


OPEN PEER REVIEW

Examination of the Status and Practical Measures of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Recent Years (2012–2022) from the Perspective of Experts

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

In the second paragraph of the Introduction, the sentence “The national parliaments of 178 countries are members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union” appears.

This quantitative information would benefit from an explanation of why this membership scope matters for the Committee’s human-rights oversight capacity.

The last paragraph of the Introduction refers to assessing whether the Committee’s status has “improved or weakened.”

It would help readers if you explicitly stated the specific gap in existing literature and why an expert-based qualitative assessment is methodologically necessary.

In the paragraph noting that domestic studies have “almost no direct relevance to the Committee itself,” please expand on which exact dimensions are missing in these studies (e.g., enforcement mechanisms, complaint procedures).

The Discussion section includes direct quotes from participants, such as “whenever a parliamentarian needs the Committee’s support, the Committee steps in.”

For academic rigor, each quotation should be explicitly linked to its interview number.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

In the Foreign Studies section, the claim that no scientific and independent study on this Committee exists requires elaboration.

Explain how this conclusion was reached (e.g., systematic search criteria, databases, keywords).

In the Methods section, you state that 16 experts were selected through purposeful, criterion-based sampling.

Please specify which explicit criteria were used (e.g., prior experience with IPU, human-rights expertise, legal background).

The sentence claiming that sampling continued until “theoretical saturation” needs clarification.

Describe how saturation was evaluated—e.g., repetition of codes, no new conceptual categories emerging.

The methodology states that an “open-ended questionnaire” was used.

It would be helpful to include a short description or examples of the core questions, to allow readers to assess construct coverage.

The Findings section states that “similar concepts were assigned similar codes.”

You should provide more detail about the coding guidelines, including whether coding was done by a single coder or multiple coders and how consistency was ensured.

Please discuss why such a large number was necessary, whether any over-coding occurred, and how redundancies were systematically addressed.

The transformation from initial codes to final thematic categories is described briefly.

Provide a more concrete explanation of how codes were clustered, possibly with an example demonstrating the analytical steps.

In Table 3, concepts such as “parliamentary interaction,” “synergy,” and “cultural exchange” are grouped under “Global Convergence.”

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.