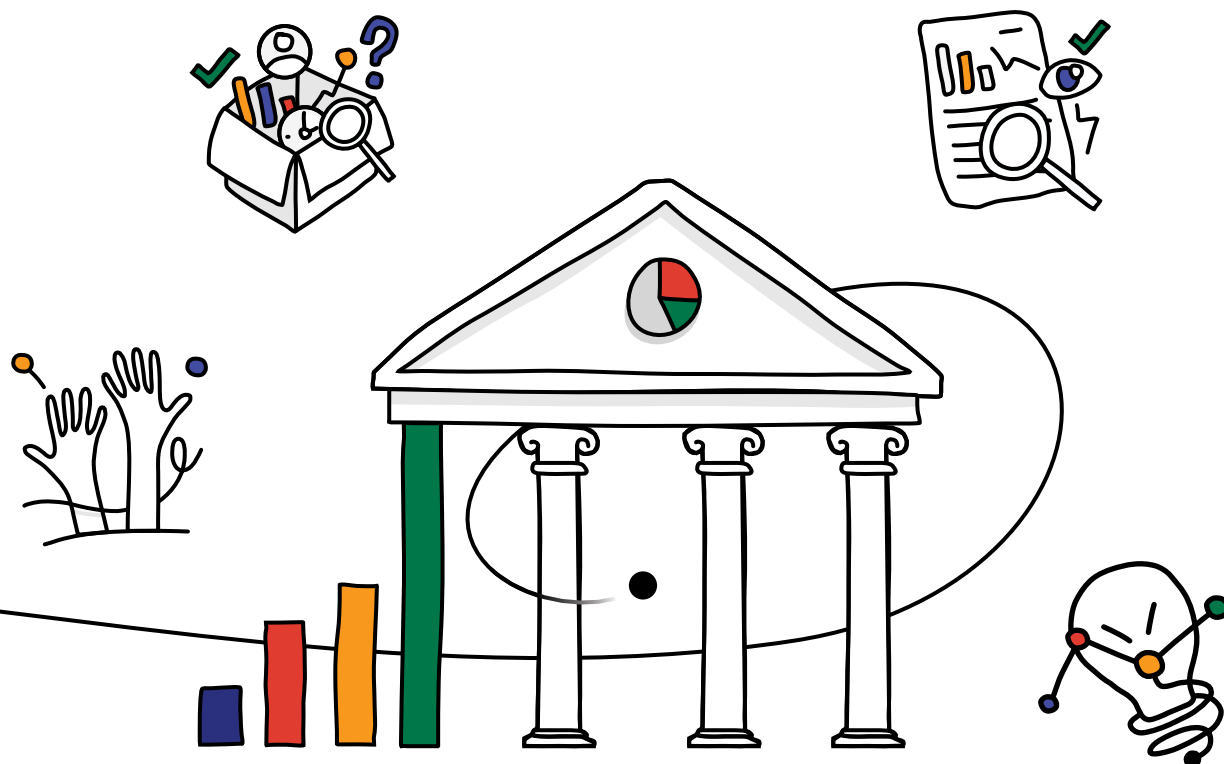




EU Parliamentary Report:

A CSO perspective on the Indicators for
Democratic Parliament in a Southern
African Context



Co-funded by
the European Union

PMG PARLIAMENTARY
MONITORING GROUP
OUTA openup:
ORGANISATION UNDOING TAX ABUSE

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1. Acronyms

CPA	Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CV	Curriculum Vitae
FFC	Financial and Fiscal Commission
HR	Human Resource
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDP	Indicators For Democratic Parliaments
IEC	Electoral Commission of South Africa
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
IR	International Relations
IT	Information Technology
LOGB	Leader of Government Business
MPs	Members Of Parliament
MPLs	Members of Provincial Legislatures
NA	National Assembly
NCOP	National Council of Provinces
NDI	National Democratic Institute
OUTA	Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse
PAIA	Promotion of Access to Information Act
PBO	Parliamentary Budget Office
PC	Portfolio Committee
PFMA	Public Finance Management Act
PMG	Parliamentary Monitoring Group
POPIA	Protection of Personal Information Act
SCOPA	Standing Committee on Public Accounts
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WFD	Westminster Foundation For Democracy

2. Executive summary

This report, developed by the Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse (OUTA), provides an analysis of the application of Indicators for Democratic Parliaments (IDPs) within the South African (SA) context. The IDPs, developed by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and other international bodies, are aimed at fostering a transparent, effective, accountable, inclusive, and participatory Parliament that adheres to democratic norms and values. The report is situated from the perspective of a Civil Society Organisation (CSO) and is also conducted within the context of the EU co-funded project towards enhancing accountability and transparency in SA. OUTA, together with its project partners, OpenUp and the Parliamentary Monitoring Group (PMG), is developing a Parliamentary Oversight Dashboard. The dashboard project aims to create a user-friendly, open-source platform for monitoring and assessing parliamentary performance. The dashboard, known as ParliMeter, offers real-time information on user engagement, data accessibility, and transparency within the parliamentary system. It will facilitate public and stakeholder engagement and will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of parliamentary actions, with a focus on inclusivity for marginalised groups.

CSOs play a critical role in promoting democratic governance, accountability, and inclusivity within parliamentary systems. Their perspective stems from their role as critical observers, representing the public interest, and promoting social and community change. CSOs include: non-governmental organisations, advocacy groups, and community-based entities that operate independently from the parliament and government to represent the public's interest. The CSO perspective is a critical lens through which the performance of SA's parliament is evaluated using the IDPs. CSOs encourage the implementation of stronger oversight mechanisms and demand openness in parliamentary processes. They highlight gaps in public access to detailed financial reports and oversight outcomes. CSOs stress the importance of citizen engagement in law-making, budget decisions, and oversight processes. Thus, promoting the need for structured frameworks to enable meaningful public input in legislative debates and decisions. CSOs also assess parliament's ability to address various issues that may arise during the parliamentary terms. Therefore, CSOs aim to align parliamentary functions with the principles of democracy, ensuring that the institution serves the diverse needs of SA's citizens.

Therefore, the IDPs were created in collaboration with numerous international parliamentary organisations and civil society groups. They are designed to assess parliaments across the globe, ensuring that they promote peaceful, inclusive, and effective governance in line with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 16.6 and 16.7. These goals focus on the promotion of transparent and accountable institutions at all levels. The IDPs consist of seven key targets, each with associated indicators and dimensions, aimed at evaluating a Parliament's ability to function democratically. The

targets include: Effective Parliament, Accountable Parliament, Transparent Parliament, Responsive Parliament, Inclusive Parliament, Participatory Parliament, and Representative Parliament. Each of these targets is assessed through various indicators and dimensions that are crucial for ensuring a functional democratic parliament. The report applies these indicators to the SA parliamentary system, showing the manner in which CSOs would align the IDPs to parliamentary offices, portfolio committees and national departments.

Effective Parliament: The report finds that while SA's parliament operates with a significant degree of institutional autonomy, its effectiveness is hindered by procedural inefficiencies and challenges in law-making. SA has established robust legislative processes, but there are concerns about the depth of debate and consultation in parliamentary procedures, particularly in scrutinising bills and ensuring their alignment with public interest. Furthermore, the parliament's capacity to function effectively is limited by the lack of resources for MPs, particularly in terms of research support and professional development.

Key challenges include:

- Inadequate institutional support for MPs.
- The need for more rigorous legislative oversight.
- A lack of meaningful debate on significant issues like socio-economic rights.

Accountable Parliament: Accountability is a fundamental principle of democratic governance. The report highlights that SA's parliament has mechanisms in place, such as Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) and portfolio committees, to hold the executive accountable. However, enforcement of accountability remains a challenge. There is a persistent lack of effective consequence management, particularly in addressing corruption and mismanagement in government departments.

The report also points out:

- Inconsistent application of ethical standards.
- Issues with parliamentary oversight, especially regarding the financial accountability of public officials.
- Gaps in the use of parliamentary resources and the declaration of MPs' financial interests.

Transparent Parliament: Transparency in parliamentary processes is critical for public trust. SA's parliament ensures transparency through public access to its debates, live broadcasts, and the publication of records such as Hansard, the official transcript of parliamentary debates. While public access to legislative processes is a positive aspect, there are concerns about the transparency of the budget cycle and the use of parliamentary funds.

Key challenges in this area include:

- A lack of complete transparency in budget allocations and parliamentary resource management.
- Insufficient public access to detailed financial reports and government expenditure.
- Inadequate mechanisms to fully involve the media and the public in oversight processes.

Responsive Parliament: A responsive parliament addresses public concerns through its legislative and oversight functions. The report emphasises that while SA's parliament has structures such as constituency offices to engage with citizens, its responsiveness to emerging policy issues and public concerns is inconsistent. There is a need for more proactive oversight, particularly in addressing critical issues like youth unemployment, gender-based violence, and environmental sustainability.

Challenges include:

- Limited follow-up on public concerns and policy implementation.
- A lack of structured processes for addressing emerging socio-economic challenges.
- Inconsistent responsiveness to vulnerable and marginalised groups.

Inclusive Parliament: Inclusiveness is central to democratic governance. The report commends SA's progress in gender mainstreaming, with a significant number of women represented in parliament. However, the representation of other marginalised groups, particularly persons with disabilities and youth, remains insufficient. Further, while workforce diversity within parliament is encouraged, there are ongoing issues related to workplace harassment and gender inequality in leadership positions.

Key areas for improvement include:

- Enhanced representation of marginalised groups, including persons with disabilities and rural communities.
- Stronger enforcement of anti-harassment policies.
- Greater efforts to promote gender and age diversity in leadership roles.

Participatory Parliament: Public participation is a cornerstone of a functioning democracy. SA's parliament has made strides in encouraging public engagement through public hearings, outreach programmes, and constituency offices. However, the report identifies gaps in the public's ability to meaningfully participate in parliamentary processes, particularly in legislative oversight and budgeting.

Key challenges include:

- Insufficient outreach to educate the public on parliamentary processes.
- Limited public engagement in oversight activities, particularly regarding financial accountability.
- Inadequate legal frameworks to support structured public participation in all aspects of law-making and governance.

Representative Parliament: The proportional representation electoral system in SA allows for political diversity within parliament. However, the report highlights concerns about the underrepresentation of certain demographic groups, including youth, women in leadership positions, and persons with disabilities.

Key recommendations include:

- Strengthening efforts to include underrepresented groups in the political process.
- Enhancing the role of CSOs in parliamentary engagement.
- Promoting more diverse leadership across parliamentary committees and decision-making bodies in the 7th Parliament.

The report concludes with several recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the SA's parliament:

- *Strengthening Accountability:* Implement more stringent oversight mechanisms and ensure that MPs adhere to ethical standards and transparency guidelines.
- *Enhancing Public Participation:* Expand public education on parliamentary processes and increase opportunities for citizen engagement in law-making and oversight.
- *Improving Inclusiveness:* Focus on increasing the representation of marginalised groups in Parliament, including youth, women, and persons with disabilities.
- *Boosting Parliamentary Capacity:* Provide MPs with better access to research and professional development resources to enhance their capacity for effective law-making and oversight.

The Indicators for Democratic Parliament Report Part 1 provides an overview of the IDPs and is not country-specific. It can be used by any Parliament and sets the tone for future assessments and subsequent reports. This IDP Report Part 2, offers an overview of the SA's parliament's alignment with international democratic standards. While progress has been made in areas such as transparency, public participation, and gender representation, significant challenges remain, particularly in the areas of accountability, inclusiveness, and responsiveness. The recommendations provided serve as a roadmap for parliament to strengthen its democratic functions and better serve the diverse needs of SA's population.

3. Introduction

Democratic parliaments are central to governance systems that prioritise accountability, transparency, inclusivity, participation and effective representation. Parliament is not only responsible for passing legislation, but it also provides a critical institutional mechanism through which the Executive is held accountable, public resources are allocated and scrutinised, citizens are represented, and the public is provided with opportunities to participate in democratic decision-making. The strength of a democratic parliament must therefore be considered not only in terms of the formal structures and rules that exist, but also in terms of how effectively these mechanisms operate in practice.

To assess and strengthen the functioning of legislative bodies globally, the IDPs were developed through collaborative efforts led by the IPU and other parliamentary and democracy-support organisations. The framework contains seven targets: Effective Parliament, Accountable Parliament, Transparent Parliament, Responsive Parliament, Inclusive Parliament, Participatory Parliament and Representative Parliament. These targets provide a framework for examining whether parliamentary institutions, processes and practices support the principles of democratic governance.

Within the SA context, parliament has the important position as the protector of constitutional democracy. Its legislative, representative and oversight responsibilities are exercised within a complex socio-political environment characterised by persistent inequality, significant service-delivery challenges, resource constraints and varying levels of public trust in democratic institutions. Assessing parliament against the IDPs therefore provides an opportunity to consider both the institutional mechanisms that have been established and the extent to which these mechanisms contribute to meaningful accountability, transparency, participation and representation.

This report applies the IDP framework to the SA parliament from an external CSO perspective. The assessment draws primarily on publicly available information and analyses parliamentary structures, legislation, procedures, practices and related institutional arrangements. Special attention is given to legislative effectiveness, executive oversight, parliamentary accountability, public access to information, public participation, institutional inclusivity and the representative character of parliament.

The purpose of the assessment is not simply to determine whether particular structures, policies or mechanisms exist. Where possible, it also considers whether there is publicly available evidence demonstrating that these mechanisms are established, accessible and capable of supporting the democratic outcomes envisaged by the IDPs. The distinction between the existence of a mechanism and its effective implementation is important: strong democratic frameworks do not automatically

translate into effective democratic practice without appropriate institutional capacity, implementation, monitoring and accountability.

The assessment aims to identify achievements, gaps and opportunities for improvement across the seven IDP targets and to provide practical recommendations that may contribute to strengthening parliamentary performance. Thus, the report also considers parliament's contribution towards SDG targets 16.6 and 16.7, which call for effective, accountable and transparent institutions and responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making.

As an external assessment, the report should not be interpreted as an official self-assessment by the SA parliament. It therefore provides a CSO-based perspective and a baseline from which further engagement, verification and more detailed assessment can take place. Reliance on publicly available information also means that the absence of evidence in the public domain does not necessarily indicate that a particular practice, process or mechanism does not exist internally. Further engagement with parliament could therefore provide additional information and enable individual assessments to be verified, refined or expanded.

It is also noted that, while relevant parliamentary divisions, parliamentary committees and government departments have been identified throughout the report, a deeper examination of their applicable mandates, documentation and internal processes may be necessary. Such work would benefit from closer collaboration with parliament and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen the accuracy, quality and practical use-value of future assessments.

The relevant parliamentary division(s), portfolio committee(s) (PCs) and department(s) were assigned according to the description and scope of each IDP dimension and the general functions associated with these structures. These assignments reflect an external CSO perspective and are therefore indicative rather than definitive. They may be corrected, refined or reassigned by the relevant parliamentary officials, divisions, committees or departments based on their formal mandates and responsibilities.

Finally, the assessment is intended to serve not as an endpoint, but as a tool for constructive engagement. By identifying both areas of strength and areas requiring further attention, the IDP framework can support ongoing discussion between parliament, CSOs and the public on how SA's parliamentary democracy can continue to develop and respond to changing democratic expectations.

4. Background to and methodology used for the assessment of the IDP framework

The IDPs framework provides a tool to help national parliaments assess and enhance their effectiveness, accountability, transparency, and responsiveness. This multi-partner initiative aims to align parliamentary practices with the United Nations (UN) SDGs, in particular SDG targets [16.6](#) [*Develop effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels*] and [16.7](#) [*Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels*], which aim to develop transparent and accountable institutions and ensure inclusive, participatory decision-making.

The indicators cover various dimensions of parliamentary function, from autonomy and legislative procedures to oversight and public participation, supporting self-assessment to identify strengths and areas for improvement. The framework is designed to assist parliaments, regardless of their political system or size, in fostering reforms that enhance democratic governance and strengthen public trust.

The framework not only serves as a [self-assessment tool](#) for parliaments but also helps guide them through processes of modernisation, reform, and greater public accountability. By utilising this tool, parliaments can improve their responsiveness to public concerns, better serve their constituencies, and contribute meaningfully to achieving the broader SDGs of peace, justice, and strong institutions.

Grading	Rate 0-5	Description
	0	The object of the assessment criterion simply does not exist in parliament.
	1	The object of the assessment criterion exists but in a rudimentary form. It is not an established part of parliament's capacity and practice.
	2	The object of the assessment criterion exists in a basic form. It is part of parliament's capacity and practice but is not well-developed.

	3	The object of the assessment criterion is an established part of parliament's capacity and practice and is somewhat developed.
	4	The object of the assessment criterion is a well-established part of parliament's capacity and practice.
	5	The object of the assessment criterion is a highly developed part of parliament's capacity and practice, with little obvious room for improvement.

Table 1: Rating Criteria

There are three phases of the assessment:

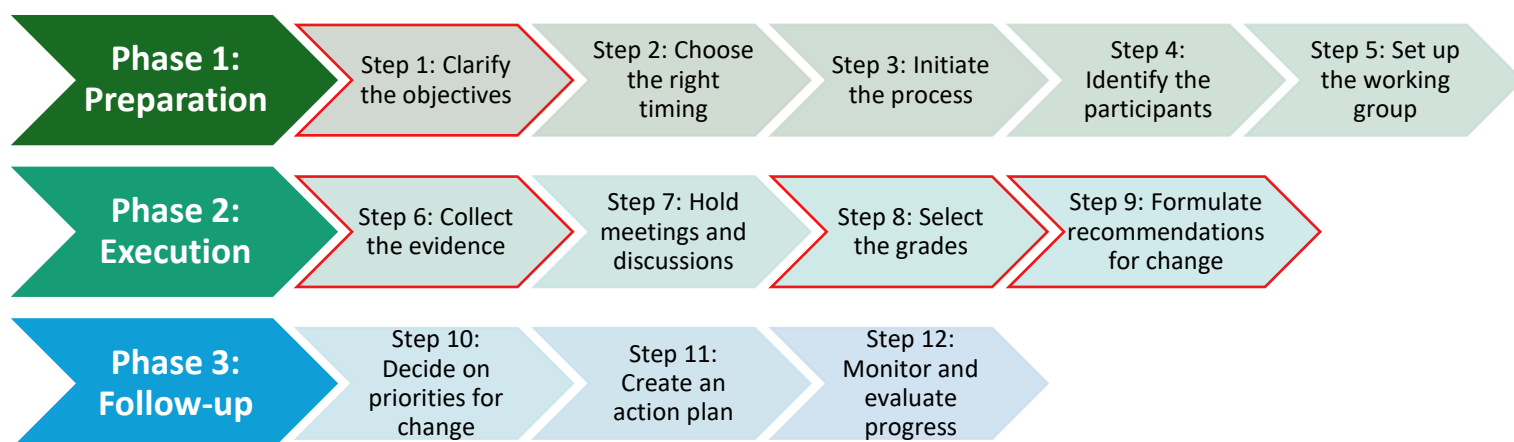


Figure 1: Phases and steps of assessment

Figure 1 indicates the phases of the assessment, and specifically in this report the following phases are covered: Step 1, 6, 8, and 9. It is recommended that the steps not initiated should be completed by parliament internally. The aim of this report is to provide recommendations on how to increase parliament's ratings based on the external assessment ratings we have assigned for each assessment criteria. The IDPs provides an Assessment Checklist to guide parliaments through the preparation and execution of the assessment process. This checklist includes ten key items:

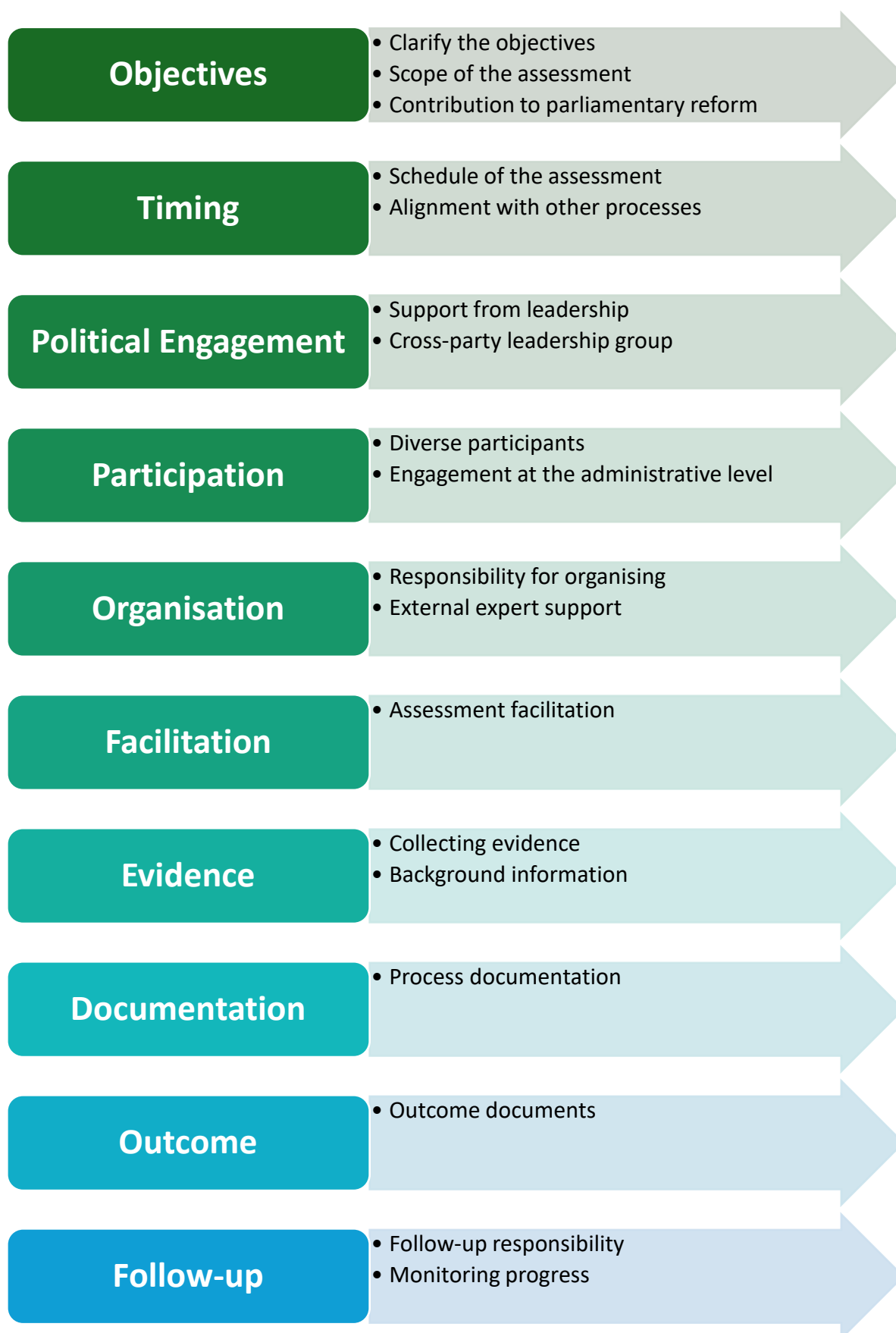


Figure 2: Assessment Checklist

Methodology used:

In order to conduct the research, three research methods have been implemented.

1. **Document Analysis:** This method was used to search, find and gather qualitative data on parliamentary procedures, laws, and practices. Thereafter, a systematic review was conducted to search through and find material from various documents such as constitutional documents, legal manuals, public reports, parliamentary proceedings, budget and financial reports, international and local civil society reports and IDP publications and articles.
2. **Case Studies:** This method was used to analyse existing material for both the local and international levels on the IDPs. Academic articles and journals were also scrutinised to examine what information related to IDPs and the assessment criteria that have been previously documented and applied.
3. **Benchmarking:** This technique was used to analyse what has already been done in SA as well as other countries, which have submitted their assessments to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). Furthermore, this technique aided in the recommendations provided.

The sources used for this report include the following websites: SA parliament's [website](#), Indicators for Democratic Parliaments [website](#) and [case studies](#), South African Legal Information Institute's (SAFLII) website, reports and publications from the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) — International [website](#) and South African [website](#), Auditor-General of South Africa's (AGSA) website, Public Protector South Africa's (PPSA) website, South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), National Treasury South Africa's [website](#), and UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) publications. The portals include: the South African Government's [portal](#), South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) and African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). The CSOs publications include various reports from: Corruption Watch South Africa's [website](#), Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse (OUTA), [My Vote Counts](#), and Parliamentary Monitoring Group (PMG). The academic databases include: JSTOR, Sabinet, and Google Scholar for relevant and reliable international governance reports and articles.

By applying these three research methods to collect information, it enables one to thoroughly research and conduct an external assessment of the targets.

5. Divisions in the South African Parliament

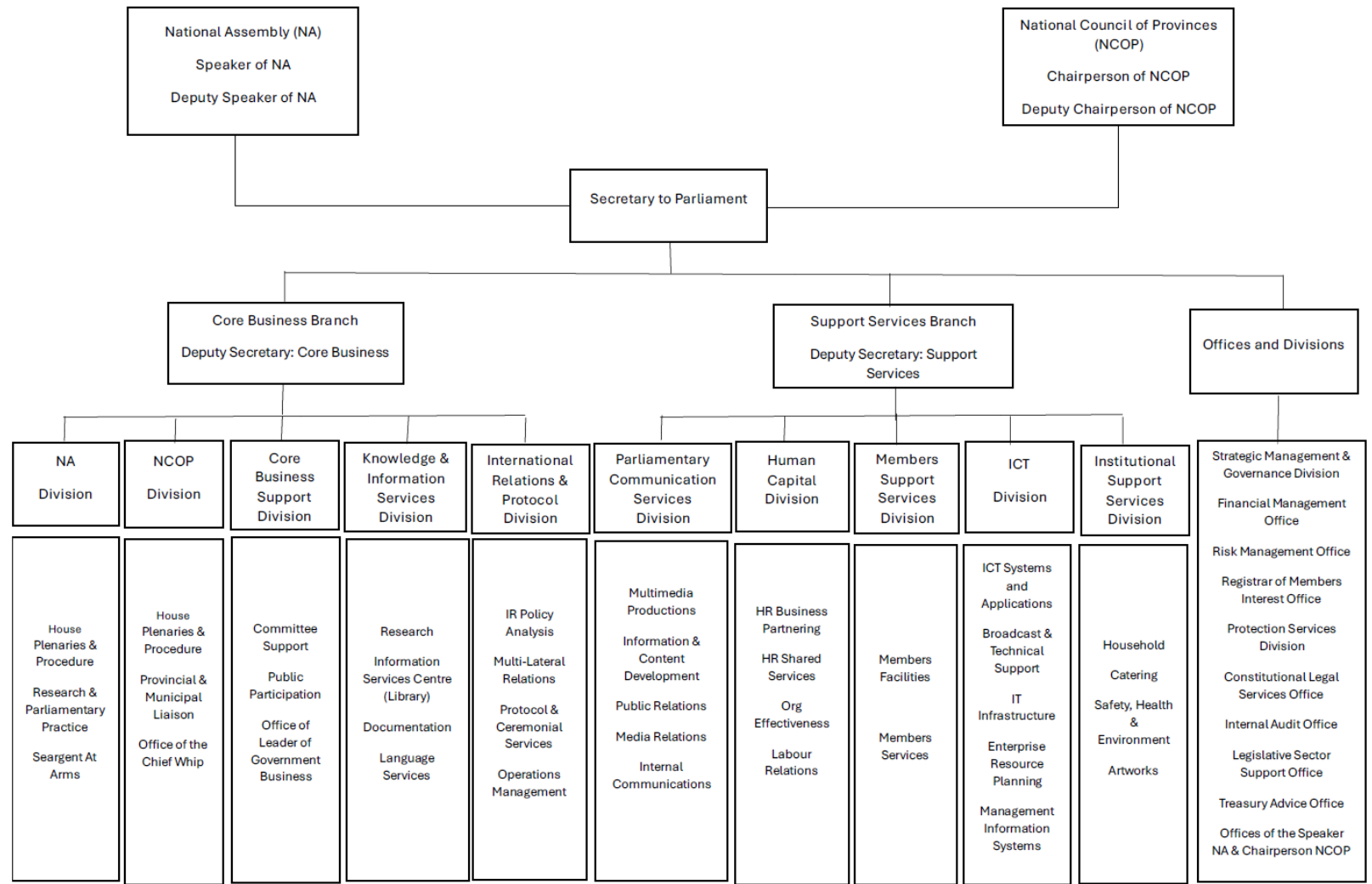


Figure 3: Organogram of Parliament (September 2026)

5.1 Parliamentary Committees

Committee Name	House
Ad Hoc Committee to Investigate Allegations made by Lieutenant General Nhlanhla Mkhwanazi	NA
Constitutional Review Committee	Joint
Disciplinary Committee	Institutional
Executive Undertakings and Petitions Committee	NA
Impeachment Committee for Section 89 Enquiry	NA
Joint Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests	Joint
Joint Standing Committee on Defence	Joint
Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence	Joint
Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament	Joint
Mediation Committee	Joint
Members' Support Forum	Joint and Institutional
Multi-Party Women's Caucus	Joint
Parliamentary Group on International Relations	Joint and Institutional
Powers and Privileges Committee	NCOP
Portfolio Committee on Agriculture	NA
Portfolio Committee on Basic Education	NA
Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies	NA
Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs	NA
Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services	NA
Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans	NA
Portfolio Committee on Electricity and Energy	NA
Portfolio Committee on Employment and Labour	NA
Portfolio Committee on Forestry, Fisheries and Environment	NA
Portfolio Committee on Health	NA
Portfolio Committee on Higher Education	NA
Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs	NA
Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements	NA

Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation	NA
Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development	NA
Portfolio Committee on Land Reform and Rural Development	NA
Portfolio Committee on Mineral and Petroleum Resources	NA
Portfolio Committee on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	NA
Portfolio Committee on Police	NA
Portfolio Committee on Presidency	NA
Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration	NA
Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure	NA
Portfolio Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation	NA
Portfolio Committee on Small Business Development	NA
Portfolio Committee on Social Development	NA
Portfolio Committee on Sport, Arts and Culture	NA
Portfolio Committee on Tourism	NA
Portfolio Committee on Trade, Industry and Competition	NA
Portfolio Committee on Transport	NA
Portfolio Committee on Water and Sanitation	NA
Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities	NA
Programme Committee of the National Assembly	NA
Programme Committee of the NCOP	NCOP
Rules Committee of the National Assembly	NA
Rules Committee of the NCOP	NCOP
Select Committee on Agriculture, Land Reform and Mineral Resources	NCOP
Select Committee on Appropriations	NCOP
Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration	NCOP
Select Committee on Economic Development and Trade	NCOP
Select Committee on Education, Sciences and Creative Industries	NCOP
Select Committee on Finance	NCOP
Select Committee on Public Infrastructure and Ministries in Presidency	NCOP
Select Committee on Public Petitions and Executive Undertakings	NCOP
Select Committee on Security and Justice	NCOP
Select Committee on Social Services	NCOP
Standing Committee on Appropriations	NA

Standing Committee on Finance	NA
Standing Committee on Powers and Privileges	NA
Standing Committee on Public Accounts	NA
Standing Committee on the Auditor-General	NA

Table 2: List of Parliamentary Committees

5.2 National Departments

Department Names
Department of Agriculture (DoA)
Department of Basic Education (DBE)
Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT)
Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG)
Department of Correctional Services (DCS)
Department of Defence (DoD)
Department of Electricity and Energy (DoEE)
Department of Employment and Labour (DEL)
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE)
Department of Health (DoH)
Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)
Department of Home Affairs (DHA)
Department of Human Settlements (DHS)
Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO)
Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ&CD)
Department of Land Reform and Rural Development (DLRRD)
Department of Military Veterans (DMV)
Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR)
Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME)
Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA)
Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI)
Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI)
Department of Small Business Development (DSBD)
Department of Social Development (DSD)

Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC)
State Security Agency (SSA)
Department of Tourism (DT)
Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC)
Department of Traditional Affairs (DTA)
Department of Transport (DoT)
Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)
Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (DWYPD)
Civilian Secretariat for Police (CSPS)
Government Communication and Information System (GCIS)
Government Pensions Administration Agency (GPAA)
Government Printing Works (GPW)
Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID)
National School of Government (NSG)
National Treasury (NT)
Department of Police
Office of the Chief Justice (OCJ)
Statistics South Africa (Stats SA)
The Presidency Republic of South Africa

Table 3: National Departments

Cluster	Department Names
Economic Sectors, Investment, Employment and Infrastructure Development Cluster	Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (Chair)
	Department of Tourism (Chair)
	Department of Electricity and Energy
	Department of Agriculture
	Department of Land Reform and Rural Development
	Department of Communications and Digital Technologies
	Department of Cooperative Governance
	Department of Traditional Affairs
	Department of Employment and Labour
	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

	Department of Finance
	Department of Higher Education and Training
	Department of Science, Technology and Innovation
	Department of Human Settlements
	Department of Water and Sanitation
	Department of International Relations and Cooperation
	South African Police Service
	Department of Public Works and Infrastructure
	Department of Small Business Development
	State Security Agency
	The Presidency Republic of South Africa
	Department of Trade, Industry and Competition
	Department of Transport
	Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities
	Government Pensions Administration Agency
	National School of Government
	National Treasury
	South African Revenue Service
Governance, State Capacity and Institutional Development Cluster	Department of Cooperative Governance and Department of Traditional Affairs (Chair)
	Department of Public Service and Administration (Chair)
	Department of Finance
	Department of Home Affairs
	Department of Correctional Services
	Department of Justice and Constitutional Development
	The Presidency Republic of South Africa
	Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities
	Government Communication and Information System
	Statistics South Africa
Social Protection, Community and Human	Department of Health (Chair)
	Department of Basic Education (Chair)
	Department of Agriculture
	Department of Land Reform and Rural Development
	Department of Traditional Affairs

Development Cluster	Department of Cooperative Governance
	Department of Employment and Labour
	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
	Department of Higher Education and Training
	Department of Science, Technology and Innovation
	Department of Human Settlements
	Department of Water and Sanitation
	Department of Justice and Constitutional Development
	Department of Correctional Services
	Department of Public Works and Infrastructure
	Department of Small Business Development
	Department of Social Development
	Department of Sport, Arts and Culture
	The Presidency Republic of South Africa
	Department of Transport
	Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities
International Cooperation, Trade and Security Cluster	Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (Chair)
	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (Chair)
	Department of Communications and Digital Technologies
	Department of Military Veterans
	Department of Defence
	Department of Finance
	Department of International Relations and Cooperation
	Department of Justice and Constitutional Development
	Department of Correctional Services
	Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources
	Department of Electricity and Energy
	State Security Agency
	The Presidency Republic of South Africa
	Department of Tourism
	Department of Trade, Industry and Competition
Justice, Crime Prevention	Department of Defence and Department of Military Veterans (Chair)
	Department of Police (Chair)

and Security Cluster	Department of Finance
	Department of Home Affairs
	Department of International Relations and Cooperation
	Department of Justice and Constitutional Development
	Department of Correctional Services
	Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
	Department of Social Development
	State Security Agency
	Department of Social Development
	Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities
	Civilian Secretariat for Police
	Office of the Chief Justice
	Government Printing Works
	Independent Police Investigative Directorate

Table 4: Government Cluster

6. IDPs within a South African Context

This section looks at SA's parliament and by extension the Executive, through the lens of the IDPs. The following analysis of SA's parliament was conducted by screening publicly available information found on parliament's website. Within SA's context, IDPs can be utilised to assess the performance, inclusivity, oversight, transparency, and effectiveness of the legislative body. These indicators can be aligned with the principles of good governance, accountability, and public participation. SA's parliament, through its various functions, will benefit by incorporating the targets and indicators through a variety of mechanisms and frameworks which align with the IDPs.

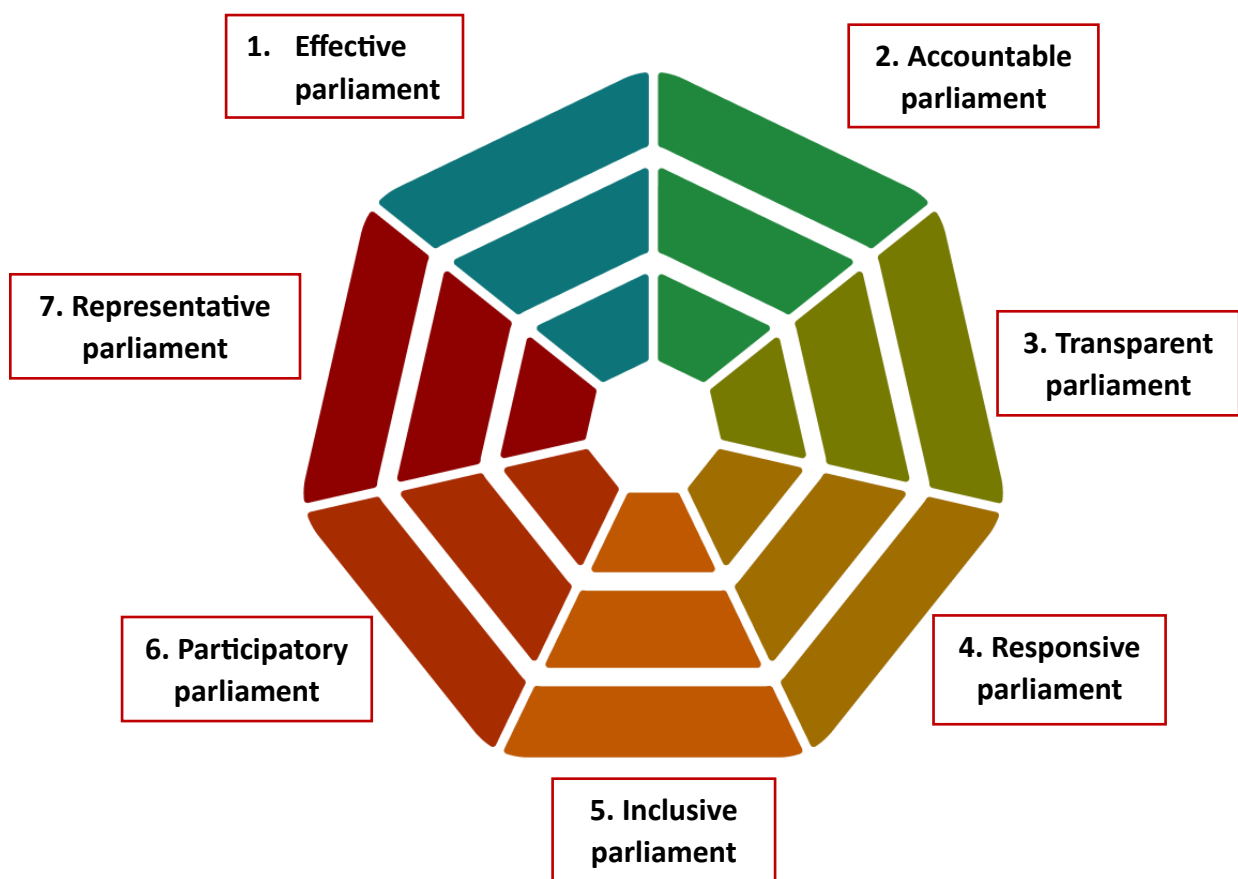


Figure 4: Indicators for Democratic Parliaments

6.1 Target 1: Effective Parliament

The effectiveness of the SA's parliament is primarily linked to its ability to debate, pass, and review legislation. This IDP target emphasises the importance of efficient legislative processes, including meaningful debate and consultation. SA has various legislative committees responsible for scrutinising bills to ensure that laws are well-considered and serve the public interest. The impact of parliament is also assessed by its capacity to enact laws and policies that make a tangible difference, such as transformative legislation related to land reform, socio-economic rights, and social justice. The indicators evaluate parliament's ability to debate and pass laws effectively, with specific focus on how the legislative process, including consultation and amendment procedures, addresses citizens' needs. Furthermore, the capacity of MPs to fulfil their roles is important; therefore, training, access to research services, and institutional support are assessed to determine whether MPs possess the necessary skills and knowledge to perform their duties effectively.

Indicator 1.1: Parliamentary Autonomy

Dimension 1.1.1: Institutional Autonomy: SA's parliament operates independently, with its authority guaranteed by the Constitution. This autonomy is meant to prevent undue influence from other branches of government.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** NA Division, NCOP Division, Core Business Support Division, Strategic Management and Governance Division, Financial Management Office, the Offices of the Speaker of the NA and the Chairperson of the NCOP, Chief Whips Forum, and Support Services Branch.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament, Joint Rules Committee and Members Institutional Forum, Rules Committee of the National Assembly and Rules Committee of the National Council of Provinces.
- **Department(s):** None directly applicable.²

Dimension 1.1.2: Procedural Autonomy: Parliament establishes its own rules and procedures, guided by the Constitution and parliamentary Standing Rules, which regulate operations within both the NA and the NCOP.

² The Judiciary provides an important constitutional safeguard through judicial review, while Chapter 9 institutions support the broader system of constitutional democracy, accountability and institutional checks and balances.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** NA Division, NCOP Division, Core Business Support Division, Offices of the Speaker of the NA and Chairperson of the NCOP; Legislative Sector Support Programme, and Support Services Branch.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Rules Committee; Rules Committee of the National Assembly; Rules Committee of the National Council of Provinces; National Assembly and NCOP Programme Committees; Joint Programme Committee; Joint Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests; Standing Committee on Powers and Privileges; and Disciplinary Committee.
- **Department(s):** None directly applicable.³

Dimension 1.1.3: Budgetary Autonomy: Parliament manages its own budget through the Parliamentary Service, ensuring that it has the necessary financial resources to fulfil its functions effectively.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** NA Division, NCOP Division, Core Business Support Division, Financial Management Office, Treasury Advice Office, Risk Management Office, Internal Audit Office, Parliamentary Budget Office, and Support Services Branch.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament, Standing and Select Committees on Finance, Standing and Select Committees on Appropriations, and Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure.
- **Department(s):** National Treasury, Department of Health, Department of Higher Education and Training and Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

Dimension 1.1.4: Administrative Autonomy: Parliament maintains its administrative independence, which allows it to manage its affairs and administrative staff without interference.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** NA Division, NCOP Division, Core Business Support Division, Human Resource Management Division, Strategic Management and Governance Division, Institutional Support Services Division, Support Services Branch, International Relations and Protocol Division, and ICT Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament, Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration, Portfolio Committee on Public

³ Procedural autonomy is an internal parliamentary responsibility governed by the Constitution, the Rules of the respective Houses, the Joint Rules and applicable parliamentary legislation.

Works and Infrastructure, Portfolio Committee on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and Portfolio Committee on Employment and Labour.

- **Department(s):** Department of Public Service and Administration, Department of Home Affairs, Office of the Chief Justice and State Security Agency.

Indicator 1.2: Members of Parliament

Dimension 1.2.1: Status of Members of Parliament (MPs): The status of MPs is established by the Constitution and the Powers and Privileges Act. MPs have specific rights and responsibilities, including representing their constituents, participating in parliamentary debates, and voting on legislation. Their status is further protected by laws ensuring they can perform their duties without undue interference.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Members Support Services Division, NA Division, NCOP Division, Registrar of Members' Interests Office, Offices of the Speaker of the NA and Chairperson of the NCOP, and Human Resource Management Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests, Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament, Rules Committee of the National Assembly, and Rules Committee of the National Council of Provinces.
- **Department(s):** Office of the Chief Justice, National Treasury and Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

Dimension 1.2.2: Non-accountability and Inviolability: MPs in SA enjoy non-accountability and inviolability for actions and statements made within Parliament. This means that MPs cannot be prosecuted or sued for their contributions during parliamentary debates or in committee meetings, allowing them to freely express their opinions and fulfil their duties without fear of legal repercussions. This is enshrined in Section 58 of the Constitution, which ensures freedom of speech for MPs in parliament.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division, Protection Services Division, and Offices of the Speaker of the NA and Chairperson of the NCOP.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests, Rules Committee of the National Assembly and Rules Committee of the National Council of Provinces.
- **Department(s):** Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Civilian Secretariat for Police and State Security Agency.

Dimension 1.2.3: Incompatibility of Office: The Constitution sets out rules regarding the incompatibility of office to prevent conflicts of interest. The MP Ethics Code deals with conflict of interest, disclosure as well as other conduct. MPs are prohibited from holding certain public offices or engaging in activities that would compromise their independence or lead to conflicts with their parliamentary duties.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Registrar of Members' Interests Office, and Offices of the Speaker of the NA and Chairperson of the NCOP.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests, Rules Committee of the National Assembly, Rules Committee of the National Council of Provinces and Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration.
- **Department(s):** Department of Public Service and Administration and Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

Dimension 1.2.4: Access to Resources: MPs have access to resources to support their work, including offices, administrative support, and research facilities. The Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) provides independent research and analysis to help MPs understand complex policy and financial matters. MPs also receive allowances for travel and other expenses related to their duties, enabling them to effectively represent their constituencies. Political parties receive funds from Parliament to establish constituency funds and do constituency work. Funds are also received from Parliament and the IEC.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Library of Parliament, Members Support Services Division, Knowledge and Information Services Division, Financial Management Office, and Offices of the Speaker of the NA and Chairperson of the NCOP.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament, Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure, Standing Committee on Appropriations and Standing Committee on Finance.
- **Department(s):** Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, Government Communication and Information System, National Treasury and Department of Communications and Digital Technologies.

Dimension 1.2.5: Professional Development: SA's parliament offers professional development opportunities to MPs through training programs, workshops, and seminars. These programs aim to build MPs' capacities in areas such as legislative drafting, oversight functions, and understanding budget processes. The Parliamentary Training Institute and partnerships with external academic institutions provide ongoing learning opportunities to enhance MPs' skills and knowledge.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Human Resource Management Division and Knowledge and Information Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament, Portfolio Committee on Higher Education, Programme Committee of the National Assembly and Programme Committee of the National Council of Provinces.
- **Department(s):** National School of Government, Department of Higher Education and Training, Department of International Relations and Cooperation and Department of Sport, Arts, and Culture.

Indicator 1.3: Parliamentary Procedures

Dimension 1.3.1: Rules of Procedure: The rules of procedure are outlined in the parliamentary Standing Rules for both the NA and the NCOP. These rules are approved by the respective houses and provide guidelines on conduct, debate, and decision-making in parliament.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** NA Division, NCOP Division, and Core Business Support Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Rules Committee of the National Assembly, Rules Committee of the National Council of Provinces.
- **Department(s):** Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Office of the Chief Justice and Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

Dimension 1.3.2: Emergency or Crisis Procedures: Emergency or crisis procedures are specified to allow parliament to convene urgently in response to emergencies, such as national disasters or crises. These procedures are part of parliament's standing rules and ensure that urgent matters can be discussed, and appropriate actions taken. The Constitution and the Rules of the National Assembly provide several mechanisms for dealing with exceptional circumstances. The President may summon the National Assembly to an extraordinary sitting to conduct special business, while the parliamentary rules provide for unforeseen eventualities and emergency or security-related arrangements, including changes to the venue of a sitting. Separate constitutional procedures apply to a declared state of emergency and a state of national defence, including specific requirements for Parliament to consider or be informed about such measures.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Institutional Support Services Division, Protection Services Division, Strategic Management and Governance Division, Legislative Sector Support Programme, and Offices of the Speaker of the NA and Chairperson of the NCOP.

- **Relevant PC(s):** Rules Committee of the National Assembly, Rules Committee of the National Council of Provinces, and Joint Standing Committee on Defence.
- **Department(s):** State Security Agency, Department of Cooperative Governance and Department of Defence.

Dimension 1.3.3: Parliamentary Calendar: The parliamentary calendar is set annually and outlines when parliament will be in session, including plenary sessions and committee meetings. This calendar helps structure parliamentary activities and allows for public awareness of the schedule.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Chief Whips Forum, International Relations and Protocol Division, NA Division, and NCOP Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Programming Committee, Programme Committee of the National Assembly and Programme Committee of the National Council of Provinces.
- **Department(s):** All Departments.

Dimension 1.3.4: Convening Sessions and Setting the Agenda: Sessions of parliament are convened as per the parliamentary calendar or as necessary, and the agenda is set by the Chief Whips' Forum and approved by the Programme Committee. The Speaker plays a crucial role in setting the agenda to ensure that relevant matters are prioritised.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** NCOP Division and Core Business Support Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Programming Committee, Programme Committee of the National Assembly, Programme Committee of the National Council of Provinces, and Rules Committee of the National Assembly.
- **Department(s):** Government Communication and Information System, National Treasury and Statistics South Africa.

Dimension 1.3.5: Quorum: A quorum is required for plenary sessions and decision-making to be valid. The Standing Rules of Parliament specify the number of members required for a quorum in both the NA and the NCOP.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** NA Division and NCOP Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Rules Committee of the National Assembly and Rules Committee of the NCOP.
- **Department(s):** None directly applicable. Quorum requirements are governed internally by Parliament in accordance with the Constitution and the Rules of the respective Houses.

Dimension 1.3.6: Debate: Debate in parliament is conducted according to set rules that provide equitable opportunities for all political parties to participate. Debates are a core feature of plenary sessions, allowing members to present arguments, discuss legislation, and scrutinise government actions.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** NA Division, NCOP Division, and Core Business Support Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Rules Committee of the National Assembly and Rules Committee of the National Council of Provinces.
- **Department(s):** None directly applicable.⁴

Dimension 1.3.7: Voting: Voting procedures are outlined in the Standing Rules. Voting may be conducted through voice votes, divisions, or electronically. Decisions are made based on a majority vote, and certain decisions, like constitutional amendments, require a special majority.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** ICT Division and Core Business Support Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Rules Committee of the National Assembly, Rules Committee of the National Council of Provinces, Subcommittee on the Review of Council Rules and Subcommittee on the Review of the National Assembly Rules.
- **Department(s):** None directly applicable.⁵

Dimension 1.3.8: Record-keeping: Record-keeping is managed by the Parliamentary Service, ensuring that all proceedings, decisions, and debates are accurately documented in the Hansard (the official transcript of parliamentary debates). This ensures transparency and accountability. Parliament maintains an extensive website that records parliamentary information. Internally, members have access to the library and internal serves where information is saved.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Knowledge and Information Services Division and Parliamentary Communication Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament and Rules Committee of the National Assembly.

⁴ Parliamentary debate is primarily governed and administered internally by Parliament rather than by an executive government department.

⁵ Parliamentary voting is an internal parliamentary process regulated by the Constitution and the Rules of the respective Houses.

- **Department(s):** Government Communication and Information System, Department of Communications and Digital Technologies and Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

Dimension 1.3.9: Dissolution: The dissolution of parliament is governed by the Constitution, which allows the President to dissolve the NA before the end of its term if specific conditions are met.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Strategic Management and Governance Division, Offices of the Speaker of the NA and Chairperson of the NCOP, and Core Business Support Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Rules Committee of the National Assembly, Rules Committee of the National Council of Provinces, and Constitutional Review Committee.
- **Department(s):** None directly applicable.⁶

Indicator 1.4: Parliamentary Organisation

Dimension 1.4.1: Plenary: The plenary is the full session of either the NA or the NCOP where debates, voting, and major decisions are made. It is the main forum for public and political discourse within parliament.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** NA Division, NCOP Division, International Relations and Protocol Division, and Core Business Support Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Programme Committee of the National Assembly, Programme Committee of the National Council of Provinces, Rules Committee of the National Assembly and Rules Committee of the National Council of Provinces.
- **Department(s):** None directly applicable.⁷

Dimension 1.4.2: Speaker: The Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the NA and the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP are key figures in maintaining order and guiding proceedings. The Speaker and Chairperson, supported by their deputies, also represent Parliament in its relations with the executive and ensure adherence to parliamentary rules.

⁶ Dissolution of the National Assembly is a constitutional process involving the National Assembly and the President or Acting President rather than an executive government department.

⁷ The organisation, programming and conduct of plenary sittings are internal responsibilities of Parliament.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Offices of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the NA and the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the NCOP, and International Relations and Protocol Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Rules Committee of the National Assembly, Programme Committee of the National Assembly and Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament.
- **Department(s):** Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, State Security Agency and National Treasury.

Dimension 1.4.3: Presidium: The Presidium includes parliamentary office-bearers like the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chairperson of the NCOP, and their deputies. They coordinate parliamentary activities and provide leadership to ensure smooth functioning.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** NCOP Division and Core Business Support Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Programme Committee of the National Assembly, Programme Committee of the National Council of Provinces, Joint Programme Committee, Rules Committee of the National Assembly, Rules Committee of the National Council of Provinces and Joint Rules Committee.
- **Department(s):** None directly applicable.⁸

Dimension 1.4.4: Parliamentary Committees: Are established to perform detailed examination of legislation, oversight of the executive, and scrutiny of departmental activities. Committees are composed of members from different political parties and operate as the "engine rooms" of parliament.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division and Knowledge and Information Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Rules Committee, Rules Committee of the National Assembly and Rules Committee of the National Council of Provinces.
- **Department(s):** None directly applicable.⁹

⁸ The functions of the Presidium are internal parliamentary responsibilities exercised by the Presiding Officers in accordance with the Constitution, parliamentary legislation and the Rules of Parliament.

⁹ Parliamentary committees are internal structures of Parliament. Government departments and other organs of state are instead subject to scrutiny and oversight by the relevant parliamentary committees.

Dimension 1.4.5: Political Groups: Are represented in parliament proportionally based on election results. Each party has a Chief Whip responsible for maintaining party discipline and coordinating members' activities in parliament.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** NCOP Division, Members Support Services Division, and Human Resource Management Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Chief Whips' Forum, National Assembly Programme Committee, National Council of Provinces Programme Committee, Rules Committee of the National Assembly and Rules Committee of the National Council of Provinces.
- **Department(s):** None directly applicable.¹⁰

Dimension 1.4.6: Cross-party Groups: Also known as multi-party forums, they bring together members from different political parties to discuss issues of common interest, such as women's rights, youth, or environmental concerns. These groups work to ensure collaboration beyond partisan lines.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** International Relations and Protocol Division and Parliamentary Communication Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Multi-Party Women's Caucus, Parliamentary Group on International Relations, Programme Committee of the National Assembly and Programme Committee of the National Council of Provinces.
- **Department(s):** None directly applicable.¹¹

Indicator 1.5: Administrative Capacity and Independence

Dimension 1.5.1: Mandates of the Parliamentary Administration: The parliamentary administration is mandated to support the legislative and oversight functions of parliament. It operates independently to ensure that parliament's work is carried out efficiently, providing administrative, financial, and operational support as required.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Strategic Management and Governance Division, Financial Management Office, Risk Management Office, Internal Audit Office, Treasury Advice

¹⁰ Political groups and their parliamentary activities are internal to Parliament and the respective political parties.

¹¹ Executive departments may engage with parliamentary structures on issues falling within their respective mandates, but they do not establish or administer Parliament's cross-party groups.

Office, Protection Services Division, Legislative Sector Support Programme, and Core Business Support Division.

- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament, Rules Committee of the National Assembly and Rules Committee of the National Council of Provinces.
- **Department(s):** None directly applicable.¹²

Dimension 1.5.2: Human Resource Management: Human Resource (HR) management in parliament ensures that skilled staff are recruited, retained, and managed effectively. The parliamentary service provides HR support, ensuring the availability of qualified personnel to support MPs and parliamentary committees in fulfilling their roles.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Human Resource Management Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament and Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration.
- **Department(s):** None directly applicable.¹³

Dimension 1.5.3: Expert Support: Parliament relies on expert support to make informed decisions. This includes legal advisors, researchers, and subject matter experts who provide technical analysis and information to MPs and committees to enhance the quality of legislative and oversight work.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Knowledge and Information Services Division, Core Business Support Division, Legislative Sector Support Programme, and Parliamentary Budget Office.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament and Portfolio Committee on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.
- **Department(s):** None directly applicable.¹⁴

¹² Parliament has its own administration and governance framework. National Treasury and other executive departments may interact with Parliament on specific financial or administrative matters, but they do not determine the mandate of the Parliamentary Services Administration.

¹³ Parliament manages its own human resources through the Parliamentary Services Administration. National labour legislation and other generally applicable employment requirements remain relevant, but executive departments do not administer Parliament's human resources.

¹⁴ Expert support to Parliament is primarily provided through Parliament's own professional and technical services.

Dimension 1.5.4: Facilities: Adequate facilities are provided to enable parliament to function effectively. This includes office spaces, meeting rooms for committees, and the Chamber for plenary sessions. The facilities are maintained to ensure MPs and staff have a conducive working environment. MPs are also afforded housing. This includes living in a parliamentary village that has many benefits. There is criticism about the maintenance and quality of the parliamentary villages.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Members Support Services Division and Institutional Support Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure and Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament.
- **Department(s):** Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

Dimension 1.5.5: Digital Technologies: Parliament has embraced digital technologies to enhance efficiency. This includes the use of electronic document management systems, video conferencing for virtual sessions, and a parliamentary website for the dissemination of information. This technology also enables public engagement and participation. MPs are provided with multiple ICT tools of trade including a laptop, a tablet, and a smartphone by Parliament to perform their official duties.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** ICT Division and Knowledge and Information Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies and Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament.
- **Department(s):** Department of Communications and Digital Technologies and Government Communication and Information System.

Dimension 1.5.6: Document Management: Document management is critical for keeping records of all parliamentary proceedings. The Parliamentary Service maintains and manages documents through a structured system, ensuring that all documents, including reports, bills, and minutes, are stored securely and are accessible to authorised personnel and the public.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Knowledge and Information Services Division and Parliamentary Communication Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Rules Committee, Rules Committee of the National Assembly, Rules Committee of the National Council of Provinces, and Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament.

- **Department(s):** Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, Government Communication and Information System and Department of Public Works and Infrastructure.

Indicator 1.6: Law-making

Dimension 1.6.1: Powers in Law-making: Parliament has law-making powers as provided by the Constitution of SA. The NA and the NCOP both play roles in the law-making process, with the NA initiating and passing bills and the NCOP reviewing bills, especially those that affect provinces.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division, Knowledge and Information Services Division, NA Division, NCOP Division, Bills Office, and Constitutional and Legal Services Office.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development and Rules Committee of the National Assembly.
- **Department(s):** Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and National Treasury.

Dimension 1.6.2: Constitution-making and Amendment: Parliament has the authority to amend the Constitution. A two-thirds majority in the NA is required to amend most sections of the Constitution, while some amendments require additional consent from the NCOP. This process ensures that constitutional amendments reflect broad support.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division, NCOP Division, Offices of the Speaker NA, and Chairperson NCOP.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Constitutional Review Committee and Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development.
- **Department(s):** Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and Office of the Chief Justice.

Dimension 1.6.3: Legislative Procedure: The legislative procedure begins with the drafting and introduction of a bill, which is then referred to the relevant committee for scrutiny. After committee approval, the bill is debated in the plenary, where it is subject to further debate and voting.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** NA Division, NCOP Division, Bills Office, Constitutional and Legal Services Office, Core Business Support Division, and International Relations and Protocol Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Rules Committee of the National Assembly and Programme Committee of the National Assembly.

- **Department(s):** Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and Government Communication and Information System.

Dimension 1.6.4: Legislative Drafting: Legislative drafting is done by the Office of the Chief State Law Adviser or other legal experts, ensuring that bills are clear, comply with the Constitution, and are aligned with existing laws. Drafting standards are in place to ensure consistency and quality. Drafting can be done by individual MPs or Members of Provincial Legislatures (MPLs) for Private Members' Bills and Committees for Committee Bills.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division, International Relations and Protocol Division, and Knowledge and Information Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All Portfolio Committees.
- **Department(s):** Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and National Treasury.

Dimension 1.6.5: Enactment: Once a bill is passed by parliament, it is sent to the President for assent. The President does not automatically sign a bill. He must apply his mind as to the constitutionality of a bill. If there are reservations, it must be referred to Parliament or the Constitutional Court for consideration. Once a bill is signed, it does not automatically come into force, the implementations happens later, usually after the relevant department has put regulations in place. When the bill becomes an Act of Parliament, it is officially part of SA's legal framework.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** NA Division, NCOP Division, and International Relations and Protocol Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Rules Committee of the National Assembly and Standing Committee on Appropriations.
- **Department(s):** Office of the Chief Justice and Department of Communications and Digital Technologies.

Dimension 1.6.6: Official Publication: After enactment, laws are officially published in the Government Gazette, parliament, relevant departments and entities like PMG and Sabinet, making them accessible to the public. This step ensures transparency and allows citizens to know the new laws that affect them.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Knowledge and Information Services Division and Parliamentary Communication Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies.

- **Department(s):** Government Communication and Information System and Department of Communications and Digital Technologies.

Dimension 1.6.7: Post-legislative Scrutiny: Post-legislative scrutiny involves reviewing the impact of enacted laws to determine whether they achieve their intended objectives. Parliament experimented with having a dedicated committee to do this many years ago but abandoned this idea. Some parliamentary committees may hold hearings or solicit feedback from stakeholders to evaluate the effectiveness of legislation and recommend amendments if necessary.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division, Knowledge and Information Services Division, and Legislative Sector Support Programme.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Standing Committee on Public Accounts and All Portfolio Committees.
- **Department(s):** Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Statistics South Africa and Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

Indicator 1.7: Oversight

Dimension 1.7.1: Election and Dismissal of the Executive: The NA has the authority to elect the President and can initiate a vote of no confidence, which, if passed, can lead to the dismissal of the executive. This ensures the accountability of the executive to parliament.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Offices of the Speaker NA and Chairperson NCOP, NA Division, NCOP Division, and Core Business Support Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Portfolio Committee on Presidency, Rules Committee of the National Assembly and Constitutional Review Committee.
- **Department(s):** Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Office of the Chief Justice, State Security Agency and National Treasury.

Dimension 1.7.2: Access to Information from the Executive: Parliament has the right to access information from the executive to carry out its oversight role. Ministers are required to provide information on their departments' activities, including reports, plans, and policies. Some information can sometimes be handled in closed or restricted proceedings where constitutionally justified.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division and Knowledge and Information Services Division.

- **Relevant PC(s):** Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development and Portfolio Committee on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.
- **Department(s):** Statistics South Africa, Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Government Communication and Information System and Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

Dimension 1.7.3: Summoning the Executive in Committee: Parliamentary committees have the authority to summon members of the executive (ministers and officials) to provide information, answer questions, and account for their actions. This helps ensure detailed scrutiny of government activities.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division and International Relations and Protocol Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All Portfolio Committees.
- **Department(s):** Department of Cooperative Governance, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Government Communication and Information System and State Security Agency.

Dimension 1.7.4: Summoning the Executive in Plenary: The executive can also be summoned to plenary sessions of parliament, where they are required to answer questions or provide explanations directly to the entire House. This allows for public accountability at a broader level.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** NA Division, NCOP Division, and Core Business Support Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Rules Committee of the National Assembly, Rules Committee of the National Council of Provinces, Powers and Privileges Committee, Programme Committee of the National Assembly and Programme Committee of the National Council of Provinces.
- **Department(s):** None directly applicable.¹⁵

Dimension 1.7.5: Questions: There are formal processes and rules for written and oral questions. Beyond this, there is engagement at committee level where MPs can question the executive. MPs can then submit questions to ministers, which can be either written or oral. This questioning process is a

¹⁵ Executive departments and office-bearers are subject to Parliament's accountability mechanisms rather than responsible for administering them.

key mechanism for holding the executive accountable and ensuring transparency in government operations.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Knowledge and Information Services Division, Core Business Support Division, and Members Support Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Rules Committee of the National Assembly, Rules Committee of the National Council of Provinces, and All Portfolio Committees.
- **Department(s):** None directly applicable.¹⁶

Dimension 1.7.6: Hearings: Public hearings are organised by parliamentary committees to gather input from stakeholders, experts, and the public on specific issues or legislation. This process ensures that diverse views are considered in decision-making and oversight.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division, Public Education Office, and Parliamentary Communication Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All Portfolio Committees and Select Committees.
- **Department(s):** None directly applicable.¹⁷

Dimension 1.7.7: Parliamentary Committees of Inquiry: Committees of inquiry are established to investigate specific issues or incidents in detail. These committees have the power to gather evidence, subpoena witnesses, and make recommendations. This is an important tool for uncovering issues of public concern and recommending corrective actions.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division, Legislative Sector Support Programme, and Offices of the Speaker of the NA and Chairperson of the NCOP.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development, Standing Committee on Public Accounts. Select Committee on Security and Justice and specially created ad hoc committees.
- **Department(s):** Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, State Security Agency and Statistics South Africa.

¹⁶ Government departments and members of the executive are subject to Parliament's questions and oversight mechanisms rather than responsible for administering them.

¹⁷ Government departments and other public bodies may appear before or make submissions to parliamentary committees, but the organisation and conduct of parliamentary hearings are responsibilities of Parliament and its committees.

Indicator 1.8: Budget

Dimension 1.8.1: Formulation, Examination, Amendment, and Approval: The budget review recommendations reports are produced by the portfolio committees to try and influence the next year's budget. Thereafter the budget formulation process begins with the Minister of Finance presenting the annual budget to parliament. Parliamentary committees, particularly the Standing Committee on Finance and the Appropriations Committee, examine the budget, debate its provisions, and suggest amendments. The budget must be approved by parliament to ensure public funds are allocated appropriately.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Treasury Advice Office, Parliamentary Budget Office, Legislative Sector Support Programme, Offices of the Speaker of the NA and Chairperson of the NCOP, and Core Business Support Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Standing Committee on Appropriations, Standing Committee on Finance and All Portfolio Committees.
- **Department(s):** National Treasury, Department of Trade, Industry and Competition and Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

Dimension 1.8.2: In-year and Ex-post Oversight: In-year oversight involves monitoring the implementation of the budget throughout the financial year. Ex-post oversight refers to the examination of how funds were spent after the financial year has ended. Committees such as SCOPA review reports from government departments to ensure funds have been used effectively and in line with approved appropriations.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Treasury Advice Office, Parliamentary Budget Office, Legislative Sector Support Programme, and Core Business Support Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Standing Committee on the Auditor-General.
- **Department(s):** National Treasury, Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC), Auditor-General of South Africa, and Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

Dimension 1.8.3: Public Accounts Committee: SCOPA plays a key role in overseeing government expenditure. SCOPA examines financial statements, audit reports, and evaluates whether public funds have been used efficiently, effectively, and economically.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Financial Management Office, Parliamentary Budget Office, and Treasury Advice Office.

- **Relevant PC(s):** Standing Committee on Public Accounts.
- **Department(s):** National Treasury.

Dimension 1.8.4: Expert Support: Parliamentary committees receive expert support from budget analysts, legal advisors, and subject matter experts. This support is crucial for understanding complex financial information and making informed decisions during the budget process.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Financial Management Office, Internal Audit, Parliamentary Budget Office, Research Division, and Treasury Advice Office.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament and Portfolio Committee on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.
- **Department(s):** Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, National School of Government and Government Communication and Information System.

Dimension 1.8.5: Supreme Audit Institution: The Auditor-General of South Africa serves as the supreme audit institution, providing independent audits of government spending and financial management. The Auditor-General's reports are presented to Parliament, and SCOPA reviews these reports to ensure accountability in the use of public resources.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Financial Management Office, Internal Audit, Parliamentary Budget Office, and Treasury Advice Office.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Standing Committee on the Auditor-General and Standing Committee on Public Accounts.
- **Department(s):** National Treasury, Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC), and Auditor-General of South Africa.

Indicator 1.9: Representative Role of Members of Parliament (MPS)

Dimension 1.9.1: Interaction with the Electorate: MPs are expected to maintain contact with the public and represent citizens' concerns in Parliament. Constituency work provides an important mechanism for this interaction, enabling MPs to meet with communities, assist with concerns, report back on parliamentary activities and raise issues identified through constituency engagement. Political parties play a central role in constituency arrangements, including assigning Members to constituencies and operating Parliamentary Constituency Offices.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division, Parliamentary Communication Services Division, Members Support Services Division, and NCOP Division¹⁸.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All Portfolio Committees.
- **Department(s):** None directly applicable.¹⁹

Dimension 1.9.2: Opposition: The opposition in parliament plays a crucial role in holding the government accountable. Opposition parties scrutinise government policies, question executive decisions, and present alternative proposals. They participate in debates, provide constructive criticism, and use oversight tools to ensure transparency and good governance.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** NCOP Division, Core Business Support Division, and Knowledge and Information Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All Portfolio Committees.
- **Department(s):** National Treasury and Department of Public Service and Administration and Government Communication and Information System.

Indicator 1.10: Relations with Other Branches of Government

Dimension 1.10.1: Relations with the Executive: SA's parliament maintains a working relationship with the executive branch (includes the President and Ministers) through mechanisms such as parliamentary questions, committee hearings, and budget debates. This relationship is based on accountability, with parliament ensuring the executive's actions align with the law and serve the public interest. The relationship between the Leader of Government Business (LOGB) and Parliament serves as the primary formal bridge between the Executive and the Legislature. The LOGB acts as a facilitator to ensure the executive branch complies with parliamentary demands. The LOGB coordinates with parliamentary presiding officers and chief whips to schedule when government bills, policies, and budgets will be introduced, debated, and voted on.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division, NA Division, and NCOP Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Programme Committee, Programme Committee of the National Assembly, Programme Committee of the National Council of Provinces, Joint Rules Committee,

¹⁸ Parliamentary structures include political parties represented in Parliament and their Parliamentary Constituency Offices.

¹⁹ Constituency engagement is a parliamentary and political-party function rather than a responsibility of an executive government department.

Rules Committee of the National Assembly and Rules Committee of the National Council of Provinces.

- **Department(s):** Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

Dimension 1.10.2: Relations with the Judiciary: Parliament respects the judiciary's independence, and there are clear lines of interaction. Parliament abides by court decisions, and the judiciary has the power to review legislation passed by parliament to ensure it is constitutional. This ensures a system of checks and balances. Parliament has representation on the Magistrates Commission and the JSC, which advise on the appointment of judges. Parliament is also involved in the process to impeach a judge and suspend them or withhold their salaries. Parliament approves the budget for the judiciary. The Office of the Chief Justice (OCJ) is accountable to parliament.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division, Legislative Sector Support Programme, and Offices of the Speaker of the NA and Chairperson of the NCOP.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development and Constitutional Review Committee.
- **Department(s):** Office of the Chief Justice and Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

Dimension 1.10.3: Relations with Subnational Levels of Government: NCOP facilitates relations with subnational levels of government, representing provincial interests in the legislative process. NCOP ensures that provincial and local government voices are considered in national legislation, fostering cooperation between different levels of government.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** NCOP Division, International Relations and Protocol Division, and Core Business Support Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Public Administration.
- **Department(s):** Department of Cooperative Governance, Department of Traditional Affairs and Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

Indicator 1.11: Key Parliamentary Powers

Dimension 1.11.1: Security: Parliament has oversight over issues of national security. Committees such as the Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence monitor the activities of security agencies to ensure they operate within the law and uphold citizens' rights.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Protection Services Division, and Institutional Support Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Portfolio Committee on Police and Joint Standing Committee on Intelligence.
- **Department(s):** Civilian Secretariat for Police, State Security Agency and Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

Dimension 1.11.2: Defence: Parliament exercises oversight over the defence sector through the Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans. The committee reviews defence policies, budgets, and the deployment of military forces, ensuring that decisions are transparent and in the national interest.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division and Legislative Sector Support Programme.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Standing Committee on Defence and Portfolio Committee on Defence and Military Veterans.
- **Department(s):** Department of Defence.

Dimension 1.11.3: Foreign Affairs and International Agreements: The Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation reviews foreign affairs policies and international agreements. Parliament approves international treaties and agreements, ensuring they align with SA's interests and constitutional principles.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** International Relations and Protocol Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation and Parliamentary Group on International Relations.
- **Department(s):** Department of International Relations and Cooperation and Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

Dimension 1.11.4: Parliamentary Diplomacy: Parliament engages in parliamentary diplomacy by participating in international forums such as the Pan-African Parliament and the IPU. These engagements strengthen diplomatic ties, promote dialogue, and address global issues through collaboration with other legislatures.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Legislative Sector Support Programme, and Offices of the Speaker of the NA and Chairperson of the NCOP.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Parliamentary Group on International Relations, Programme Committee of the National Assembly and Portfolio Committee on International Relations and Cooperation.
- **Department(s):** Department of International Relations and Cooperation and Government Communication and Information System.

6.2 Target 2: Accountable Parliament

Accountability is a fundamental component of democracy. In SA's parliament, mechanisms such as parliamentary questions, committee scrutiny, debates and motions are used to scrutinise the actions of the executive. This IDP target requires parliaments to have robust mechanisms for holding the government accountable, and these SA's practices align with this goal. Parliament reports its activities to the public through published reports and public records, contributing to greater accountability and transparency. The target emphasises parliament's role in executive oversight, which is conducted through mechanisms like parliamentary questions, portfolio committees and SCOPA. Indicators assess the effectiveness of these oversight functions and their contribution to government accountability. Furthermore, the publication of parliamentary proceedings, live broadcasts and accessible records are critical elements of transparency, ensuring that the public can hold representatives accountable. Parliament's oversight of the executive includes regular questioning of government ministers, evaluating government spending, and assessing policy implementation. The effectiveness of parliamentary committees in investigating and overseeing government actions is a significant indicator, with committees expected to be active, diverse, and produce reports on key issues.

Indicator 2.1: Parliamentary Ethics

Dimension 2.1.1: Anti-corruption: Anti-corruption measures are implemented through policies and procedures to prevent, detect, and address corrupt practices involving MPs and parliamentary staff. The Parliamentary Oversight Authority and the Ethics Committee are responsible for investigating allegations of corruption and taking appropriate action.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Governance, Risk and Compliance, Internal Audit Office, and Registrar of Member's Interests.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests and Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament.
- **Department(s):** None directly applicable.²⁰

²⁰ Where alleged conduct may constitute criminal corruption or other offences, matters may be referred to the appropriate external law-enforcement or oversight bodies, including SAPS/Hawks, the Auditor-General or other competent institutions, depending on the nature of the matter.

Dimension 2.1.2: Conflicts of Interest: Conflicts of interest are managed by requiring MPs to declare their financial interests and assets in a public register of interests. This disclosure aims to prevent conflicts between their personal financial interests and public duties. Failure to disclose can lead to disciplinary actions by the Joint Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Registrar of Members' Interests Office, Offices of the Speaker of the NA and Chairperson of the NCOP, and Core Business Support Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests and Rules Committee of the National Assembly.
- **Department(s):** Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, National Treasury, Statistics South Africa, Department of Public Service and Administration.

Dimension 2.1.3: Code of Conduct: A Code of Conduct for MPs outlines expected standards of behaviour and ethical principles, including accountability, transparency, and acting in the public interest. MPs are required to uphold these standards, and breaches of the code may result in disciplinary actions, including suspension.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Registrar of Members' Interests, and Governance, Risk and Compliance Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests and Rules Committee of the National Assembly.
- **Department(s):** Department of Public Service and Administration, National School of Government and Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

Dimension 2.1.4: Parliamentary Income and Use of Parliamentary Resources: The remuneration, allowances and benefits of MPs are regulated by the Constitution and the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers Act 20 of 1998, while parliamentary facilities and benefits are governed by Parliament's applicable rules and policies. These frameworks regulate the resources and benefits available to MPs and promote the appropriate and accountable use of public resources.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Registrar of Members' Interests, and Governance, Risk and Compliance Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament and Standing Committee on Public Accounts.
- **Department(s):** Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, National Treasury and Department of Public Service and Administration.

Dimension 2.1.5: Lobbying: SA does not currently have a comprehensive regulatory framework for lobbying, nor are MPs generally required to disclose meetings with lobbyists. However, Parliament's Code of Ethical Conduct and Disclosure of Members' Interests regulates conflicts of interest and requires MPs to disclose specified financial and other interests, including certain gifts and hospitality. These disclosure requirements provide a measure of transparency regarding interests that could potentially influence Members in the performance of their parliamentary duties.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division and Governance, Risk and Compliance.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests and Rules Committee of the National Assembly.
- **Department(s):** Government Communication and Information System, Department of Public Service and Administration and Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

Indicator 2.2: Institutional Integrity

Dimension 2.2.1: Parliamentary: Expenditure: Parliamentary expenditure is subject to regular audits by the Auditor-General of South Africa to ensure funds are spent efficiently and effectively. SCOPA reviews expenditure reports, highlighting any irregularities and ensuring corrective action.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Financial Management Office, Internal Audit, Governance, Risk and Compliance, and Parliamentary Budget Office.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament.
- **Department(s):** Government Communication and Information System, Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and Department of Public Service and Administration.

Dimension 2.2.2: Public Procurement: Public procurement processes in parliament follow the principles of fairness, transparency, and competitiveness. Procurement is regulated by the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), and procurement decisions are subject to audit and oversight to prevent mismanagement and corruption.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Financial Management Office, Internal Audit, Governance, Risk and Compliance, and Treasury Advice Office.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament.
- **Department(s):** National Treasury and Department of Trade, Industry and Competition.

Dimension 2.2.3: Freedom of Information: Parliament is committed to freedom of information, allowing the public access to parliamentary records, documents, and proceedings. The Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA) provides a legal framework that promotes transparency by enabling citizens to request information from Parliament. At the same time, the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) has practical implications for how Parliament makes information publicly available, requiring it to balance transparency with the protection of personal information. In practice, this means that certain information must be redacted before publication, including personal details contained in documents such as candidates' CVs, parliamentary replies and supporting annexures.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Knowledge and Information Services Division and Parliamentary Communication Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies and Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development.
- **Department(s):** Government Communication and Information System, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and Department of Communications and Digital Technologies.

Dimension 2.2.4: Professionalism of the Parliamentary Administration: The professionalism of the parliamentary administration is maintained through rigorous recruitment processes, ongoing training, and performance management. The Parliamentary Service Administration oversees staff development to ensure that administrative support is effective, impartial, and upholds the integrity of the institution.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Human Resource Management Division, Member Support Services, Governance, Risk and Compliance, and International Relations and Protocol Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament.
- **Department(s):** None directly applicable.²¹

²¹ Parliament manages its own administration and workforce. External employment and labour legislation may apply, but executive departments do not administer the professionalism or performance of the Parliamentary Services Administration.

Dimension 2.2.5: Institutional Development of Parliament: Institutional development initiatives include strategic planning, capacity-building programs, and modernising processes to improve efficiency. Parliament regularly reviews its systems and practices, with an emphasis on enhancing transparency, accountability, and public engagement.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Human Resource Management Division, Member Support Services, Governance, Risk and Compliance, and Core Business Support Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament, Rules Committee, Rules Committee of the National Assembly, and Rules Committee of the National Council of Provinces.
- **Department(s):** Department of Public Service and Administration, Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Department of International Relations and Cooperation, National Treasury and National School of Government.

6.3 Target 3: Transparent Parliament

SA's parliament operates with transparency by providing public access to debates, decisions, and records. Parliamentary proceedings are broadcast live on television, radio, and online platforms, allowing citizens to follow the activities of their representatives, in line with the IDP target of ensuring public accessibility to parliamentary work. Transparency is further enhanced through public participation in legislative processes, such as public submissions on bills and parliamentary hearings, which keep citizens informed about legislative developments. The transparent use of parliamentary funds, along with the disclosure of MPs' assets and interests, is crucial for accountability. Furthermore, mechanisms to address misconduct and ensure ethical behaviour among MPs are essential indicators of a healthy democratic parliament.

Indicator 3.1 Transparency of parliamentary processes

Dimension 3.1.1: Transparency of Parliamentary Work: Transparency of parliamentary work is ensured through public access to parliamentary sessions, which are broadcast live on television, radio, and online platforms. Hansard, the official verbatim record, is also made available to the public, providing a full account of parliamentary debates and discussions.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** NA Division, NCOP Division, and Parliamentary Communication Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament, Rules Committee of the National Assembly and Select Committee on Public Petitions and Executive Undertakings.
- **Department(s):** Government Communication and Information System, Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and Statistics South Africa.

Dimension 3.1.2: Transparency of the Legislative Process: The legislative process is transparent, with committee meetings and public hearings open to the public, ensuring that citizens can follow the development of legislation. Draft bills, committee reports, and submissions from stakeholders are published on the parliamentary website, making information on legislative activities accessible.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division and Legislative Sector Support Programme.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development, Rules Committee of the National Assembly and Programme Committee of the National Assembly.

- **Department(s):** Government Communication and Information System, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Department of Communications and Digital Technologies and Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

Dimension 3.1.3: Transparency of the Budget Cycle and the Parliamentary Budget: The budget cycle is open to public scrutiny, with the budget speech delivered by the Minister of Finance broadcast live. The Standing and Select Committees on Finance hold public hearings where stakeholders can make submissions. The parliamentary budget itself, including spending details, is made available to ensure transparency regarding Parliament's own financial management.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Financial Management Office, Parliamentary Budget Office, and Parliamentary Communication Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Standing Committee on Finance, Standing Committee on Appropriations and Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament.
- **Department(s):** National Treasury and Government Communication and Information System.

Indicator 3.2: Parliamentary Communication and Outreach

Dimension 3.2.1: Institutional Communication: Institutional communication involves regular press briefings, media releases, and public announcements regarding parliamentary activities. The Parliamentary Communication Services, NA Division, NCOP Division, and ICT Division should ensure that important information reaches the public through various media channels, including social media, radio, and print.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Parliamentary Communication Services Division, NA Division, NCOP Division, and ICT Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies and Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament.
- **Department(s):** Government Communication and Information System, Department of Communications and Digital Technologies and Department of Public Service and Administration.

Dimension 3.2.2: Parliamentary Website: The parliamentary website is a key tool for ensuring transparency and providing information to the public. It includes details on bills, committee meetings, reports, MPs' profiles, and contact details. The website also offers live streaming of plenary sessions and committee meetings, enabling citizens to stay informed about parliamentary work.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** ICT Division and Parliamentary Communication Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies and Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament.
- **Department(s):** Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, Government Communication and Information System and Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities.

Dimension 3.2.3: Outreach Activities: Outreach activities include initiatives like the Taking Parliament to the People program, where parliament holds sessions in different regions to engage directly with citizens. Educational programs and workshops are also conducted to raise public awareness about the role of parliament and encourage citizen participation.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division, Knowledge and Information Systems, NCOP Division, and Parliamentary Communication Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All PCs.
- **Department(s):** Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, Government Communication and Information System and Department of Basic Education.

Indicator 3.3: Access to Parliament

Dimension 3.3.1: Physical Access to Parliament: Physical access to Parliament is facilitated by allowing members of the public to attend sessions, public hearings, and events in parliamentary buildings. Visitors are required to adhere to security protocols, but the principle of openness is maintained to promote public engagement.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Institutional Support Services Division, and Protection Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure and Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament.
- **Department(s):** Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, Department of Public Service and Administration and Department of Police.

Dimension 3.3.2: Access for Persons with Disabilities: Access for persons with disabilities is a priority, with wheelchair ramps, elevators, and other facilities available in parliamentary buildings. Parliament also provides sign language interpreters during sessions and events to ensure that persons with hearing impairments can follow proceedings.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Members Support Services Division, Protection Services Division, Human Resource Management Division, and International Relations and Protocol Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities and Portfolio Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure.
- **Department(s):** Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Department of Public Works and Infrastructure and Department of Communications and Digital Technologies.

Dimension 3.3.3: Media Access to Parliament: Media access to Parliament is facilitated through designated press galleries in the chambers and access to committee meetings. Accredited journalists can report on parliamentary activities, and the Parliamentary Communication Services ensures that media have access to information and facilities, enabling them to provide accurate coverage.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Parliamentary Communication Services Division and ICT Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament, Joint Rules Committee, Rules Committee of the National Assembly, and Rules Committee of the National Council of Provinces.
- **Department(s):** None directly applicable.²²

²² Media access to Parliament is primarily regulated and facilitated by Parliament itself rather than by an executive government department.

6.4 Target 4: Responsive Parliament

A responsive parliament addresses the needs and concerns of citizens through its law-making and oversight functions. In SA's parliament, constituency work by MPs is essential for understanding and addressing community concerns, aligning with the IDP target of responsiveness. Constituency offices across the country provide avenues for the public to bring issues directly to their representatives. Furthermore, SA's parliament ensures that policies and laws are effectively implemented through oversight visits and follow-ups, ensuring that the laws passed reflect the needs and goals of citizens.

Indicator 4.1: Valuing Public Concerns

Dimension 4.1.1: Responding to Public Concerns: Responding to public concerns is implemented through formal mechanisms for public participation, such as public hearings during the legislative process, PCO visits, and petition submissions to Parliament. The portfolio committees consider these inputs, ensuring that citizens' voices are included in the decision-making process. The Public Participation Services is also responsible for facilitating public engagement with Parliament and ensuring that concerns raised by citizens are adequately addressed.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division, NCOP Division, and Parliamentary Communication Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Select Committee on Public Petitions and Executive Undertakings, All PCs.
- **Department(s):** All Departments.

Dimension 4.1.2: Responding to Emerging Policy Issues: Parliament responds to emerging policy issues by holding urgent debates, inquiries, and special committee meetings to deliberate on pressing matters, such as economic challenges, social issues, and environmental crises. The use of parliamentary questions directed at ministers allows MPs to hold the executive accountable for responding to new and emerging issues that affect the nation. Committees also consult with experts and stakeholders to keep informed about emerging trends and their potential impact on public policy.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Knowledge and Information Services Division, International Relations and Protocol Division, Strategic Management and Governance Division, Legislative Sector Support Programme, and Offices of the Speaker of the NA and Chairperson of the NCOP.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All Parliamentary Committees.
- **Department(s):** Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

Dimension 4.1.3: Leaving No One Behind and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

Parliament supports the principle of leaving no one behind by working towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This includes overseeing the government's implementation of the SDGs through committee work, legislation, and oversight activities. Parliament engages with vulnerable groups, including women, youth and persons with disabilities, to ensure that their needs and concerns are addressed in policy decisions. The Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities plays a key role in advocating for inclusive development policies.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division, Knowledge and Information Systems Division, Legislative Sector Support Programme, and Parliamentary Communication Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All PCs.
- **Department(s):** All Departments.

6.5 Target 5: Inclusive Parliament

This IDP target emphasises the equal participation of marginalised groups, including women, youth and persons with disabilities. SA's parliament has made notable progress in promoting gender equality, reflected in the significant number of female MPs, which aligns with the country's commitment to gender representation targets. However, further efforts are required to ensure adequate representation and involvement of other marginalised groups, particularly persons with disabilities and youth, in decision-making processes. Inclusiveness also extends to how decisions are made, with SA's parliament promoting the involvement of CSO and interest groups to ensure a broad range of voices are considered in policymaking. The indicators evaluate the extent to which marginalised groups are represented and can participate effectively, and while SA's parliament has made advances in gender representation, greater attention must be given to the inclusion of other marginalised groups. The Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities plays a key role in advocating for the inclusion of these groups, and the indicators would assess whether their representation leads to tangible policies and outcomes that improve their quality of life. Parliament must proactively pass legislation promoting social equality and protecting human rights, in line with SA's Constitution, and ensure effective implementation of laws protecting the rights of marginalised groups, such as women, youth and persons with disabilities.

Indicator 5.1: Inclusive Law-Making, Oversight, and Budgeting

Dimension 5.1.1: Human Rights: Human rights are integrated into the law-making and oversight processes by ensuring that legislation aligns with the Bill of Rights in the SA's Constitution. Portfolio Committees assess the human rights implications of proposed laws, and Parliament works with CSOs to ensure that laws protect citizens' rights.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division, Legislative Sector Support Programme, and Knowledge and Information Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All PCs.
- **Department(s):** All Departments.

Dimension 5.1.2: Impact Assessments: Impact assessments are conducted to evaluate the potential social, economic, and environmental effects of proposed legislation. Parliamentary committees assess the impact of bills and other legislative initiatives to ensure that they benefit all segments of society and mitigate negative consequences. In practice this is limited and it is area for improvement.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Legislative Sector Support Programme, Treasury Advice Office, International Relations and Protocol Division, and Core Business Support Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All PCs.
- **Department(s):** All Departments.

Dimension 5.1.3: Gender Mainstreaming: Gender mainstreaming is implemented by incorporating a gender perspective in all stages of law-making, policy formulation, and budgeting. The Multi-Party Women's Caucus advocates for gender equality in parliament's work, and committees are required to consider gender impacts when reviewing legislation.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Human Resource Management Division, Members Support Services Division, and Core Business Support Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All PCs.
- **Department(s):** All Departments.

Dimension 5.1.4: Gender-Responsive Budgeting: Gender-responsive budgeting ensures that government budgets address gender disparities and promote equality. Parliament scrutinises government budgets and may consider gender implications when assessing allocations to sectors such as health, education and social development. However, gender-responsive budgeting is not yet applied consistently or systematically across all parliamentary committees and budget processes, limiting Parliament's ability to assess fully how resource allocations affect women and other groups.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Treasury Advice Office, and Legislative Sector Support Programme.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All PCs.
- **Department(s):** All Departments.

Dimension 5.1.5: Youth Inclusion: Youth inclusion is facilitated through initiatives like the Youth parliament, where young people can engage with lawmakers, and through committees focusing on youth issues. Legislation and policies impacting youth are assessed for their contribution to improving the socio-economic conditions of young people.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division, NCOP Division, and Parliamentary Communication Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All PCs.
- **Department(s):** All Departments.

Indicator 5.2: Inclusive Institutional Practices

Dimension 5.2.1: Workforce Diversity: Workforce diversity in parliament is promoted through affirmative action policies and recruitment practices aimed at reflecting SA's racial, gender, and socio-economic diversity. The Employment Equity Act guides parliament in achieving a representative and inclusive workforce.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Human Resource Management Division, and Strategic Management and Governance Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration and Portfolio Committee on Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities.
- **Department(s):** Department of Public Service and Administration, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities and National School of Government.

Dimension 5.2.2: Workplace Environment: A conducive workplace environment is maintained through policies promoting equality, dignity, and respect for all parliamentary staff and members. The Parliamentary Services Administration is responsible for ensuring that the work environment is supportive and inclusive for everyone. There are labour unions that represent the interest of workers.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Institutional Support Services Division and Human Resource Management Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Portfolio Committee on Employment and Labour and Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament.
- **Department(s):** Department of Public Service and Administration, Department of Correctional Services and Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

Dimension 5.2.3: Combating Sexism, Harassment, and Violence: Combating sexism, harassment, and violence is a priority, with policies and procedures in place to address incidents of harassment and gender-based violence. A zero-tolerance policy towards harassment is enforced, and employees and MPs can report incidents confidentially for investigation and action.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Governance, Risk and Compliance, Human Resource Management Division, and Protection Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All PCs.
- **Department(s):** All Departments.

Dimension 5.2.4: Multilingual Service Delivery: Multilingual service delivery is implemented to ensure that all citizens can access parliamentary information and services in their preferred language. Parliament provides translation and interpretation services in SA's official languages, ensuring inclusivity in communication and engagement.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Knowledge and Information Services Division, Core Business Support Division, and Parliamentary Communication Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies and Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration.
- **Department(s):** Government Communication and Information System, Department of Basic Education and Department of Public Service and Administration.

6.6 Target 6: Participatory Parliament

SA's parliament strives for accessibility by facilitating public engagement through public hearings, community outreach programs, and constituency offices. These initiatives aim to ensure that all citizens, regardless of socio-economic status or location, can participate in the parliamentary process. Furthermore, parliament considers the physical accessibility of its buildings and communication materials for persons with disabilities, aligning with the IDP target for inclusiveness. The indicators emphasise the importance of public participation in parliamentary processes. In SA's parliament, public involvement is promoted through mechanisms such as public hearings, submissions, and access to committee meetings, all of which can be evaluated using the IDP framework. Parliament also allows CSOs to contribute to policy discussions, which serves as another key IDP indicator; thus, the quality and frequency of such engagement are significant metrics. Citizens can engage in the legislative process through various means, including public hearings, petitions, and direct communication with their representatives. The number and quality of consultations on proposed legislation are critical for assessing responsiveness. Parliamentary proceedings are open to the public, featuring live broadcasts and accessible records of debates and decisions, with the availability of Hansard transcripts serving as an important indicator. Moreover, effective parliamentary functioning requires adequate administrative and research support for MPs, including well-trained staff and access to research resources. The physical and technological infrastructure must also facilitate MPs' work; thus, well-equipped parliamentary buildings, IT services, and digital tools enhance operational efficiency.

Indicator 6.1: Parliamentary Environment for Public Participation

Dimension 6.1.1: Legal Framework for Public Participation: The Constitution of SA enshrines the right to public participation in governance, which is further supported by various laws and policies, such as the Promotion of Access to Information Act. Parliament's Public Participation Model provides a structured framework for involving citizens in parliamentary processes, including legislation, oversight and policy matters, by setting minimum standards for informing, consulting, involving and providing feedback to the public. It is intended to make participation more meaningful and consistent across Parliament by clarifying processes, institutional responsibilities and mechanisms for incorporating public input into decision-making. These legal frameworks provide the basis for public involvement in parliamentary processes.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division, Legislative Sector Support Programme, and Offices of the Speaker of the NA and Chairperson of the NCOP.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All PCs.
- **Department(s):** All Departments.

Dimension 6.1.2: Institutional Capacity for Public Participation: Parliament has established dedicated structures, such as the Public Participation Unit, to enhance institutional capacity for public engagement. This unit coordinates public hearings, outreach programs, and other initiatives that facilitate citizen involvement in legislative and oversight processes.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division, NCOP Division, and Human Resource Management Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All PCs.
- **Department(s):** All Departments.

Dimension 6.1.3: Public Education About the Work of Parliament: Public education initiatives are crucial for enhancing understanding of parliamentary processes. Parliament conducts workshops, seminars, and outreach programs to inform citizens about its functions, the law-making process, and how they can participate. Educational materials are also made available online and through various media channels.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Parliamentary Communication Services Division and Knowledge and Information Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All PCs.
- **Department(s):** All Departments.

Indicator 6.2: Public Participation in Parliamentary Processes

Dimension 6.2.1: Participation in Law-Making: Public participation in the law-making process is encouraged through public hearings and consultations, where citizens and stakeholders can provide input on proposed legislation. Committees actively seek public submissions and consider these inputs when formulating recommendations.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division, Legislative Sector Support Programme, and Knowledge and Information Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All PCs.
- **Department(s):** All Departments.

Dimension 6.2.2: Participation in Oversight: Citizens are invited to participate in oversight activities, such as attending committee meetings and public hearings on government performance. Parliamentary committees regularly engage with the public to discuss issues related to executive accountability and service delivery.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division and Knowledge and Information Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All PCs.
- **Department(s):** All Departments.

Dimension 6.2.3: Participation in the Budget Cycle: Public participation in the budget cycle occurs through public consultations conducted by parliamentary committees and the Minister of Finance. These forums allow citizens to express their views on budget priorities and allocations, fostering transparency and accountability in financial decision-making.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Treasury Advice Office, and Core Business Support Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Standing Committee on Appropriations, Standing Committee on Finance and Joint Standing Committee on the Financial Management of Parliament.
- **Department(s):** National Treasury, Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and Government Communication and Information System.

Dimension 6.2.4: Managing Public Input and Providing Feedback: Parliament has established mechanisms to manage public input effectively and ensure that feedback is provided. After public consultations, committees summarise key points and publish reports detailing how public input was considered in decision-making processes, demonstrating responsiveness to citizen concerns.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division and Parliamentary Communication Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All PCs.
- **Department(s):** All Departments.

Indicator 6.3: Participation of Diverse Groups in the Work of Parliament

Dimension 6.3.1: Engaging Civil Society Organisations: Engaging CSOs is a vital part of fostering participation. Parliament actively collaborates with CSOs to facilitate public input on various issues, leveraging their expertise and networks to enhance outreach efforts.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division and Parliamentary Communication Services.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All PCs.
- **Department(s):** All Departments.

Dimension 6.3.2: Reaching Out to All Communities: Parliament conducts outreach programs to reach diverse communities, including marginalised and rural populations. Initiatives such as the Taking Parliament to the People program enable MPs to engage directly with constituents, ensuring that all voices are heard, particularly those that may be underrepresented in traditional parliamentary processes.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** NCOP Division, Core Business Support Section, and Parliamentary Communication Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All PCs.
- **Department(s):** All Departments.

6.7 Target 7: Representative Parliament

SA's proportional representation electoral system allows political parties to gain seats based on the proportion of votes received, thereby ensuring diverse representation across various political groups. This system facilitates a parliamentary reflection of the country's demographics, including race, gender, and minority representation. This IDP target emphasises the need for greater inclusion of marginalised communities, such as persons with disabilities and youth, aligning with SA's efforts to enhance the representation of underrepresented groups. The indicators of representativeness assess how effectively MPs represent the population, particularly women, youth and marginalised communities. The proportional representation system in SA ensures that political parties secure seats according to their share of the national vote, and the IDP indicators evaluate whether this system guarantees equitable representation for all population groups. To ensure that SA's diverse population is adequately represented in parliament, the focus must include demographics such as gender, race, and youth. The proportion of women, youth and individuals from marginalised groups in parliament serves as a significant indicator. Furthermore, MPs should maintain strong links with their constituencies, and effective representation can be evaluated based on how well they address local concerns and engage constituents in the legislative process.

Indicator 7.1: Electoral Integrity

Dimension 7.1.1: Voting and Election Rights: SA's Constitution guarantees voting and election rights for all citizens, ensuring that elections are free, fair, and accessible. The Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) oversees the electoral process, implementing measures to enhance transparency, security, and inclusiveness in elections. Initiatives include voter education campaigns to inform citizens about their rights and the voting process.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Legislative Sector Support Programme, and Core Business Support Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development, Constitutional Review Committee, Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies and Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs.
- **Department(s):** Department of Home Affairs, Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and Government Communication and Information System.

Dimension 7.1.2: Candidacy, Party, and Campaign Rights and Responsibilities: The legal framework governing candidacy and party rights is established by the Electoral Act. This legislation outlines the processes for party registration, candidate nominations, and campaign financing, ensuring accountability and fairness. The IEC monitors compliance with campaign regulations and promotes adherence to ethical conduct among candidates and political parties.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** NCOP Division, Legislative Sector Support Programme, and Core Business Support Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs, Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies, Joint Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests and Constitutional Review Committee.
- **Department(s):** Department of Home Affairs, Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, Department of Public Service and Administration, Department of International Relations and Cooperation and Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

Dimension 7.1.3: Role of Public Authorities in Elections: Public authorities, including the IEC, play a crucial role in ensuring the integrity of elections by conducting them independently and impartially. The IEC is responsible for managing all aspects of the electoral process, from voter registration to the counting of votes, thereby fostering public trust in electoral outcomes.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Legislative Sector Support Programme, and Core Business Support Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Portfolio Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs, Portfolio Committee on Communications and Digital Technologies, Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development.
- **Department(s):** Department of Home Affairs, Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, Department of Police, Independent Police Investigative Directorate and State Security Agency.

Indicator 7.2: Composition of Parliament

Dimension 7.2.1: Representation of Political Diversity: The proportional representation electoral system used in SA's promotes political diversity in parliament by allowing smaller parties to gain representation. This system ensures that a wide range of political views is represented, contributing to a more pluralistic legislative environment.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** NCOP Division, Legislative Sector Support Programme, and Members Support Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Rules Committee of the National Assembly and Programme Committee of the National Assembly.
- **Department(s):** Department of International Relations and Cooperation, Government Communication and Information System and Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

Dimension 7.2.2: Representation of Women: Efforts to increase women's representation in parliament include the implementation of gender quotas within political parties, encouraging parties to nominate a higher percentage of women candidates. The Multi-Party Women's Caucus advocates for women's rights and interests within parliament, focusing on legislative reforms that promote gender equality.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Human Resource Management Division, Member Support Services, NCOP Division, and Core Business Support Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All PCs.
- **Department(s):** Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Department of Public Service and Administration and National School of Government.

Dimension 7.2.3: Representation of Youth: Youth representation is encouraged through initiatives such as the Youth parliament, which provides a platform for young people to engage with lawmakers and express their concerns. Political parties are also motivated to include young candidates on their electoral lists to reflect the demographic composition of the country.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** NCOP Division, Core Business Support Division, Member Support Services, Parliamentary Communication Services Division, and Knowledge and Information Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All PCs.
- **Department(s):** All Departments.

Dimension 7.2.4: Representation of Other Underrepresented Groups: Parliament actively seeks to enhance the representation of other underrepresented groups, such as persons with disabilities and marginalised communities. This is facilitated through outreach programs and advocacy efforts aimed at encouraging diverse candidates to participate in elections.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division, NCOP Division, and Knowledge and Information Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All PCs.
- **Department(s):** All Departments.

Indicator 7.3: Composition of Parliamentary Bodies

Dimension 7.3.1: Composition of Governing Bodies: The composition of parliamentary governing bodies, including the Presiding Officers and the Executive, reflects the diversity of the nation. The selection of leadership positions considers gender and political representation to ensure that all voices are included in decision-making.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Strategic Management and Governance, and NCOP Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Rules Committee of the National Assembly and Programme Committee of the National Assembly.
- **Department(s):** Department of Public Service and Administration, Government Communication and Information System and Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation.

Dimension 7.3.2: Composition of Committees: Parliamentary committees are structured to reflect the composition of parliament as a whole, promoting diversity in their membership. Parliamentary committees are generally constituted to reflect the proportional representation of political parties in Parliament, allowing different political perspectives to be represented in committee deliberations. While Parliament promotes broader principles of representation and inclusion, there does not appear to be a general requirement that the composition of every committee must specifically reflect gender or other demographic groups.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Core Business Support Division, Legislative Sector Support Programme, and Members Support Services Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** Rules Committee of the National Assembly and Programme Committee of the National Assembly.

- **Department(s):** Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Department of Public Service and Administration and Department of International Relations and Cooperation.

Dimension 7.3.3: Gender and Age Balance in Parliamentary Bodies: Efforts are made to maintain a gender and age balance within parliamentary bodies, promoting inclusive representation. This involves implementing measures such as quotas and encouraging parties to consider gender and age diversity when selecting committee members and leadership positions.

- **Relevant Parliamentary division(s):** Human Resource Management Division, Member Support Services, and NCOP Division.
- **Relevant PC(s):** All PCs.
- **Department(s):** Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, National School of Government and Government Communication and Information System.

7. Way forward & Conclusion

SA has made significant progress in some areas, however, challenges still remain especially in ensuring effective accountability, enhancing inclusiveness for marginalised groups, and increasing responsiveness and meaningful participation. Applying these targets helps identify areas where SA's parliament can improve its democratic functioning and better serve its diverse population. From a CSO perspective, going forward, the following is recommended:

- Strengthen parliamentary relations with internal and external stakeholders to bolster the quality of research and assessment of the IDPs.
- Expand the tools to conduct the assessment of SA's parliament.
- Provide additional analysis to enhance ParliMeter.
- Benchmark SA's parliament against other international and regional legislatures to identify best practices and innovative approaches to implementing the IDPs.
- Conduct interviews and focus groups with MPs, parliamentary staff, and committee members to gather qualitative insights into challenges and successes in implementing IDPs.
- Investigate barriers to public participation and develop recommendations for enhancing inclusivity and accessibility.
- Evaluate the adequacy of resources and support available to MPs and parliamentary committees, including research services, administrative assistance, and professional development.
- Analyse the impact of capacity-building initiatives on MPs' legislative and oversight functions.
- Develop refined assessment tools to measure the effectiveness of parliamentary functions, particularly focusing on legislative quality, oversight mechanisms, and public participation.
- Include performance indicators for assessing the long-term impact of parliamentary actions on socio-economic development and governance.

It is noted that, while the relevant parliamentary divisions, portfolio committees and government departments were listed, a deeper dive is necessary to scrutinise the applicable documentation and processes. This will involve closer collaboration with parliament and other stakeholders, so as to ensure an accurate assessment of high quality and use-value.

This report highlights the critical role of the SA's parliament in fostering democratic governance in a challenging and diverse national context. While significant strides have been made in areas such as gender representation and public transparency, persistent challenges in accountability, inclusivity, and responsiveness impact parliament's full alignment with the IDPs. The findings highlight the need for robust oversight mechanisms, enhanced public engagement, and systemic reforms to address institutional inefficiencies.

Strengthening parliament's capacity to implement the IDPs not only aligns with global democratic standards but also positions SA as a leader in legislative excellence. Achieving this requires a strategic commitment to the principles of good governance, supported by institutional reforms, increased transparency and enhanced collaboration with civil society and the public.

The recommendations presented in this report provide a comprehensive roadmap for reform, emphasising the importance of inclusivity, accountability, and transparency in all parliamentary processes. By addressing these areas, the SA's parliament can fulfil its constitutional mandate more effectively, contributing to the realisation of the SDGs and the broader vision of a just and equitable society. The following report (IDP Part 3) includes analysing individual targets and dimensions in regard to OUTA, PMG and OpenUP's work.

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9. Glossary

Accountable Parliament	A system in which parliamentary actions and spending are transparent and subject to oversight.
Auditor-General of South Africa	The independent institution responsible for auditing government departments and providing reports to SCOPA on how public funds are spent.
Autonomy	Parliament's ability to operate independently from the executive branch, with self-governed procedures and administrative functions.
Chief Whip	A parliamentary office-bearer who coordinates a political party's parliamentary work, maintains party discipline and organises members' participation in parliamentary proceedings. The Chief Whip of the NCOP coordinates the business of that House and oversees provincial whips.
Code of Conduct	A set of rules that governs the behaviour of MPs, ensuring they act in the public interest and uphold parliamentary integrity.
Committee Hearings	Public or closed sessions where parliamentary committees engage with stakeholders, experts, and the public to gather input on legislation or investigate specific issues.
Conflicts of Interest	MPs are required to declare financial interests and avoid situations where their personal interests' conflict with their duties as public representatives.
Constituencies	A constituency refers to a group of people represented by a particular political leader or organisation. In a political context, it can mean the residents of an electoral district who elect a representative to government. However, in a broader sense, it can refer to any group of stakeholders or citizens who have a common interest and seek representation in policymaking processes. These groups may range from geographic regions to socio-economic or interest-based groups.

Disciplinary Committee	In the parliamentary context, a committee responsible for considering allegations of misconduct by Members of Parliament and addressing breaches of parliamentary rules through the applicable disciplinary procedures.
Effective Parliament	Refers to a parliament that operates autonomously, follows procedural rules, and carries out legislative functions independently of external influences.
Financial and Fiscal Commission	An independent constitutional advisory institution that makes recommendations on financial and fiscal matters, including the equitable sharing of revenue among national, provincial and local government.
Electoral Integrity	Ensuring elections are conducted fairly and transparently, with equal access and rights for all citizens to vote and participate in democratic processes.
Gender Mainstreaming	The integration of a gender perspective in all aspects of law-making and budgeting, promoting equality between men and women.
Human Rights in Law-making	Ensuring that all legislation aligns with the Constitution's Bill of Rights, protecting citizens' rights through the law-making process.
Inclusive Parliament	Promotes participation and representation of diverse groups, such as women, Youth and persons with disabilities, in legislative and oversight processes.
Institutional Capacity for Public Participation	Parliament has established frameworks, such as the Public Participation Services, to facilitate citizen involvement in legislative and oversight processes.
Marginalised Groups	Marginalised groups are those that experience disadvantage or exclusion from mainstream social, economic, or political opportunities. These groups are often sidelined due to factors such as race, gender, disability, income, or geographic location. Marginalisation can result in limited access to resources like education,

employment, healthcare, or political representation, further perpetuating inequality.

Media Access to Parliament	Accredited journalists are allowed to report on parliamentary activities, ensuring transparency through media coverage.
Oversight	Parliament's role in monitoring and scrutinising government actions, policies, and spending.
Parliamentary Budget Office	A resource that provides independent analysis of budgetary matters to MPs, aiding them in making informed financial decisions.
Participatory Parliament	Encourages active citizen engagement in the legislative process through public participation, hearings, and consultations.
Policymaking	Policymaking refers to the process through which governments, organisations, or institutions develop and implement laws, regulations, and guidelines that affect the public. This process involves identifying issues, setting agendas, formulating policies, adopting them, implementing, and evaluating their outcomes. It is influenced by a range of stakeholders including elected officials, civil servants, interest groups, and the public.
Portfolio Committee	Committees that scrutinise legislation and oversee government departments, holding them accountable. Examples include PC on Justice, PC on Health, and PC on Energy.
Promotion of Access to Information Act	Legislation that ensures public access to government-held information to promote transparency and accountability.
Protection of Personal Information Act	South Africa's data protection law, Act 4 of 2013, which regulates how public and private bodies collect, use, store and share personal information to protect privacy.

Public Participation	Public participation involves the process by which individuals or groups engage in decision-making activities, particularly in the context of governance and policymaking. It allows citizens to contribute their perspectives, ensuring that policies reflect the needs and priorities of diverse groups, especially marginalised communities. This can occur through public consultations, hearings, community forums, or collaborative policymaking processes.
Public Participation Services	A unit within parliament designed to enhance public engagement, allowing citizens to participate in legislative processes through hearings and submissions.
Public Submissions	A process where citizens and stakeholders can provide input on proposed laws, ensuring public participation in the legislative process.
Questions to Ministers	A formal mechanism allowing MPs to question government ministers, holding them accountable for their departments' actions and decisions.
Representation of Political Diversity	Ensures that parliament reflects the political diversity of the population through proportional representation in elections.
Representative Parliament	Aims to reflect the diversity of the population, including political, gender, age, and community representation.
Responsive Parliament	Engages with the public's concerns and responds to emerging issues through legislative and policy-making actions.
Socio-Economic	Socio-economic refers to the interrelationship between social and economic factors. This term is often used to describe issues where both social and economic elements are at play, such as poverty, unemployment, income inequality, and access to education or healthcare. Policies aimed at addressing socio-economic disparities often focus on improving economic opportunities and social welfare for disadvantaged populations.

Taking Parliament to the People	An outreach initiative where parliament engages directly with citizens by holding sessions in various regions, promoting inclusivity.
Transparency of the Legislative Process	Ensuring the public has access to parliamentary debates, reports, and legislative proceedings through broadcasts, public hearings, and the parliamentary website.
Transparent Parliament	Ensures public access to parliamentary debates, processes, and records to maintain openness and accountability.
Workforce Diversity	Ensuring that parliamentary staff reflect the diverse racial, gender, and socio-economic makeup of the country.
Youth Inclusion	The involvement of young people in parliamentary processes, both through youth representation in parliament and through platforms such as youth parliament.