



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NCOP PLANNING WORKSHOP

20-21 AUGUST 2019



**MAKING YOUR FUTURE
WORK BETTER**



International Participation and the roles of NCOP, Provincial Legislatures and SALGA

- **Legislative Framework**

- Section 231(2) of the Constitution – Parliament to ratify international agreements.
- Joint Committee on International Relations (Joint Rule 76) – Parliament must monitor and implement policy on participation in international activities.
- *Parliamentary Group on International Relations (PGIR) (JR 128)* – Parliament to enhance and better co-ordinate the international participation of Parliament.
- *“Policy Perspectives and Operational Guidelines for Parliament’s Involvement and Engagement in International Affairs” (2006)* - contains core objectives that reflect broadly on good practice in international affairs.



Parliamentary diplomacy

Occurs at *institutional level*, especially in three particular contexts:

- In the *legislative process* - with the ratification of international treaties and enactment of laws.
- Under the usual *parliamentary control/oversight* - the use of means at their disposal (questions, committee oversight, censure).
- Within the broader *political role* - the holding of meetings and discussions on foreign affairs on various occasions (e.g. submission of program statements, pre-agenda discussion and approval of the budget).



Parliamentary diplomacy (*Cont'd*)

As well as at the (*orthodox*) **diplomatic level**:

- In *bilateral diplomacy*, which aims to strengthen co-operation with other Parliaments and thus to strengthen the ties of people.
- In *multilateral diplomacy*, which may be:
 - ✓ Regional - e.g. Southern African Development Community (SADC)
 - ✓ Continental - e.g. Pan-African Parliament (PAP)
 - ✓ Global - e.g. Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) or
 - ✓ Geo-political - e.g. Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA); BRICS.



IR participation by 3 spheres

- Participation happens at both bilateral & multilateral levels.
- At bilateral level is both formal (MOUs) and informal (visits).
- Purpose is to exchange lessons, build capacity, share experiences and improve the functioning of legislatures.
- NCOP participates in CPA, IPU, PAP, SADC-PF, BRICS-PF African, Caribbean and Pacific – European Union (ACP- EU) Forum, Pan-African Parliament (PAP), SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF), Global Legislators' Organisation (Globe), etc.
- Some Legislatures have established bilateral and multilateral agreements with sub-national parliaments across the globe.
- Municipalities, cities & towns (± 23) have standing links to local communities in other countries (***twinning agreements***).



participation by 3 spheres (Cont'd)

- They must be in line with South Africa's Foreign Policy.

Question: is DIRCO being consulted?

- There is a need for coordination.

Question: is this being done?

- Of importance for this participation is the (strategic) purpose & benefit that must be gained therefrom.

Question: how are they monitored? A need for Act on these?

- All these could be done through the use of technology.

We therefore expect all the commissions to thoroughly discuss this (use of technology).



Challenges

- Disintegrated and lack of uniform approach by delegations representing Parliament and legislatures abroad – delegations not meeting to adopt common positions.
- Inadequate coordination with SA Embassies in the visited countries.
- Inadequate or lack of reports, and adoption thereof, on bilateral meetings.
- Inadequate or no monitoring of implementation of international agreements entered into by South Africa, especially their impacts on provinces and municipalities.
- Lack of public awareness.



Issues for 6th Term

1. Review of *Policy Perspectives and Operational Guidelines for Parliament's Involvement and Engagement in International Relations (2006)* – to bring it into line with recent developments.
2. Draft *Protocol guidelines on delegations' engagement in international forums* - to ensure a uniform approach and provide certainty to delegations representing Parliament, Legislatures & Municipal Councils abroad.
3. Legislative framework to co-ordinate oversight of IR agreements in the 3 spheres.
4. Transformation of SADC-PF into a Regional Parliament.
5. Transformation of PAP into a full legislative body.
6. Follow-up on PAP Host Agreement, especially building of Permanent PAP Headquarters.



Issues for 6th Term (Cont'd)

7. Conclusion and signing of the Draft Protocol on the BRICS-Parliamentary Forum.
8. Transformation of the CPA from a charity to a diplomatic organisation.
9. Decision on the establishment of the Globe Parliamentary Network (GPN) Chapter of the South African Parliament.
10. Quarterly PGIR workshops to be held, to empower and train Members on IR matters, protocol and diplomacy.
11. Quarterly briefings to the PGIR by DIRCO, on IR matters.
12. Capacitation and empowerment of Members to adequately participate in IR & its oversight, especially technologically.



THANK YOU