

What is the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)?

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Inter-Parliamentary Union

About Inter-Parliamentary Union:

- It is the international **organization** of **Parliaments** which was **established in 1889** in Paris to promote representative democracy and world peace.
- It facilitates **parliamentary diplomacy** and empowers parliaments and parliamentarians to promote peace, democracy, and sustainable development around the world.
- It was the first multilateral political organization in the world, **encouraging cooperation and dialogue between all nations.**
- **Members:** It comprises **180 member** parliaments and 15 associate members.
- It promotes democracy and helps parliaments become stronger, younger, gender-balanced, and more diverse.
- It also defends the human rights of parliamentarians through a dedicated committee made up of MPs from around the world.
- The IPU moved its headquarters to Geneva in 1921.

- **Funding:** It is financed primarily by its members out of public funds.
 - **Structure**
 - **IPU Assembly:** It is the principal statutory body that expresses the views of the IPU on political issues. It brings together parliamentarians to study international problems and make recommendations for action.
 - **Governing Council:** It is the plenary policymaking body of the IPU. It is **composed of three representatives** from each member parliament. The President of the IPU is ex-officio President of the Governing Council.
 - The Council establishes the annual programme and budget of the IPU.
 - **Executive Committees:** In accordance with the IPU statutes, this **17-member body oversees the administration** of the IPU and provides advice to the Governing Council. The 15 members of the Executive Committee are elected by the Council for a **four-year term**.
 - The President of the IPU is an ex officio member and President of the Committee.
 - **Standing Committees:** There are three Standing Committees set up by the IPU Governing Council to assist the Assembly in its work.
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Q1: What is Multilateralism?

Multilateralism is usually defined as collaboration between several countries in pursuit of a common goal, where other parties such as civil society or the private sector may also be involved.

Source: Om Birla highlights India's push for multilateralism, innovation at IPU Assembly in Geneva

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/ipu/>

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