

WBI LEARNING RESOURCES SERIES

887 547 80X

PARLIAMENTS AS PEACEBUILDERS IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED COUNTRIES

Edited by
Mitchell O'Brien
Rick Stapenhurst
Niall Johnston

The World Bank
Washington, D.C.

Contents

Foreword ix

Preface xi

Contributors xiii

1. Introduction: Parliaments as Peacebuilders 1
Rick Stapenhurst, Mitchell O'Brien, and Niall Johnston
How Parliaments Can Help Prevent Conflict and Nurture Peace 2
Parliamentary Structure and Functions 2
A Study of Countries' Experiences and Strategies 5
References 10
2. The Nexus Among Parliaments, Poverty Reduction,
and Conflict Prevention 11
Mitchell O'Brien
The Relationship between Poverty and Conflict 13
The Relationship between Democracy and Conflict 14
The "Development First" Philosophy 16
The Relationship between Democracy and Development 18
Parliaments as the Cornerstone 20
The Way Forward 21
References 23
Declarations 25
3. Making Parliament More Representative 27
Mitchell O'Brien
Designing Electoral Systems to Encourage Participation
and Representation in Parliament 28
Ensuring Just Representation and Legitimacy
through the Electoral Process 31
Working with Election Observers to Ensure a Representative
Parliament 34
The Role of the Opposition in Representing the Community's Collective
Interests in Conflict Prevention 35
Parliamentary Leadership 38
Conclusion 39

Annex: Management of the 2005 Afghan Parliamentary Elections 41
References 44
Declarations 45
4. Advancing Parliament's Legislative Function in Conflict-Affected Societies 47
Mitchell O'Brien
Building a Culture of Cooperation in Parliament 47

- Conducting Parliamentary Business 48
 - Creating a Legislative Agenda for Conflict-Affected Countries 54
 - Conclusion 60
 - References 61
 - Principles and Recommendations 62
5. Creating a Shared Parliament in a Divided Society:
Lessons from the Northern Ireland Experience 63
- Lord Alderdice*
- Fifty Years of Drift 63
 - Development of the 1985 Anglo-Irish Agreement 64
 - Multiparty Peace Talks and the Belfast Agreement 65
 - Rights, Responsibilities, and Respect for Minorities 66
 - Respect and Trust 71
 - Sharing Power and Serving the Public Interest 72
 - Rebuilding of the Rule of Law and a Culture of Lawfulness 73
 - Beyond the Belfast Agreement 75
6. Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight to Prevent Conflict
and Reduce Poverty 77
- Mitchell O'Brien and Rick Stapenhurst*
- Direct Parliamentary Oversight of the Government 79
 - Autonomous Accountability Institutions 82
 - Conclusion 88
 - References 89
 - Declarations and Principles 91
7. Parliamentary Oversight of Defense in South Africa 93
- Robert J. Griffiths*
- Democratic Transformation and Defense Policy 93
 - The Establishment of Parliamentary Defense Oversight 94
 - The Strategic Defense Procurement Package and Parliamentary
Oversight 96
 - The Implications for Defense Oversight 100
 - References 102
8. Social Accountability—Citizens, Civil Society, and the Media Working
with Parliament to Prevent Conflict and Reduce Poverty 105
- Mitchell O'Brien*
- Parliament and Constituency Relations 107
 - Civil Society and Community Groups 109
 - Civil Society and Diagonal Accountability 111
 - The Media 112
 - Conclusion 118
 - References 118
 - Treaties, Declarations, and Principles 120
9. The Role of the Rwandan Parliament in Conflict Prevention 121
- Robert T. Nakamura*
- The Arusha Accords and Legislative Design 122
 - The 2003 Constitution and the Bicameral Legislature 125

- Parliament as an Instrument for Limiting Political Expression 129
 Conclusion 132
 References 133
10. Gender Dimensions in Conflict-Affected Countries:
 The Role of Parliaments 135
Meenakshi Dhar
 International Commitments to Gender Mainstreaming 136
 Situation of Women in Parliaments in Post-Conflict Countries 137
 Gender and Peace Processes—Negotiations and Agreements 138
 Civil Society Organizations 139
 Gender, Justice, and Reconciliation 140
 Gender Concerns for Parliament during Political Reconstruction 142
 Parliamentary Alliance Building 147
 Gender, Parliament, and Economic Development 147
 Conclusion 149
 References 150
 Treaties, Declarations, and Resolutions 151
11. Building Capacity to Manage Conflict and Change: Lessons From Thailand 153
Gregory Cran
 Conflict in Southern Thailand 154
 Labeling of Conflict 155
 Escalation of Conflict 156
 De-escalation of Conflict 157
 Capacity Building to Manage Conflict and Change 159
 Effective Leadership 161
 Conclusion 162
 References 162
12. Military Intervention in Thai Parliamentary Democracy 163
Tarnthong Thongswasdi
 The 1997 Constitution: Weakening of the Legislature 164
 A Dominant Executive Branch 165
 Corruption 166
 The September 2006 Coup 167
 Conclusion 169
 Readings 170
13. Broad Strategies for Parliament to Tackle Conflict
 and Promote Socioeconomic Equality 173
Mitchell O'Brien
 Promotion of Socioeconomic Equality 174
 The Natural Environment 175
 Decentralization 177
 Rule of Law 180
 Conclusion 183
 References 184
 Principles 186

14. Macroeconomic Challenges in Post-Conflict Countries and the Role of Parliaments 187
Raj Nallari
 - Post-Conflict Economic Policy and the Role of Parliament 189
 - Stylized Macroeconomic Facts in Post-Conflict Countries 190
 - Policy Priorities in a Post-Conflict Setting 191
 - Role of Parliaments in Prioritizing Public Spending and Ensuring Prudent Macroeconomic Policies 192
 - Parliaments and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) Process 196
 - Conclusion 198
 - References 199
15. Regional Parliamentary Peacebuilding and Engagement with International Organizations 201
Niall Johnston
 - Parliamentary Representation of Community Interests in Initiatives Undertaken with Multilateral Development Agencies 202
 - Development of Informal Networks: The Great Lakes Parliamentary Forum on Peace (AMANI Forum) 204
 - Participation in Professional Associations: The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's Commitment to the Harare Declaration 207
 - Formal Regional Institutions: SADC Parliamentary Forum 208
 - Conclusion 210
 - References 210
 - Declarations 211
16. Toward an Active Participation in Foreign Policy—The Role of the Finnish Parliament in International Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management 213
Teija Tiilikainen
 - Empowering the Finnish Parliament to Participate in International Conflict Management 214
 - How the Finnish Parliament Has Contributed to International Conflict Resolution 218
 - Conclusion 223

Annex: The Finnish Parliament in the 21st Century 225
Seppo Tiiinen

 - The 2000 Constitution 226
 - Leading by Example in Building an Informed Democracy 227
 - Budgetary and Administrative Autonomy of the Eduskunta 227
17. Conclusion 231
Frannie Leautier
 - Ensuring That Parliament Has a Representative Voice 232
 - Establishing Accountability 233
 - Conducting Legislative Business 234
 - Case Studies Provide Anecdotal Support to the Central Arguments 235
 - Social Accountability 236
 - Contributing to Conflict Prevention beyond Parliament's Walls 236
 - Conclusion 237