



5TH INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNANCE SEMINAR

LONDON, BRUSSELS & CARDIFF

15 – 26 NOVEMBER 2010

AIM & OBJECTIVES

AIM To contribute to a greater understanding of the principles and structures of governance in parliamentary democracies.

OBJECTIVES

To brief delegates and create opportunities for discussion on:

1. Principles of Good Governance
 - 1.1 Accountability & Transparency
 - 1.2 Trust & Legitimacy
 - 1.3 Engagement & Representation
2. International Governance and Organisations
 - 2.1 United Nations
 - 2.2 The Commonwealth
 - 2.3 Case Study: International Development Institutions
3. Supranational Governance and relations
 - 3.1 Models of Supranational Governance
 - 3.2 Case Study: The European Union
4. National Governance
 - 4.1 Parliamentary Systems in Commonwealth Contexts
 - 4.2 The Role of Parliament in the Scrutiny of the Executive
 - 4.3 Parliamentary Committees
 - 4.4 The Role of the Opposition
 - 4.5 Case Study: The UK Parliament at Westminster
5. Devolved Governance
 - 5.1 Implementation of National Policy at a devolved level
 - 5.2 Devolved Governance Structures
 - 5.3 Case Study: The National Assembly for Wales
6. Local Government
 - 6.1 Implementation of National Policy at local level
 - 6.2 Provision of Local Services
 - 6.3 Case Study: Cardiff City Council

DRAFT PROGRAMME

MONDAY 15 NOVEMBER – LONDON - Models of Governance and the International System

The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House

09.45 – 10.45 Governance

What is governance? Why does good governance matter?

11.00 – 12.00 Models of Governance

What are the different models of government practised in the international system? What is the influence of international political organisations? What is the function of differing layers of governance from the international to the local?

12.00 – 13.00 The United Nations & The International System

How does the United Nations operate at an inter-governmental level? How are UN treaties negotiated? What effect do UN Treaties have on the actions and governance of national executives?

14.15 – 15.15 Justice: The International Criminal Court & The International Court of Justice

How are the ICC and ICJ structured? What is the purpose of courts that supersede national judiciaries? Can they be effective? Do international courts risk delegitimizing weaker judiciaries?

15.30 – 17.00 International Development Institutions & Governance

What has been the result of an increased focus on governance by bodies such as the World Bank? What has been the impact of this focus on governance structures specifically in developing countries? What lessons have been learnt from the successes and failures of previous governance focused restrictions on development aid?

TUESDAY 16 NOVEMBER – BRUSSELS – The European Union

The Renaissance Hotel & The European Commission

Transfer to Brussels

12.30 – 13.15 Introduction to the organisation and work of EU Institutions

How is the European Union structured? What is the purpose of the Union as a whole? What are the benefits and disadvantages of a supra-national structure to its members?

14.45 – 15.45 Briefing on the European Commission

What is the Executive role of the Commission and how does it operate? What is the role of Commissioners and how do they negotiate between national and EU interests? How does the Commission relate to the other EU organs of governance?

16.00 – 17.00 Briefing on the European External Action Service

Formed by the Treaty of Lisbon the EEAS serves as the foreign ministry and diplomatic corps for the EU. How was the EEAS created? What is its anticipated role? What developments have taken place to institute a diplomatic corps for the EU?

17.00 – 18.00 Briefing on the European Council & Council of Ministers

What is the role of the Presidency? How is the Council of Ministers Structured? How does it function? How are their meetings organised and agenda items agreed? What is the legislative function of the Council? What is the relationship between the Council of Ministers and the European Council?

WEDNESDAY 17 NOVEMBER – BRUSSELS – Supranational Governance

The European Parliament

09.30 – 10.30 Briefing on the European Parliament

How are MEPs elected? How is the number of seats allocated to each country calculated? How do MEPs negotiate between national and European interests? How do MEPs group themselves and how do party alliances operate across nationalities? What is the legislative and scrutiny role of the European Parliament? How does the Parliament relate to other EU organs of governance?

10.30 – 11.30 Discussion with Members of the Trade Committee

11.45 – 12.45 Discussion with Members of the Development Committee

14.30 – 15.30 Briefing on the European Court of Justice

How is the ECJ structured? What is the role of the ECJ in ensuring the application of EU law across member states? What is the nature of the relationship between national courts and the ECJ?

15.30 – 16.30 Forum: Supranational Governance Structures – Integration or Cooperation?

Presentation of case studies detailing supranational governance. Using the case studies to lead discussion, delegates consider: what are the benefits and risks of supranational governance structures? Is trade the necessary impetus for integration between nations? Are supranational organisations that focus on cooperation rather than integration more effective?

Return to London

THURSDAY 18 NOVEMBER – LONDON - The Westminster System in Commonwealth Contexts

The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House

10.00 – 11.00 The Commonwealth: Cooperation and Governance

The Commonwealth as an institution frequently performs a 'good-offices' role; what role is there for the Commonwealth in facilitating co-operation on the governance of international issues? What role is the

Commonwealth, as a supranational organisation, playing in assisting member nations to improve the governance of their countries?

11.15 – 12.15 The Westminster Parliamentary System

What is the historical background of the Westminster model? What are its key defining features? How does the UK system compare with others around the world? What have been the most recent reforms to the UK system?

12.30 – 13.45 Lunch hosted by Rt. Hon. John Bercow MP, Speaker of the House of Commons (Delegates Only)

14.00 – 15.00 The Role of the Opposition

What is the role of opposition parties in Parliament and in scrutinising the Executive?

15.15 – 16.15 Parliamentary Committees

What are the different types of Committee at Westminster? How do Committees operate? What is the output of Westminster Committees? What is the role of a Committee Chairman? How can Committees be strengthened further?

16.15 – 17.30 Forum: Parliamentary Systems in Commonwealth Contexts

Presentation of case studies detailing adaptations of the Westminster system in Commonwealth parliaments. Using the case studies to lead discussion, delegates consider: What are the specific advantages and disadvantages of a Parliamentary system to ensure effective scrutiny? What can be done to strengthen and develop these institutions? What reforms and adaptations to the Westminster System have delegates found most effective?

FRIDAY 19 NOVEMBER – LONDON – Justice and the Rule of Law

Courtroom 1, The Supreme Court

09.20 – 10.20 Justice: Court Structure of Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS)

What is the nature of the relationship between legislation and its legal enforcement in the UK? How is the rule of law to be protected? How can the rights of individuals be protected and communities strengthened through Justice? What is the relationship between the justice system and representation?

10.20 – 11.20 Justice: The UK Supreme Court

What is the structure and purpose of a Supreme Court for the UK? How does the UK Supreme Court ensure the constitutional separation of powers? What is the role of a Justice?

11.45 – 13.15 Forum: Justice, the Separation of Powers and Legitimacy

What are the most crucial factors in an effective judiciary? How should the interaction between the judiciary and government be framed? What is the importance of separation of powers? What is the role of a final court of appeal? What is the role of international courts in this context?

15.00 – 15.45 Meeting with Commonwealth Ambassadors

MONDAY 22 NOVEMBER – LONDON - Engagement & Representation

Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

09.30 – 12.45 Workshop: Measuring Governance *Facilitated by The World Bank Institute*

09.30 – 12.45 Workshop: Transparency & Accountability: The Role of Parliamentarians *Facilitated by Transparency International*

09.30 – 12.45 Workshop: Conflict Sensitive Governance *Facilitated by International Alert*

14.00 – 15.00 Representing Diversity

How can the participation of women and diverse communities be encouraged in parliament and the civil service?
What can political parties and community groups do to encourage their greater representation?

15.00 – 15.45 Young People and Politics: Engaging the Next Generation

How can young people be engaged with politics and parliament? What is the education policy and work of external organisations and charities in promoting youth interests?

16.00 – 17.00 Forum: Engagement and Representation

How do delegates engage with civil society and representative groups in their own countries? What mechanisms are built into delegates' parliaments to ensure the representation of women and minorities? Are these mechanisms effective?

17.00 – 17.30 Briefing: Devolution in the UK

Prior to the visit to Cardiff this session will brief delegates on devolution in the UK, and the Welsh Assembly in the context of the devolved legislatures at the Scottish Parliament and the Northern Ireland Assembly.

TUESDAY 23 NOVEMBER – CARDIFF - The National Assembly for Wales & Cardiff City Council

The Pierhead Main Chamber & The Senedd

Transfer to Cardiff

10.30 – 11.00 Welcome Briefing

Welcome and film presentation highlighting the changes in Cardiff and Wales over the past century, including devolution.

11.00 – 12.00 Devolution: The National Assembly for Wales

How is devolution structured in the UK? What role and powers are held by the Welsh Assembly? How is the Welsh Assembly structured? What are the recent and anticipated developments to the devolved structure? How does the Welsh Assembly differ from the Scottish Parliament and the Northern Ireland Assembly?

12.00 – 13.00 Devolution: The Formulation and Implementation of Regional Policy and Legislation – A Political Perspective

How is regional policy formulated? How is legislation developed and passed through the Assembly? How is the relationship between the UK Parliament and the Welsh Assembly structured? How is policy implemented and developed at a regional level? What is the relationship between national and regional parties with regards to policy?

13.30 – 14.00 View First Ministers' Questions (Delegates only)

14.45 – 15.30 Local Governance: Cardiff City Council

How is a City Council structured? What is the role of the Council, Executive, Committees and Officers? What is the role of the Scrutiny Committees? How do they undertake their work? How are they accountable to the public?

15.45 – 16.30 Local Governance: Provision of Local Services

How are local services run by the Council? How are they managed? What services are they responsible for? How is the provision of local services directed by government ministries?

Return to London

WEDNESDAY 24 NOVEMBER – LONDON - Trust and Legitimacy

The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House

10.00 – 11.15 Forum: Public Ownership of Regional Governance

Presentations by delegates of case studies detailing regional, federal and state governance in their countries. Using the case studies to lead discussion, delegates consider: What are the main concerns in ensuring that regional governance structures effectively represent constituents? How can the relationship between national and devolved governance be managed? How can parliamentarians manage the conflicts between the demands of regional and national legislative priorities?

11.30 – 12.30 Scrutiny of the Prime Minister & Prime Minister's Questions Time

How is the UK Prime Minister held to account by Parliament? View Questions to the Prime Minister, Rt Hon. David Cameron MP.

13.30 – 14.30 Coalition Governments

How do coalition governments affect governance? How can coalition governments encourage consensus rather than adversarial politics? What is the effect of coalition politics on policy and scrutiny? Can coalition governments generate greater trust in the political process?

14.30 – 15.15 Elections and Electoral Systems

How do electoral systems differ across countries? What is the structure of international observation missions to elections? What is the role of international organisations in improving the democratic process?

15.30 – 17.00 Forum: Building Trust with the Electorate

Why are the public in some countries disengaging from politics? How can parliamentarians engage better with the electorate? How can Parliamentarians work to restore trust through transparency?

THURSDAY 25 NOVEMBER – LONDON – Effective oversight outside Parliament

The Attlee Suite, Portcullis House

09.30 – 10.30 Holding Parliament to Account: Scrutiny by the Media

How can the Media play a role in scrutinising Parliament? How does the Media work to promote democratic reform? How can the Media help ensure public access to Parliament and other representative institutions?

10.30 – 11.30 Economic Governance

Following a briefing on the Turner Review and its recommendations, what should be the role of governments in managing national economics in a global economy? What are the difficulties and advantages of a regulatory response to economic crisis?

11.45 – 13.00 Public Sector Governance: Input vs. Output management

How does the increased role of the State at ‘street-level’ challenge the traditionally hierarchical structures of the public sector? Should management of the public sector be focused on perceived needs or measurable outputs? What are the advantages and disadvantages of private sector management practices within a public sector context?

14.00 – 15.00 Forum: Effective Oversight outside Parliament

How can parliamentarians most effectively provide oversight for the public sector? How can management of the public sector be undertaken to encourage citizen empowerment and downward accountability?

15.15 – 15.45 Closing Discussion: The Role of Parliamentarians

What is the role of parliamentarians in ensuring good governance, accountability and representation?

15.45 Summing Up, Feedback Session and Presentation of Seminar Certificates

17.00 Seminar Ends

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