SECRETARIAT OF THE STATE GREAT HURAL

CONSOLIDATING
PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY
IN MONGOLIA SUB-PROJECT

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STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

FACTSHEET ON THE RESULTS OF

THE "CONSOLIDATING PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY IN MONGOLIA" PROJECT

Ulaanbaatar
2023

CONTENT

FOREWORD 4-5

PROJECT INFORMATION 6

OVERVIEW OF THE EVENTS 7

HIGHLIGHTED RESULTS 10

OUTCOME 1. PARLIAMENTARY CAPACITIES FOR THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS ARE STRENGTHENED 10

1.1. Parliamentary self-assessment on human rights and gender 10

1.2. A training mechanism for law drafters 13

OUTCOME 2. PARLIAMENTARY CAPACITIES FOR OVERSIGHT STRENGTHENED 15

2.1. Legal framework for Parliamentary Oversight 15

2.2. Cooperation between Mongolian Parliamentary Secretariat and Swiss Parliamentary Service 18

OUTCOME 3. ENHANCED PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT IN PARLIAMENTARY PROCESSES 20

3.1. "Parliamentary Education" program 20

3.2. "D-Parliament" digital system 23

3.3. "Legislative Information Center" 23

FOR YOUR "PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION" 22

FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the summary of the implementation and results of the project "Consolidating Parliamentary Democracy in Mongolia," a joint effort by the Mongolian Parliamentary Secretariat (MPS) and the Swiss Development Agency.

Over the past two and a half years, we have successfully achieved our primary project objective, which is to support the strengthening of democratic governance in Mongolia and enhance the capacity of the MPS in accordance with amendments to the Constitution of Mongolia.

The results generated under the project have significantly contributed to the State Great Hural's functions, including legislative activities, monitoring law implementation, enhancing citizen and public participation in parliamentary affairs. This project has made a valuable contribution to increasing the overall effectiveness of the legislative institution's activities.

Through this factsheet, we present the results of the first parliamentary self-assessment on human rights and gender issues, the capacity-building training for law drafters, and the establishment of sustainable and effective cooperation with the Swiss Parliamentary Service (SPS).

The factsheet will also elaborate on recent initiatives within the framework of implementing the parliamentary representative function, including the "Parliament Education" program, the D-Parliament digital system, the activities of the Legislation Promotion Centers, the attained results, and the progress made.

On behalf of the Mongolian Parliamentary Secretariat (MPS), I extend sincere gratitude to the Swiss Development Agency, government organizations, SPS, the project unit staff, Parliamentary education trainers, and the personnel of the 'Legislation Promotion Center' for their collaboration in enhancing the activities of the State Great Hural and the MPS, and for their efforts in intensifying parliamentary reforms.

ENKHBAT Damdin (Ph.D)

Secretary General of the State Great Hural,
Project Director

FOREWORD

I am delighted to share with you all the excellent results of our joint project **the Strengthening Representative Bodies in Mongolia project** supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. It is one of our major co-funded governance programmes. These results are achieved jointly with the Office of the President, the Mongolian and Swiss Parliament Secretariat, the Cabinet Secretariat of the Government of Mongolia and civil society organizations of Mongolia to advance sustainable development through democratization and decentralization reform.

In a lively and strong democracy, citizens are governing themselves to the greatest extent possible rather than delegate their power and responsibility to representatives acting in their names. The latest amendments made to the Constitution of Mongolia have triggered **the parliamentary reform in Mongolia**. And SDC with the **Swiss Parliamentary Services** collaborated on the development of *parliamentary oversight mechanisms* in Mongolia.

Gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments are drivers of change for a more resilient and peaceful world. Thus, SDC and Inter-Parliamentary Union have partnered to support the Mongolian Parliament to become more gender sensitive and to champion human rights.

We can also see real progress made in ensuring citizens' participation in the legislative process, through the introduction of the D-parliament platform, the Parliamentary Education Program and the Legislative Information Centres.

I am very grateful that SDC was able to support the advancements and results presented in this brochure. Of course, we hope that all these significant achievements in our joint efforts to strengthen parliamentary democracy and empower local governments – always with the main goal to provide better services to citizens - will continue and be sustained in Mongolia.

However, let's not forget that all these developments and changes would never have been possible to achieve without the ongoing dedication and commitment of people behind our partner.

Therefore, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our partners at the Parliament Secretariat, the scholars and researchers, the project teams and of course, the Swiss Parliamentary Services for their productive and fruitful cooperation.

Thank you!

Stefanie Burri,
Head of Cooperation, SDC

PROJECT INFORMATION

CONSOLIDATING
PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY
IN MONGOLIA SUB-PROJECT

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

The "Consolidating Parliamentary Democracy in Mongolia" (CPDM) project aims to strengthen the performance of the national parliament in the new context of the Constitutional Amendment and governance system by consolidating achievements of MPS and SPS collaboration.

Additionally, within the project framework, the objective was to enhance the institution's effectiveness by strengthening capacities in areas such as legislation, monitoring law implementation, ensuring transparency and openness in governance, increasing citizen and public participation in parliamentary activities, and implementing strategic planning.

RESULT:

OUTCOME 1

Parliamentary capacities for the legislative process are strengthened

The project will provide a methodology to support and implement legislative activities, offering methods, information, and advocacy to promote the establishment of a parliament that is attentive to human rights and gender.

OUTCOME 2

Parliamentary capacities for oversight strengthened

By providing support in enhancing parliamentary oversight methods and mechanisms, the Parliament's capacity to supervise the implementation of legislation will be strengthened.

OUTCOME 3

Enhanced public awareness and engagement in parliamentary processes

The project will offer support and enhance access to information concerning research and the adoption of international practices in the field of increasing citizens' participation in parliamentary activities.

PROJECT TIMELINE: 2021.08.06 – 2023.12.31

OVERVIEW OF THE EVENTS

2021

2021.08.06

The agreement for implementing the project "Consolidating Parliamentary Democracy in Mongolia" was signed by the Secretary General of the Parliament, L. Olziysaikhan, and Stephanie Burri, the head of the Cooperation, Swiss Development Agency.

2021.12.23

The "Parliamentary Education" program has been officially launched. This national program has broadened its scope to encompass "Youth Parliament," "Parliamentary Debate," basic training for 12-14-year-olds, 15-17-year-olds, and a sub-program for the training of trainers.

2021.12.24

The first law on Parliamentary Oversight has been approved. The project provided support for research, references, and advocacy during the process of deliberation and approval of the draft law.

2021.12

The project conducted a customer evaluation of the law forum electronic system and provided recommendations. It has become the primary source of research to determine the needs of the D-Parliament system, which is now successfully implemented.

2021.12

A manual for chairpersons of the plenary session of the Parliament and the Standing Committee meeting was developed and is now in use.

2022

2022.03.30

In alignment with the Swiss Parliamentary Office and international best practices, a Cooperation Unit for Projects and Programs has been established in the MPS. This unit has led to advancements in developing technical cooperation with the Secretariat Offices of other countries' parliaments, enhancing the outcomes of projects and programs implemented at the MPS, and ensuring effective coordination.

2022.05.13-14

The Parliamentary Research and Training Institute has established a memorandum of cooperation with the Research Office of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea. Additionally, an event was organized to gain insights into the activities of the Budget Analysis Office of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.

2022.05.25-31

The National Parliamentary Debate Championship was held under the theme "Parliamentary Education," with children convening for the first time in the Parliament's plenary session hall.

2022.06.16

A new methodology for analyzing the draft budget was approved. Employing this method, amendments to the 2022 budget, as well as the 2023 and 2024 state budgets, were thoroughly analyzed, and the conclusions were presented during the plenary session of the Parliament.

2022.08.11

The Parliament and the Inter-Parliamentary Union established a "Memorandum of Cooperation." In line with this memorandum, three training sessions and seminars were conducted on human rights and gender issues. In November 2022, representatives of the MPS and the National Human Rights Committee familiarized themselves with the activities of the IPU and gained insights into the experience of self-assessment of the parliament.

2022.11.27-12.02

The 6th Professional Exchange Program on Parliamentary Evaluation between the MPS and the SPS took place in Bern, Switzerland.

2023

2023.05.13 & 08.03

Legislation Promotion Centers have been established under the Bayankhongor, Darkhan-Uul, and Uverkhangai CRKs. These centers support the goal of strengthening representative democracy by providing information about the decisions and activities of the Parliament and the CRK to citizens. Additionally, they facilitate the reception of citizens' opinions and requests.

2023.05, 09 cap

The National Book Festival, conducted biannually, has cultivated a tradition of promoting the "Parliamentary Education" program and the D-Parliament electronic system among citizens and the public. Over the course of three Book Festivals, the project actively participated and delivered training and information sessions to more than 8,000 citizens.

2023.06.30

In celebration of International Parliament Day, the program "Participation of Journalists in Consolidating Parliamentary Democracy" was implemented with the objective of promoting awareness of the Law on Parliamentary Oversight. Graduates of the program were awarded certificates in recognition of their successful completion.

2023.05.24-26

In line with the policy aimed at enhancing the quality of legislation, the first "Legislative drafters Training" was conducted in collaboration with the Mongolian Bar Association. A total of 56 lawyers and jurists from key government institutions, including the MPS, the Office of the President, and the Cabinet Secretariat, which play a pivotal role in law drafting, completed the training and were awarded qualification certificates.

2023.06.14

The project learned about the initiative of the "Parliamentary Education Club" at Capital School No. 148. Guided by G. Bayarmaa, one of the 102 trainers trained under the project, the club remained active throughout the school year, engaging in advocacy activities within the class, among friends, at school, and within the family. The club is poised to continue its efforts similarly for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year.

2023.07 & 09 cap

D. Delgermaa, a teacher at School 14, and B. Bayarmaa, a teacher at School 141, selected participants of the "Parliamentary Education-Trainer" program implemented in 2022, visited the Houses of Councilors and Representatives of the Japanese Parliament. Moreover, L. Mishigjav, a teacher at New Idea Innova School, visited the German Bundestag. These participants gained valuable insights into the experiences and activities of parliamentary education programs implemented by these respective parliaments.

2023.10.24-25

The Secretary General of the Parliament, L.Ulziisaikhan, and the Secretary General of the IPU, Martin Chungong, convened an official meeting in Luanda, the capital of the Republic of Angola. During the meeting, they discussed the implementation of the memorandum of cooperation between the State Great Hural and the IPU, focusing on organizing the self-evaluation of the parliament.

2023.09.04-07

Representatives from the Office of the Swiss Parliament visited Mongolia for the fourth time, conducting a seminar on the activities and experiences of the Standing Committee of the Swiss Parliament. The seminar was participated by the Members of Parliament and relevant officials. Additionally, as part of the ongoing cooperation, measures were implemented to facilitate the exchange of experiences among colleagues on monitoring and evaluating the implementation of laws and regulations.

2023.11.22-23

With the support of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Swiss Development Agency, the Parliament organized the first parliamentary self-assessment on human rights and gender issues. The State Great Hural achieved the milestone of being the first parliament in the world to conduct a self-assessment specifically focused on human rights.

Outcome 1.

PARLIAMENTARY CAPACITIES FOR THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS ARE STRENGTHENED

OUTCOME 1. PARLIAMENTARY CAPACITIES FOR THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS ARE STRENGTHENED

One of the key outcomes of the "Consolidating Parliamentary Democracy in Mongolia" project was the substantial support provided for the successful implementation of reforms to the Law on the State Great Hural and the Law on Meeting Procedures of the State Great Hural. This support was integral to enhancing the legislative capacity of the Parliament.

Furthermore, our contribution extended to the advancement of parliamentary institutions by endorsing the new policy measures incorporated in the strategic plan of the State Great Hural and the Mongolian Parliamentary Secretariat. This strategic plan serves as a roadmap for parliamentary reform in Mongolia.

HIGHLIGHTED RESULTS

1.1. PARLIAMENTARY SELF-ASSESSMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND GENDER

The project actively supported the advancement of new methods and methodologies to enhance the capacity of the Mongolian Parliamentary Secretariat in facilitating the execution of the legislative functions of the Parliament. This involved extensive research, adoption of best practices, and the incorporation of lessons learned from parliamentary systems in countries such as Switzerland, Germany, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. To empower legislators, the project provided essential information, methodical handbooks, and manuals, covering topics such as (i) the powers of the parliament and (ii) the power of parliamentarians.

Furthermore, the project achieved results by developing and endorsing a methodology for assessing the impact on human rights concerning draft laws presented to the Parliament. Over 10 training sessions and policy discussions on gender issues were organized in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission, the National Committee on Gender Equality, and civil society organizations, disseminating knowledge to approximately 800 participants (double counted).

A significant achievement in the journey toward establishing a human rights and gender-sensitive parliament is the successful collaboration between the Parliament and the IPU. The memorandum of understanding, inked between the two parliamentary institutions in August 2022, was effectively executed. Marking a historic milestone, the Parliament conducted its inaugural self-assessment on human rights and gender issues, an extraordinary event etched into the annals of parliamentary history.

The State Great Hural set a global precedent by becoming the first parliament in the world to undertake a self-assessment on human rights issues. Additionally, it is the 13th parliament globally to conduct a self-assessment on gender equality.

Self-Assessment Questions and the Scope of Evaluation

Human Rights and Parliament: Key Self-Assessment Questions	Parliamentary Gender Sensitivity: Key Self-Assessment Inquiries
• Human rights sensitive legislation • Strengthening parliamentary oversight • Increase parliamentary participation in the UN human rights reporting mechanism • Strengthening cooperation between the public and other human rights organizations	• Participation of Women in Parliament (Number, Positions) • Laws, Policies, and Systems to Ensure Gender Equality • The Issue of Gender Equality • Gender Culture, Environment, and Policy in Parliament

PARTICIPANTS

Participants **Total 87** | Female **46** | Male **41**

BY ORGANISATIONS:

- IPU – 3
- Members of Parliament – 12, female 4, male 8
- MPS staff - 41, female- 22 male- 19
- National consultants – 4, female -2, male -2
- National Human Rights Commission -6
- National Committee on Gender Equality – 5
- Civil Service Council – 1
- General Election Committee – 2
- Senior parliamentarians – 5
- Civil society representative – 7

PRESENTATION

Presentation **Total 13** | Keynote presentations **5** | Panel discussion presentations **8**

Chairman of the State Great Hural, G.Zandanshatar:

This evaluation is the first of its kind in the history of the Mongolian Parliament, conducted under the observation and attention of other parliaments worldwide. It is also a unique and significant event, considering two distinct contents simultaneously and in relation to each other.

A member of the State Great Hural and head of the Human Rights Subcommittee, Ts. Munkhtsetseg:

The Parliament's self-assessment has yielded numerous ideas and suggestions for reforms that promise significant progress in ensuring human rights and gender equality in Mongolia. It is crucial to pay attention to their implementation.

International consultant, Meg Munn:

> It is worth noting that the Mongolian parliament will be often mentioned as the first parliament in the world to conduct its own assessment of human rights.

National consultant for human rights, D.Gerel:

The 'Human Rights and Gender Self-Assessment' is a very bold step for this parliament.

1.2. A TRAINING MECHANISM FOR LEGISLATIVE DRAFTERS

In the strategy of the State Great Hural and the Mongolian Parliamentary Secretariat (MPS), the objective of implementing a "comprehensive training policy" to cultivate specialized parliamentary staff was outlined. Consequently, approximately 20 programs have been approved and implemented out of the planned 30 training sub-programs for members of Parliament and MPS staff, significantly enhancing the capacity of the MPS's human resources.

As part of this policy, the project supported the development and implementation of training programs and manuals covering law drafting, human rights, gender, ethics for parliamentary staff, advisers, assistants, and personal representatives of parliamentarians. This effort has enriched parliamentary training with new and relevant content.

Additionally, within the orientation training for MPS staff, comprehensive video lessons were created on 14 topics, enabling all employees to engage in learning through the "Electronic Parliamentary Training System." This is recognized as an effective step toward enhancing the productivity, results, and practical skills of MPS staff through continuous learning on the job.

Notably, the creation of a training mechanism for law drafters, a result of major policy changes and reforms aimed at improving the quality and outcomes of legislative processes, is emphasized. Acknowledging that the quality of laws depends significantly on the knowledge and skills of law drafters, the project has developed basic and advanced training programs, produced manuals, and obtained accreditation from the Mongolian Bar Association. In accordance with the approved program, training sessions were conducted twice in May and December 2023, benefiting over 120 lawyers and experts tasked with legal draft development in the Office of the President, the MPS, all government ministries, and selected organizations led by individuals elected or appointed by the State Great Hural. These training sessions marked a crucial step in initiating the preparation of professional legal drafters.

The first training session for law drafters concluded with the presentation of certificates to the participants on May 26, 2023.

B. Amarsanaa, Director of the School of Law at NUM, Doctor of Law

“It is important that law preparers, responsible for drafting laws on behalf of legislators, have a unified and correct understanding, addressing and resolving pertinent issues.”

B. Munkhbat, Senior Specialist in the Legal Department of the Ministry of Defense

“The training addressed previously ambiguous and confusing issues, bringing clarity and new insights. I hope these training sessions will continue regularly in the future.”

Outcome **2.**

PARLIAMENTARY
CAPACITIES FOR OVERSIGHT
STRENGTHENED

OUTCOME 2. PARLIAMENTARY CAPACITIES FOR OVERSIGHT STRENGTHENED

The project "Consolidating Parliamentary Democracy in Mongolia" has made a substantial contribution to establishing a new system of parliamentary oversight and ensuring the effective implementation of the first Law on Parliamentary Oversight.

Furthermore, the six-year stable cooperation between the Parliament and the Swiss Parliamentary Service has produced tangible results and established the foundation for further development. These accomplishments have played a crucial role in realizing the full objectives of the project.

2.1. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT

The project achieved a significant milestone by contributing to the development and discussion of an original draft law on Parliamentary Oversight. This initiative ushered in reforms and modifications to enhance the oversight function of the Parliament.

Furthermore, the organization of policy discussions and training sessions on the implementation of the new law played a crucial role in fostering a shared understanding among organizations and employees responsible for its execution. The preparation and dissemination of video presentations, manuals, and reference materials for legislators and relevant personnel had a noteworthy impact, creating favorable conditions for the proper application of the Law on Parliamentary Oversight.

Particularly noteworthy are the outcomes of the "Participation of Journalists in Consolidating Parliamentary Democracy" program. This initiative aimed to promote public awareness of the law on Parliamentary Oversight and enhance citizen participation in parliamentary oversight, showcasing meaningful results.

PARTICIPATION OF JOURNALISTS IN CONSOLIDATING PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY" PROGRAM

The program engaged 21 representatives from the realms of journalism and civil society. This one-month program, organized in collaboration with the NGO "Youth Policy Watch," exemplifies the principle of partnership between the government and civil society.

As part of the "International Parliament Day," celebrated annually on June 30, participants in the program underwent 48 hours of training and practical exercises. These sessions were designed to align with the key provisions of the Law on Parliamentary Oversight, concurrently enhancing the professional journalistic skills of the participants. As a result of this program, three journalistic works were developed and serve as valuable resources, making essential information easily accessible to the public.

Chairman of the State Great Hural G. Zandanshatar:

THE LAW ON PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT IS AIMED AT GUARANTEEING AND SAFEGUARDING CIVIL RIGHTS

This time, the Parliament focused on materializing the 2019 amendment to the Constitution. One of the laws passed in accordance with the amendments to the Constitution is the Law on Parliamentary Oversight. On the one hand, this law establishes procedures for the Parliament to carry out its oversight work. On the other hand, it is a law that defines how citizens and the public can participate in this process, all of which ensures the "guaranteeing and safeguarding of civil rights".

Head of Cooperation, SDC, Stefanie Burri:

WITH KNOWLEDGE COMES RESPONSIBILITY

The participation of journalists is crucial for the development of parliamentary democracy, not only in Mongolia but in all countries. Legislators and policymakers are providing insights into the drafting of the law, discussing the pros and cons of the new law on parliamentary oversight, and highlighting the opportunities it presents. This is a genuinely unique opportunity. However, it's important to remember that with knowledge comes responsibility. As journalists, the responsibility that falls on you is to speak on behalf of those who cannot speak.

Executive director, "Youth Policy Watch" NGO, T.Amarzaya:

IT WAS A GREAT PARTNERSHIP AND WE WORKED WITH MUTUAL RESPECT

As an organization dedicated to policy monitoring since its inception, the NGO "Youth Policy Watch" was honored to collaborate with the Mongolian Parliamentary Secretariat in implementing the crucial task of advocating for the law on Parliamentary oversight. The program truly exemplified a government-civil society partnership. We were somewhat apprehensive initially, as we had never worked together before. Questions arose: How does it work? What is the method? However, we entered the collaboration with the belief that communication would guide us. It turned out to be a great partnership, characterized by effective communication and mutual respect.

B. Enkhbayar:

I HOPE THAT THE PROGRAM WILL DRAW MORE PARTICIPANTS AND EVOLVE INTO AN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

As a journalist with eight years of experience in the television industry, I have observed that the program's sustainability lies in its provision of unique content not typically covered in university curricula. Research conducted in journalism training institutions revealed a lack of emphasis on citizens' participation, democracy, and legal training content in university courses for journalists. The NGO's training fills this gap by developing and implementing comprehensive content and methodologies, addressing this deficiency. The training brings industry experts as trainers and I truly appreciate this know-how.

The "Participation of Young Journalists in Governance" program has successfully established an Alumni Association, comprising 120 journalists who have completed five training sessions. Looking ahead, there is optimism that the program will continue to attract more participants and evolve into a thriving alumni association in the future.

2.2. COOPERATION BETWEEN MONGOLIAN PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT AND SWISS PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE

The ongoing collaboration between the Mongolian Parliamentary Secretariat and the Swiss Parliamentary Office, spanning six years, and the ensuing outcomes, are rightfully acknowledged as a pivotal component of the "Consolidating Parliamentary Democracy in Mongolia" project strategy.

Due to the collaboration between the Parliament Secretariats, the Mongolian Parliamentary Secretariat (MPS) has established a permanent system and mechanism for evaluating the consequences of legislation implementation, leading to an improvement in human resource capacity.

A concrete example of these positive outcomes is the selection of two monitoring and evaluation specialists from MPS to partake in a prestigious international scholarship program jointly organized by the University of Bern and the independent evaluation group of the World Bank.

Member of Parliament, Chair of Standing Committee on Justice, D.Tsogtbaatar

"Due to the collaboration between the Mongolian Parliamentary Secretariat and the Swiss Parliamentary Service, there has been an improvement not only in parliamentary oversight but also in the regular provision of information to members of parliament regarding the results of the evaluation of the implementation of adopted laws."

Felix Strebel,
Deputy Head of the Parliamentary Control of the Administration, Swiss Parliamentary Service (Evaluation office)

“The Swiss Parliamentary Service collaborates with the parliaments of many countries, with its longest and most stable cooperation being with the Mongolian Parliamentary Secretariat (MPS). The monitoring and evaluation skills of MPS staff have improved, and we are engaged in a shared learning experience, benefiting from each other’s expertise.

It is particularly gratifying to observe the diligent efforts of MPS staff in fulfilling the orders and requests for oversight and evaluation submitted by legislators with having high workload. Their commitment is evident, leading to continuous improvement in both knowledge and skills.”

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Outcome **3.**

ENHANCED PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT IN PARLIAMENTARY PROCESSES

OUTCOME 3. ENHANCED PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT IN PARLIAMENTARY PROCESSES

On May 7, 2020, the Parliament revised the Law on the State Great Hural in alignment with amendments made to the Constitution of Mongolia in 2019.

Through this law, the Mongolian Parliament Secretariat was designated to undertake the crucial role of *"improving citizens' knowledge and education about parliamentarianism, organizing training, and advocacy."* This provision stands as a significant development for the advancement of parliamentarians and the strengthening of democracy in Mongolia. In essence, the Parliament, beyond its legislative and oversight functions, demonstrated a particular focus on activities ensuring representation, marking a new direction in parliamentary reform.

The "Consolidating Parliamentary Democracy in Mongolia" project aims to implement and support this reform goal. Over the past two years, the project has actively contributed to the development and execution of the "Parliamentary Education" program.

Furthermore, notable accomplishments include support for the implementation of e-parliament policies, fostering citizens' participation in the legislative process, the establishment of law promotion centers in selected provinces, and the creation of a unified network.

3.1. PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAM

The "Parliamentary Education" program is designed to prepare and cultivate responsible citizens who actively engage in legislative activities with informed participation. It currently stands as one of the primary initiatives of parliamentary reform, effectively implemented at the national level.

OVERVIEW OF THE RESULTS:

BASIC TRAINING:

Teacher's and student manuals for both 12-14-year-olds and 15-17-year-olds, were comprehensively developed. As part of the project, training sessions were conducted for over 700 children in the capital and provinces, namely Bayankhongor, Darkhan-Uul, Ovorkhangai, Bayan-Olgii, Uvs, and Hovd.

TRAINING OF TRAINERS' PROGRAM:

In 2022, a total of 102 history and social science teachers from secondary schools in the capital underwent training to become trainers. These trainers subsequently conducted their sessions based on the provided manual, establishing and overseeing parliamentary education clubs at their respective schools. This approach aligns with the program's goals and anticipated outcomes.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE:

Made significant contributions to the enhancement of students' debating skills and the promotion of the parliamentary debate ethos. For instance, in 2022, a parliamentary debate competition was organized among students focusing on the topics of "Parliamentary Education" and "Constitution." In 2023, over 500 children actively participated in the competition.

YOUR PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION ... digital information channels:

edu.parliament.mn, the "Parliamentary Education" Facebook page, and Instagram are actively managed, with the creation and distribution of informational and advocacy content. Consequently, the objective of establishing an electronic infrastructure for the dissemination of parliamentary education has been successfully realized. The Public Relations Unit of the Mongolian Parliamentary Secretariat has commenced operations with the responsibility of ensuring ongoing and regular activities in this regard.

L. Ulziisaikhan, Doctor of Law and Associate Professor:

"ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL DOMAINS OF PARLIAMENTARY REFORM IS THE "PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION" PROGRAM.

The Mongolian Parliamentary Secretariat has implemented the "Parliamentary Education" program as a key measure within the framework of parliamentary reform. This program introduces a novel role alongside the traditional functions of law-making, representation, and oversight in parliaments of countries with highly developed parliamentary systems – the function of enlightenment. Aligned with the standards observed by other countries' parliaments, the Parliamentary Education program has been successfully implemented."

Parliamentary Education Program Trainer, G.Bayarmaa:

OUR CLUB HAS BEEN IN OPERATION FOR THE SECOND YEAR

After seeing an advertisement for the training of trainers for the "Parliamentary Education" program, I submitted my materials, successfully passed the training, and received certification. As one of the 102 trained teachers, I dedicated myself to personal development. To inspire and motivate children, the idea for a club was conceived, and a selection process was initiated. Despite the initial plan to accommodate 10-15 children, the interest exceeded expectations, with 20 children expressing their desire to participate. Despite limitations in available classrooms, we conduct weekly lessons following the "Parliamentary Education" program manual for 15-17 year olds. Our curriculum spans topics from "What is the Constitution" to "What is Election," and we also engage in advocacy efforts. Despite space constraints, the most important aspect is the active participation of our children.

O. Nomin-Erdene, 11th grade student of school No. 148:

I THOUGHT IT WAS USEFUL TO LEARN ABOUT THE PARLIAMENT.

I joined the club initially because my class teacher initiated it, and I found the prospect of gaining knowledge about Parliament to be useful. Every lesson has been a learning experience for me, providing a deeper understanding of the content, which is briefly covered in social study class, within the "Parliamentary Education" club. I enjoyed every topic, including human rights, law, parliament, and the electoral system. The visit to the State Palace during winter was particularly memorable, and it was a nice touch to wear the "Parliamentary Education" t-shirt. Additionally, I had the opportunity to give a speech in the club, marking my first experience in public speaking.

A.Enkhchimeg, specialist of the Department of Education and Science of Darkhan-Uul aimag:

MANY PARENTS WANTED TO ENROLL THEIR CHILDREN IN THE "YOUTH PARLIAMENT" PROGRAM.

As a teacher of history and social studies, I felt compelled to support the Parliamentary Education initiative for the development of children. Chairman of the Parliament G. Zandanshatar selected three children from our province for the "Youth Parliament" program initiated by the Mongolian Parliamentary Secretariat (MPS). However, due to high parental interest, a significant number of parents expressed a desire to enroll their children in the program. Responding to this demand, the "Youth Parliament" club was established under the Darkhan-Uul aimag's Citizen's Representative Khural (CRK). I am grateful for the motivation and support provided by the chairman of the CRK, S. Nasanbat.

We gathered information from the "Youth Parliament" page of the MPS, disseminated it, and encouraged my students to spread the information at school. The Youth Parliament Club was initially formed with 18 children, and it has now expanded to ten schools, engaging more than 100 children in its activities.

3.2. D-PARLIAMENT DIGITAL SYSTEM

One of the primary objectives of the project was to support e-parliament. Within this framework, the project contributed to the development of the D-Parliament system, including the preparation of content to enhance application and usage, as well as promoting information and advertisements.

In April 2022, the State Great Hural introduced the D-Parliament system, a combined web and application electronic system. Through this system, citizens now have the opportunity to vote on draft laws and other parliamentary decisions, participate in electronic polls, and express their opinions directly, irrespective of time and space, and all of which are increasing citizen participation in parliamentary affairs.

As of October 2023, over 460,000 individuals have accessed the draft laws uploaded to the system, and more than 7,000 comments have been submitted on over 150 draft laws.

3.3. LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION CENTER

The Parliament and the Citizens' Representative Khurals can collaboratively undertake numerous activities aimed at strengthening representative democracy. These activities include disseminating information about the laws and approved measures, receiving citizens' opinions and requests, and incorporating them into their decisions and initiatives.

To foster such cooperation, "Legislation Promotion Centers" have been established in Bayankhongor, Darkhan-Uul, and Uverhangai aimags. The establishment of these centers is guided by good international practices and standards, emphasizing the importance of reflecting citizens' opinions, enhancing their legal knowledge, and promoting legislation in collaboration with local representative organizations.

S. Nasanbat, Chairman of Darkhan-Uul Aimag Citizens' Representative Khural:

WE WILL KEEP OUR DOORS OPEN FOR CITIZENS AND CHILDREN.

"With the support of the Mongolian Parliamentary Secretariat and the Swiss Development Agency, a "Legislation Promotion Center" has been established. In its full operational capacity, the center will proactively work to disseminate legal information, promote parliamentary education among our youth through the "Youth Parliament," and organize various events. The goal is to nurture Mongolian citizens who actively engage in democratic society.

The Legislation Promotion Center is committed to maintaining a steady and continuous operation by conducting regular meetings with members of Parliament and citizens. Additionally, it will ensure the active participation of representatives from the Citizens' Representative Khurals (CRKs) at all levels. The center will keep its doors open for citizens and children alike, with local funding being utilized to support its activities."

PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION

THE PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE STATE GREAT HURAL START-ING IN 2021 AIMS TO PREPARE AND CULTIVATE RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS WHO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES WITH INFORMATION.

Why is parliamentary education important?

IT IS IMPORTANT TO DEVELOP ACTIVE CITIZENS

PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATION IS THE BASIS FOR THE INFORMED PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS IN PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES

IT IS IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THE OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY OF THE PARLIAMENT

AN OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE PARLIAMENT IS A KEY LEVER TO PRO-VIDE CITIZENS WITH INFORMATION ABOUT PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES AND ENGAGE THEM IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS.

IT HELPS TO STRENGTHEN THE CONFIDENCE IN THE PARLIAMENT

GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES WILL BE BASED ON SOCIAL TRUST. AND WITHOUT SUCH COOPERATION, A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY CANNOT EXIST.

GABRIEL ALMOND - POLITICAL SCIENTIST