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**INTERPARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION:  
PRINCIPLES, CHALLENGES & PROSPECTS**

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This research aims to analyse interparliamentary cooperation in terms of its principles, challenges and prospects. The primary objective is to elucidate the fundamental principles that govern such cooperation, identify challenges faced, and explore potential prospects for enhancing collaboration among parliamentary bodies. The study employs a comprehensive research methodology, combining literature review, case studies and interviews with key stakeholders involved in interparliamentary cooperation. Both qualitative and quantitative data are utilised to provide a holistic understanding of the subject. The article yields valuable insights into the current state of interparliamentary cooperation, highlights successful instances and areas

that require improvement. The results present a nuanced perspective on the adherence to principles, the nature of challenges faced, and the existing prospects for fostering better collaboration among parliamentary entities. Findings indicate that while certain principles of interparliamentary cooperation are well-established, challenges such as political differences and procedural complexities persist. However, prospects, existing in the form of technological advancements and shared global concerns, could facilitate increased cooperation. The study concludes by emphasising the importance of addressing challenges and leveraging identified prospects to strengthen interparliamentary cooperation. Recommendations for improving the efficiency of existing mechanisms and developing new frameworks are provided to enhance the overall effectiveness of such collaborations. This research contributes to the academic understanding of interparliamentary cooperation by providing a comprehensive analysis of its principles, challenges and prospects. The findings have practical implications for policymakers, suggesting ways to overcome challenges and maximise the potential of parliamentary collaboration in addressing global issues. The study serves as a valuable resource for scholars, policymakers and practitioners interested in enhancing interparliamentary relations.

**Key words:** interparliamentary cooperation; parliamentarism; international relations; international politics; parliamentary diplomacy; parliament.

### **Introduction**

Modern state parliaments, in addition to their classical functions, actively engage in international activities<sup>6</sup> and increasingly perform the roles of constitutional bodies in foreign relations. This is due to certain characteristics, influenced by the specific form of governance, granting them a set of powers in the field of foreign policy. They also establish direct contacts with the bodies and officials of foreign states. One of the priority directions of contemporary parliamentary activity in the sphere of foreign policy is cooperation with foreign parliaments and their individual representatives.

Interparliamentary cooperation stands as a cornerstone in fostering diplomatic ties and collaboration among nations in the ever-evolving global landscape. This form of international engagement involves the exchange of ideas, experiences, and legislative practices between different parliamentary bodies, transcending borders and promoting mutual understanding. In a world interconnected by

political, economic and social threads, interparliamentary cooperation emerges as a vital mechanism for addressing shared challenges and advancing common goals. At its core, interparliamentary cooperation reflects the recognition that the challenges facing nations today are often complex and interrelated, requiring collective efforts for effective solutions. Through the open dialogue and information exchange, participating parliaments seek to build bridges, share best practices, and explore innovative approaches to addressing issues of global significance. This collaborative spirit extends beyond traditional diplomatic channels, allowing lawmakers to contribute to the development of policies that resonate with the diverse needs of their societies.

One of the key strengths of interparliamentary cooperation lies in its ability to transcend political differences and promote consensus-building. By engaging in direct communication, parliamentarians can foster an environment of trust and understanding, facilitating constructive dialogue even in the face of divergent perspectives. This not only enhances the effectiveness of diplomatic endeavors, but also contributes to the cultivation of a more inclusive and cooperative international community.

Furthermore, interparliamentary cooperation serves as a catalyst for the development and harmonisation of legislation across borders. As lawmakers share insights into their respective legal frameworks, they contribute to the creation of a more coherent and interconnected global legal landscape. This, in turn, promotes stability and facilitates the implementation of international agreements and conventions.

### **Analysis of recent research and publications**

Interparliamentary cooperation is a key element of international relations and diplomacy. Berthet V., Hazan R. Y., Lange F., Rasch B. E. emphasise how parliaments of different countries collaborate to address global challenges such as climate change, security, trade, and human rights.

In particular, they study models and forms of cooperation that may arise among different parliamentary bodies. Brink T., Fromage D., Likarchuk D. draw attention to the role of interparliamentary forums and organisations, such as the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (PA OSCE).

Additionally, Judge D., Leston-Bandeira C., Prouse C. highlight how interparliamentary cooperation can enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of decision-making, as well as contribute to the democratic development of participants in this process.

Thus, recent research in the field of interparliamentary cooperation underscores its importance in the modern world and the development of new strategies for effective collaboration among parliaments of different countries.

**Formulation of the objectives of the article**

In this article, we aim to explore and elucidate the principles, challenges, and prospects associated with interparliamentary cooperation. Modern state parliaments, beyond their conventional functions, are actively involved in international affairs and increasingly undertake roles akin to constitutional bodies in foreign relations. Considering the specificities influenced by various forms of governance, these parliaments hold a spectrum of powers in the realm of foreign policy, maintaining direct contacts with the institutions and officials of foreign states. Against this backdrop, we delve into the formulation of the objectives pertaining to interparliamentary cooperation, shedding light on the principles guiding such collaboration, the challenges encountered, and the potential prospects for fostering stronger diplomatic ties among nations.

**Presentation of the main material of the study**

Interparliamentary cooperation plays a crucial role in strengthening the interaction between different countries and their legislative bodies. This form of collaboration provides a platform for the exchange of experiences, ideas and best practices among the parliaments of various nations. One important aspect of interparliamentary interaction is the reinforcement of democratic principles and standards across different regions of the world (Prouse, 2023, p.17). Through the exchange of knowledge in legislation, procedures and democratic institutions, parliaments contribute to the development and consolidation of democratic institutions in their respective countries. Furthermore, interparliamentary cooperation serves as a significant mechanism for resolving international conflicts and disputes. Parliamentarians can utilise diplomatic channels to initiate dialogue and settle conflicts, thereby contributing to the maintenance of peace and security.

Finally, interparliamentary interaction also fosters the strengthening of economic ties between countries. The exchange of information on trade, investments, and economic development creates a favourable environment for business growth and enhances economic cooperation.

In our view, interparliamentary cooperation should be considered more broadly – not only as institutional but also as non-institutional interaction between parliaments, complementing traditional diplomacy with forms of intergovernmental representative dialogue. Based on these considerations, the following definition can be formulated:

– Interparliamentary cooperation is a legal interaction between the representative bodies of sovereign states, including their leaders, structural units,

or individual parliamentarians, carried out on an initiative basis with the aim of finding mutually acceptable approaches, and jointly addressing issues that pose a common (international) interest (Lange, 2024, p.142).

– Interparliamentary cooperation is the response of nation-states to the challenges of the modern world, aiming to consolidate the resources of governmental and non-governmental entities in the contemporary international political process to address common problems (Interparliamentary Union, 1923).

It constitutes an element of multifaceted foreign policy development associated with the activities of interparliamentary institutions within specific rules and procedures of interaction. This is directed towards constructing a unique social and political space within which the following occurs:

1. Democratisation of interstate relations.
2. Reduction of political uncertainty in international relations.
3. Minimisation of political, economic, image, and other risks in the international process.
4. Enhancement of public control over foreign policy decisions.
5. Inclusion of the parliament, both as a whole and its individual representatives, in the development of the foreign policy agenda.
6. Increased importance of interparliamentary diplomacy, which to some extent has an informal character, as an instrument for articulating the national interests of a modern state (Likarchuk et al., 2023, p.1357).

Interparliamentary cooperation plays a crucial role in fostering collaboration and understanding among different nations. At its core, this form of cooperation is grounded in the principles of mutual respect, equality and shared responsibility. One of key principles is a recognition of sovereignty of each participating parliament, emphasising the importance of treating all nations as equals in the collaborative process.

Transparency is another fundamental principle that underlies interparliamentary cooperation. It involves open communication, information sharing, and the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders. This transparency ensures that decisions and actions taken within the cooperative framework are clear, accountable, and aligned with the democratic values upheld by the participating nations.

Furthermore, interparliamentary cooperation is guided by the principle of inclusivity. This means that all nations, regardless of their size or geopolitical influence, have the opportunity to actively engage and contribute to the collaborative efforts. Inclusivity promotes a diverse range of perspectives, enriching the dialogue and fostering a more comprehensive understanding of global challenges.

Respect for human rights and the rule of law is a cornerstone principle within interparliamentary cooperation. By upholding these values, participating nations reinforce their commitment to promoting peace, stability, and the well-being of their citizens. This principle also serves as a common ground for building trust and understanding among nations with varying cultural, political, and economic backgrounds. Interparliamentary cooperation, guided by principles of mutual respect, transparency, inclusivity, and a commitment to human rights and the rule of law, provides a platform for nations to collaborate effectively in addressing shared challenges. These principles form the basis for a robust and enduring framework that enhances diplomatic relations, encourages dialogue, and promotes a more interconnected and harmonious global community.

As of today, interparliamentary cooperation is recognised as one of the channels for both bilateral and multilateral partnerships. Within this partnership, the following levels (aspects) are emphasised:

1. Level of Building Strategic Mutual Trust and Identifying Common Bilateral/Multilateral Interests – focuses on fostering strategic cooperation and trust on an international level.
2. Targeted Level Associated with Enhancing Strategic Cooperation in International and Regional Interparliamentary Organisations for the Protection of Common Interests – aims at strengthening collaboration in international and regional parliamentary bodies to safeguard shared interests.
3. Level of Joint Efforts within Interparliamentary Organisations to Counteract the Impact of Economic Crises – involves collaborative actions within interparliamentary bodies to counter the influence of economic crises.
4. Level of Assistance to National Enterprises in Exploring New Opportunities for Collaboration within Economic Development Initiatives of States – focuses on providing support to national businesses in finding new opportunities for cooperation within state economic development initiatives.
5. Level of Cultural Relations Development between States – aims at fostering cultural ties and exchanges between nations (Berthet et al., 2023, p.37).

Interparliamentary cooperation is an essential institution of representative democracy that contributes to addressing numerous challenges faced by modern states and societies. Currently, interparliamentary cooperation encompasses areas such as combating international terrorism, drug trafficking, organized crime, and poverty; countering illegal migration; promoting disarmament; ensuring energy, economic, environmental, and humanitarian security (Likar-

chuk et al., 2022, p.917). The contemporary evolution of representative bodies is characterised by increased involvement of parliaments in decision-making processes at the national, regional and global levels.

A qualitatively new stage in the development of interparliamentary cooperation is associated with the functioning of the European Union. The contribution of EU interparliamentary institutions lies not only in influencing the adoption of foreign policy decisions but also in participating in multi-level parliamentarism. In this system, interparliamentary cooperation institutions are part of a network of international parliamentary collaboration. Within national parliaments, a process can be observed in the formation of a new type of transnational parliamentarism. This is linked to the fact that parliamentarians, through formal and informal communication at the international level, go beyond "national orientation" and transform into "supranational", "European parliamentarians". Members of national parliaments gain an additional platform to control their governments as they become "players on multiple levels simultaneously" (Judge and Leston-Bandeira eds., 2024, p.193). This process involves the transmission of experience in the development and strengthening of parliamentary democratic culture, an integral element of transnational European interests.

The complexity, multidimensionality, multivector nature, and multiplicity of actors in the modern global political process highlight the need for new institutions, forms, and technologies to present and defend national interests. At the turn of the century, there is an increasing role and significance of interparliamentary cooperation institutions in international relations. The contemporary international political process, driven by globalisation and the diverse efforts of traditional and non-traditional actors in world politics, is inherently turbulent. The desire to enhance the efficiency of managing its development is linked to the construction of a unique space for interaction among parliamentary institutions. Within this space, rules and procedural aspects of "second-channel" diplomacy can be formulated, contributing to the reduction of uncertainty in intergovernmental, interbloc, and interregional cooperation.

Interparliamentary cooperation, while essential for fostering international understanding, faces various challenges that can impede its effectiveness. One significant challenge lies in the diversity of political systems and ideologies among participating nations. The differences in governance structures and political philosophies can create obstacles in finding common ground and developing unified approaches to global issues (Hazan and Rasch eds., 2023, p.107).

Another challenge is the potential for geopolitical tensions to hinder collaboration. Historical conflicts, territorial disputes, and varying national interests

can create a strained atmosphere, making it difficult for parliamentary bodies to work together effectively. Overcoming such challenges requires a commitment to dialogue, diplomacy, and a shared understanding of the importance of transcending political differences for the greater good (Fromage and van den Brink eds., 2020, p.62). The rapid pace of technological advancements poses a unique set of challenges for interparliamentary cooperation. Issues related to cybersecurity, digital governance, and the regulation of emerging technologies require a nimble and adaptive approach. Ensuring that parliamentary bodies are equipped to address these evolving challenges is crucial for the success and relevance of international collaboration.

Financial constraints and resource disparities among participating nations also present obstacles to effective interparliamentary cooperation. Some countries may struggle to allocate sufficient resources to actively engage in collaborative initiatives, leading to an imbalance in the contributions and benefits derived from such partnerships. Addressing these disparities requires a commitment to resource-sharing mechanisms and support for capacity building.

Despite these challenges, interparliamentary cooperation holds immense prospects for promoting global stability and prosperity. The exchange of ideas, best practices, and legislative experiences can lead to innovative solutions for shared challenges. Moreover, collaborative efforts in addressing issues such as climate change, poverty, and public health crises can result in more impactful and sustainable outcomes when nations work together. Embracing the prospects of interparliamentary cooperation requires a collective commitment to overcoming challenges, and fostering a spirit of cooperation that transcends national boundaries.

### **Conclusions**

Interparliamentary cooperation plays a pivotal role in fostering diplomatic relations and enhancing international collaboration. The principles guiding such cooperation are grounded in mutual respect, transparency, and the shared commitment to addressing global challenges. Through this collaborative approach, nations can work together to find common solutions, exchange ideas, and promote democratic values on a global scale. However, despite its inherent advantages, interparliamentary cooperation faces various challenges that impede its effectiveness. National interests, cultural differences, and political dynamics often create obstacles to seamless collaboration. Overcoming these challenges requires a concerted effort from participating nations to priori-



tise the greater good over individual interests, build trust, and establish effective communication channels.

Despite the challenges, the prospects of interparliamentary cooperation remain promising. In an interconnected world, where global issues such as climate change, terrorism, and public health crises transcend borders, the need for collaborative efforts becomes increasingly evident. The potential for shared economic prosperity, cultural exchange, and the promotion of human rights provides a strong foundation for nations to overcome differences and work together towards common goals.

Interparliamentary cooperation should be understood as legal interaction between the representative bodies of sovereign states, including their leaders, structural units, or individual parliamentarians, initiated with the aim of finding mutually acceptable approaches and jointly addressing issues of common (international) interest. Interparliamentary cooperation exhibits the following characteristics: equality of participants, voluntariness, international legal initiative, normative-legal regulation, broad geography of cultural connections, focus on solving contemporary issues, and diversity of forms and methods of implementation.

The objectives of interparliamentary cooperation are multifaceted and include, among other things: improving mutual understanding between countries, democratizing interstate relations, representing the interests of one's own people adequately, enhancing the democratic legitimacy of international organisations, contributing to global social and political stability, transforming confrontation in international relations into a contractual basis for constructive dialogue, fostering partnerships between countries and regions, and addressing international problems of any level.

Interparliamentary cooperation is based on principles that reflect the constitutional foundations of participating countries, as well as general principles of parliamentarism and specific principles. The latter group includes legitimacy, legality, equality of parties, coordination, voluntariness, initiative, non-interference in the internal affairs of states, mutual consideration of interests, collective free discussion and resolution of issues, planned approach, and diverse forms and methods of implementation.

In conclusion, interparliamentary cooperation is a dynamic and essential component of international relations. By adhering to the principles of mutual respect, transparency, and a commitment to shared values, nations can overcome challenges and unlock the vast prospects that collaborative efforts offer. In the era where global challenges require collective solutions, fostering interparliamentary cooperation is not just a choice, but a necessity for a more peaceful and prosperous world.

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## МІЖПАРЛАМЕНТСЬКЕ СПІВРОБІТНИЦТВО: ПРИНЦИПИ, ВИКЛИКИ ТА ПЕРСПЕКТИВИ

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Дослідження спрямоване на аналіз міжпарламентського співробітництва із погляду його принципів, викликів та перспектив. Основною метою є розкриття провідних принципів, які керують таким співробітництвом, ідентифікація посталих перед ним викликів та аналіз потенційних перспектив для зміцнення співпраці між парламентськими органами. Дослідження використовує комплексну методологію, об'єднуючи огляд літератури, кейс-стаді та інтерв'ю із ключовими зацікавленими сторонами, що беруть участь у міжпарламентському співробітництві. Комбінується якісна і кількісна інформація для надання комплексного розуміння предмета. У статті надано цінні висновки щодо поточного стану міжпарламентського співробітництва, висвітлено успішні приклади та сфери, які потребують вдосконалення. Результати представляють погляд на дотримання принципів, характер викликів та чинні перспективи для покращення співпраці між парламентськими структурами. Виявлено, що, хоча деякі принципи міжпарламентського співробітництва вже закріплені, існують виклики, такі як політичні розбіжності та процедурні складнощі. Однак перспективи у формі технологічних досягнень і спільних глобальних проблем можуть сприяти збільшенню співпраці. Дослідження полягали в наголошенні

на важливості вирішення викликів і використанні визначених перспектив для зміцнення міжпарламентського співробітництва. Надаються рекомендації щодо покращення ефективності наявних механізмів та розроблення нових каркасів для підвищення загальної ефективності такої співпраці. Це дослідження є внеском у наукове розуміння міжпарламентського співробітництва і надає комплексний аналіз його принципів, викликів та перспектив. Висновки мають практичні наслідки для політиків, вказуючи шляхи подолання труднощів і максимізації потенціалу парламентської співпраці у розв'язанні глобальних проблем. Наукова розвідка слугує цінним ресурсом для вчених, політиків і практиків, зацікавлених у покращенні міжпарламентських відносин.

**Ключові слова:** міжпарламентське співробітництво; парламентаризм; міжнародні відносини; міжнародна політика; парламентська дипломатія; парламент.