may or may not have a media relations facility, yet it ensures that journalists are given full access to parliamentary proceedings, and the criteria and process for providing media access are clearly defined and publicly available.	Parliament may or may not have a media relations facility, yet it ensures that journalists are given full access to parliamentary proceedings. The criteria and process for providing media access are not clearly defined and may or may not be publicly available.	Parliament does not have a media relations facility and journalists are given limited access to parliamentary proceedings.	Parliament does not guarantee or allow access to its proceedings by the media
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 208/xxxi				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament always ensures access to parliamentary information throughout the country through the internet and usage of other mediums for geographical locations where internet access and usage is limited.	Parliament mostly ensures access to parliamentary information throughout the country using the internet, and sometimes uses other mediums for geographical locations where internet access and usage is limited.	Parliament facilitates access to parliamentary information throughout the country using the internet, and sometimes uses other mediums for geographical locations where internet access and usage is limited.	Parliament rarely facilitates access to parliamentary information throughout the country, as parliamentary information is mostly limited to certain geographical locations.	Parliament does not facilitate nationwide access to its proceedings or information.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

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Indicator Number: 209/xxxii				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament develops plain language summaries and has similar tools to make all parliamentary information readily available and understandable to members and citizens with diverse backgrounds and expertise, mindful of the need to ensure that legal or technical language does not serve as a barrier to citizens seeking to access Parliamentary information.	Parliament sometimes develops plain language summaries and tools to make parliamentary information readily available and understandable to members and citizens with diverse backgrounds and expertise.	Parliament supports the efforts of civil society and other partners to develop plain language summaries and tools to make parliamentary information readily available and understandable to citizens with diverse backgrounds and expertise.	Civil society and other stakeholders have developed plain language summaries and tools to make parliamentary information readily available and understandable to citizens with diverse backgrounds and expertise, but these efforts do not receive the support of Parliament.	Parliament does not develop plain language summaries or similar tools to make parliamentary information understandable to citizens.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 210/xxxiii				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
The Constitution and/or parliamentary rules make provision for the use of multiple national or working languages in parliament, and parliament operationalizes this by providing for simultaneous interpretation of proceedings and rapid translation of the parliamentary records.	The Constitution and/or parliamentary rules make provision for the use of multiple national or working languages in parliament, and parliament operationalizes this by providing for simultaneous interpretation of proceedings, but parliamentary records are not translated.	The Constitution and/or parliamentary rules make provision for the use of multiple national or working languages in parliament, and parliament on some occasions operationalizes this by providing for simultaneous interpretation of proceedings.	The Constitution and/or parliamentary rules make provision for the use of multiple national or working languages in parliament, but Parliament does not have the required systems and gadgets to operationalize this.	The Constitution and/or parliamentary rules do not provide for the use of multiple or working languages in Parliament.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 211/xxxiv.xxxix				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliamentary and administrative information is available to citizens for unrestricted access and is downloadable for reuse and sharing, free of charge.	Parliamentary information is available to citizens, downloadable for reuse and sharing free of charge, but access is sometimes restricted.	Parliamentary information is available to citizens free of charge, but downloadability, access, reuse and sharing are regulated.	Some parliamentary information is downloadable and available to citizens free of charge, but others are not	Parliamentary information is neither free of charge nor downloadable.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 212/xxxv.xxxvi.xxxviii				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliamentary and administrative information is compiled and released digitally, using non-proprietary, open and structured formats, and other best practices to improve its usability and allow easy reading and processing by computers for analyses.	Parliamentary information is compiled and released digitally, mostly using best practices to improve usability. However, analyzing, reading and processing some of this information is a challenge.	Parliament compiles and releases information digitally, of which some are in open and structured formats and technologically usable, but others are not.	Parliament compiles and releases information digitally, but all this information is not in open and structured formats, and is not technologically usable.	Parliament does not release information digitally.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

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Indicator Number: 213/xxxvii				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament does not employ membership or registration requirements on its website to restrict public access; does not permit the tracking of personally identifiable information without explicit consent; as has a concise privacy policy governing its website that informs citizens of how their personal information is being used.	Parliament does not employ membership or registration requirements on its website to restrict public access and does not permit the tracking of personally identifiable information without explicit consent. Although Parliament does not have a concise privacy policy governing its website that informs citizens of how their personal information is being used, the country has privacy laws that cover users of Parliament's website	Parliament does not employ membership or registration requirements on its website to restrict public access, but parliament does not guarantee against the tracking of personally identifiable information without explicit consent, as it does not have a concise privacy policy governing its website.	Membership or registration requirements are sometimes required on Parliament's website, and parliament does not guarantee against the tracking of personally identifiable information without explicit consent	Parliament's website does not employ privacy protection for users.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 214/xli.xlii				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament's website makes it easy to find the desired information, as it creates in open formats to enable both simple and complex searches; links parliamentary information to other related information; and makes information available in locations that remain constant over time such as using webpages with persistent URL.	Parliament's website makes it easy to find the desired information, as it creates databases to enable both simple and complex searches, and makes information available in locations that remain constant over time such as using webpages with persistent URL. However, the website does not link parliamentary information to other related information.	Parliament's website meets some (not all) of the following benchmarks – ease of finding desired information; creation of databases to enable both simple and complex searches; linking parliamentary information to other related information; and making information available in locations that remain constant over time such as using webpages with persistent URL.	Parliament's website does not use easy and stable search mechanisms and does not link related information.	Parliament does not have a website.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 215/xliv				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament uses both in-person activities and interactive technology tools to facilitate two-way communication between citizens and Parliament/its members, thereby enabling citizens to provide meaningful input on legislation and parliamentary activities.	Parliament always uses interactive technology tools and sometimes uses in-person activities to facilitate two-way communication between citizens and Parliament/its members, thereby enabling citizens to provide meaningful input on legislation and parliamentary activities.	Parliament uses interactive technology tools to facilitate two-way communication between citizens and Parliament/its members, to enable citizens to make meaningful input to legislation and parliamentary activities.	Parliament uses either in-person activities or interactive technology tools (and not both) to facilitate two-way communication between citizens and Parliament/its members.	Parliament does not facilitate two-way communication between citizens and parliament/ its members
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

- This section addresses such issues as whether Parliament creates or improves opportunities to hold Members and officials of Parliament answerable for their actions; whether Parliament enables a legal, policy or institutional framework to foster accountability of Members and officials of Parliament and other public officials?
 - The Section has 11 Indicators, all of which must be responded to.
- Each Indicator has five options provided. You can choose among the five, one option that best describes the situation in your Parliament at the end of the year 2021.
- Depending on the option you select, you will have to provide in the “Evidence” column, verifiable information to prove that the option you have chosen represents the situation in your Parliament. Evidence may include (but is not limited to): reference to legislations, rules of procedures of parliament, administrative documents, media reports and/or other online or offline documentation or examples that relates to the subject matter and supports your selected option.
- In the “Comments/Recommendations” column, kindly provide relevant additional comments or information that you will want to be taken into consideration by the assessors, as well as recommendations on how parliament, civil society and other state/non-state actors can work together to improve upon the situation as relates to that specific Indicator.

Indicator Number: 301/vii				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament recognises the right and duty of civil society, media and the general public to monitor parliament and parliamentarians, and has put in place permanent structures to reduce barriers faced by the public, civil society and media in engaging and effectively monitoring parliament.	Parliament recognises the right and duty of civil society, media and the general public to monitor parliament and parliamentarians, and facilitates ad-hoc measures to help reduce barriers faced by the public, civil society and media in engaging and effectively monitoring parliament.	Parliament recognises the right and duty of civil society, media and the general public to monitor parliament and parliamentarians, but has no support systems to help reduce barriers faced by the public, civil society and media in engaging and effectively monitoring parliament.	Parliament is critical of media, general public and civil society monitoring of parliament and parliamentarians, and there are barriers faced by civil society, media and the general public in engaging and monitoring parliament.	Parliament does not enable parliamentary monitoring in any way.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 302/xv.a				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament provides to the public, sufficient and regularly updated information on all the following areas for all members of parliament - the list and biodata of all members, photo, constituency, party affiliation, committee membership and roles in parliament, electoral mandate and attendance to plenary and committee sittings.	Parliament provides to the public, sufficient and regularly updated information on most of the following areas - the list and biodata of all members, photo, constituency, party affiliation, committee membership and roles in parliament, electoral mandate and attendance to plenary and committee sittings.	Parliament provides to the public, sufficient and regularly updated information on less than half of the following areas - the list and biodata of all members, photo, constituency, party affiliation, committee membership and roles in parliament, electoral mandate and attendance to plenary and committee sittings.	Parliament has a compilation of the list and biodata of all members, photo, constituency, party affiliation, committee membership and roles in parliament, electoral mandate and attendance to plenary and committee of all members of parliament, but these are not made available to the public.	Parliament neither compiles nor provides to the public such information on members of parliament.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 303/xv.b				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Websites or webpages exist for each individual member of Parliament on parliament's website or webpage which provides the working contact information for the parliamentary and constituency offices of members, identities of personal staff, and any other information members wish to divulge about themselves.	There are no websites or webpages but each member of parliament is mandated to use other means such as their official social media accounts etc to publish the working contact information for their parliamentary and constituency offices, identities of their personal staff and any other information they wish to divulge.	Either websites/webpages or social media platforms exist for all members of parliament, on which the working contact information for their parliamentary and constituency offices are published, as well as other information that members of parliament wish to divulge, but there is no information on the identities of their personal staff.	Some members of parliament have either websites/webpages or official social media platforms on which they publish information which may include working contact information of their parliamentary and constituency offices and/or identities of their personal staff, but this is not mandatory for all members of parliament.	Members of parliament do not publish the contact information or identities of their personal staff.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

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Indicator Number: 304/xxvi				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament has made available to the public, information about its administrative functioning, the structure of staff that manages and administer parliamentary processes, and contact information for staff responsible for providing information to the public.	Information about Parliament's administrative functioning, the structure of staff that manages and administer parliamentary processes, and contact information for staff responsible for providing information are mostly available to the public, although some of this information is only made available upon request.	Parliament has made available the contact information for staff responsible for providing information to the public, however information about its administrative functioning, and the structure of its staff that manages and administers parliamentary processes are not publicly available.	Information about parliament's administrative functioning, the structure of staff that manages and administers parliamentary processes, and contact information for staff responsible for providing information to the public are made available by Parliament only upon request.	Information on Parliamentary staff and administration is not available to the public.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 305/xx.a				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament minimizes the use of voice voting, proxy voting and secret vote at plenary, and instead uses roll call or electronic voting in most cases. Parliament also maintains and makes available to the public a record of the voting behavior of all members of parliament, including abstentions and absences.	At plenary, Parliament keeps an equal balance between the use of voice voting, proxy voting and secret vote on one hand, and roll call or electronic voting on the other hand; and ensures that it maintains and makes available to the public a record of the voting behavior of all members of parliament, including abstentions and absences.	Voice voting and secret votes constitute the majority of voting situations at plenary, while roll call or electronic voting are used in some instances, with records of the voting behavior of members of parliament made available to the public.	Roll call or electronic voting in Parliament are used in a few cases, while voice voting and secret votes constitute the majority of voting situations at plenary. Records of the voting behavior of members of parliament at plenary are not publicly available.	Voting records of members of parliament at plenary are not available.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations: 30				

Indicator Number: 306/xx.b				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliamentary Committees minimize the use of voice voting, proxy voting and secret vote, and instead use roll call or electronic voting in most cases. Voting behavior of Members of Parliament at Committees is maintained and made available to the public, including abstentions and absences.	Parliamentary Committees keep an equal balance between the use of voice voting, proxy voting and secret vote on one hand, and roll call or electronic voting on the other hand; and ensure that it maintains and makes available to the public a record of the voting behavior of all Members of the Committee, including abstentions and absences.	Voice voting and secret votes constitute the majority of voting situations in Parliamentary Committees, while roll-call or electronic voting are used in some instances, with records of the voting behavior of Members of Committees made available to the public.	Roll call or electronic voting in Parliamentary Committees are used in a few cases, while voice voting and secret votes constitute the majority of voting situations at Committees. Records of the voting behavior of Members of Committees are not publicly available.	Voting records of Members of Parliamentary Committees are not available.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 307/xxiii.a				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Comprehensive, detailed and easily understandable information about the national budget and public expenditures, including past, current and projected revenues and expenditures are made public by Parliament in its entirety, using a consistent taxonomy, along with plain language summaries,	Comprehensive, detailed and easily understandable information about the national budget and public expenditures, including past, current and projected revenues and expenditures are made public by Parliament in its entirety, using a consistent taxonomy, but parliament does not provide plain language summaries, explanations	Parliament makes publicly available the national budget and public expenditure documents as presented to it by the Government, but does not add any other information,	Comprehensive, detailed and easily understandable information about the national budget and public expenditures, including past, current and projected revenues and expenditures are made public by the Government and not by Parliament	Parliament does not provide any information to the public on the national budget and expenditures.

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explanations or reports that help promote citizen understanding.	or reports that help promote citizen understanding.	explanations or summaries.		
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 308/xxiii.b				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament publishes details of its own budget, including information about Parliament's budget execution, bids and contracts in their entirety, using a consistent taxonomy, along with plain language summaries, explanations or reports that help promote citizen understanding.	Parliament publishes details of its own budget, including information about Parliament's budget execution along with plain language summaries, explanations or reports, but does not put out information regarding Parliament's bids and contracts.	Parliament publishes details of its own budget, including information about Parliament's budget execution, but does not put out information regarding Parliament's bids and contracts, budget explanations or reports.	Parliament's budget is part of the budget details that is published by the government.	Parliament does not provide any information to the public on its budget and expenditures.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 309/xxiv				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament ensures the integrity of its Members, as sufficient information on Members' asset disclosures, their parliamentary expenses, and their non-parliamentary income including interest, dividends, lease payments or other in-kind benefits, are all publicly available.	Sufficient information on Members' asset disclosures, their parliamentary expenses, and their non-parliamentary income including interest, dividends, lease payments or other in-kind benefits, are all available but only made public upon request.	Some (not all) of the following information on Members of Parliament are publicly available - their assets disclosures, Parliamentary expenses, non-parliamentary income including interests, dividends, lease payments or other in-kind benefits.	Members of parliament are required to disclose their assets, their parliamentary expenses or their non-parliamentary income, but these requirements are mostly not complied with.	Members of parliament are not required to disclose their assets, their parliamentary expenses or non-parliamentary income.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

Indicator Number: 310/xxv.a				
4	3	2	1	0
Parliament has a Code of Conduct and/or clearly defined rules that provide for the protection against actual or perceived conflicts of interest and ethical violations, and also provide for the disclosure of relevant information about members' interactions with lobbyists and pressure groups, and these Code of Conduct or rules are always enforced.	Parliament has a Code of Conduct and/or clearly defined rules that provide for the protection against actual or perceived conflicts of interest and ethical violations, and also provides for the disclosure of relevant information about members' interactions with lobbyists and pressure groups. These Code of Conduct or rules are sometimes enforced, but not always.	Parliament has a Code of Conduct and/or clearly defined rules that provide for some of (not all) the following issues - the protection against actual or perceived conflicts of interest and ethical violations, the disclosure of relevant information about members' interactions with lobbyists and pressure groups.	Parliament is currently working on the development of its Code of Conduct and/or rules that will clearly provide for the protection against actual or perceived conflicts of interest and ethical violations and the disclosure of relevant information about members' interactions with lobbyists and pressure groups.	Parliament has no provisions on unethical conduct and Conflicts of Interest
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				

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Indicator Number: 311/xxv.b				
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	0 <input type="checkbox"/>
Parliament always investigates or cause to be investigated, all charges of unethical behavior, conflict of interest or corruption involving its Members and officials, and always makes public the information on the final results of such judicial or parliamentary investigations.	Parliament investigates or cause to be investigated, most of the charges of unethical behavior, conflict of interest or corruption involving its Members and officials, and always makes public the information on the final results of such judicial or parliamentary investigations.	Parliament investigates or cause to be investigated, all charges of unethical behavior, conflict of interest or corruption involving its Members and officials, and sometimes makes public the information on the final results of such judicial or parliamentary investigations.	Parliament may investigate or cause to be investigated, charges of unethical behavior, conflict of interest or corruption involving its Members and officials, but never make public the information on the final results of such judicial or parliamentary investigations.	Parliament never investigates or cause to be investigated any charge of unethical behavior, conflict of interest or corruption involving its Members and officials.
Evidence:				
Comments/Recommendations:				



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