



Parliaments as Agents of Change

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**Mobilizing Parliamentarians for
Development: Why support
parliamentary Programs?**

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Where are we right now?

 MDG Review	 PRSP Review	 NEPAD - AU APRM separate entity?	 Paris declaration
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RETHINKING STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORT:

- ✓ Rethinking the way we analyze and monitor governance
- ✓ Rethinking the way we identify agents of change
- ✓ Rethinking the way we strategize



Where are we right now?




 Illustrative example:

PRSP

Many national PRSP in trouble (Ghana, Malawi, Niger, Tanzania)

- **PRSP spending not performing** because of yearly cash-budget allocation problems in poverty-related ministries

Available cash spent

-  short-term political pressures (Tanzania),
-  initiatives of the President's Office (Malawi)
-  staff salaries (Ghana)

Where are we right now?

Political allocation of HIPC resources: not into pro-poor spending frameworks (PRSP-Plans)

- Malawi: allocation by **cabinet** in non-priority areas
↓ in promised pro-poor spending (rural water supplies)
- Niger: allocation outside PRSP framework in the Special Programme of the **President**
- Ghana: allocation outside the budget framework

Where are we right now?

PRSP (cont.)

- **Gender equality massively underemphasised in PRSP so far**
- **It has taken much time to develop effective monitoring systems for PRSP activity**
(Tanzania + Malawi: Monitoring frameworks 2-4 years after the start of PRSP in each country)



Rethinking how to identify agents of change

„The donors‘ list of things to do is getting longer because **parliaments** in developing countries are getting weaker“

(Thandika Mkandawire, UNRISD)

Parliaments as agents of change: PRSP

➤ Although Parliamentary links with the poor not vibrant....
.....Relations with **community-based civil society** in all countries were solid

➤ Although real policy leverage of P. often limited.....

.....in Malawi und Tanzania strong committee chairs important in building **policy leadership** and consensus for PRSP

Parliaments as agents of change: PRSP

➤ Although Parliamentary Caucus of Women MPs seldom focused on PRSP.....
.....**women-led committees** dealing with PRSP took leadership role on gender equality

➤ Although real impact of P. on **budget** is limited.....

Awareness is raising; technical expertise is being tapped (Malawi: Technical support from NDI (e.g. pre-budget reports, hearings with CS))



German Technical Cooperation's Approach to Parliamentary Promotion

Direct and Indirect

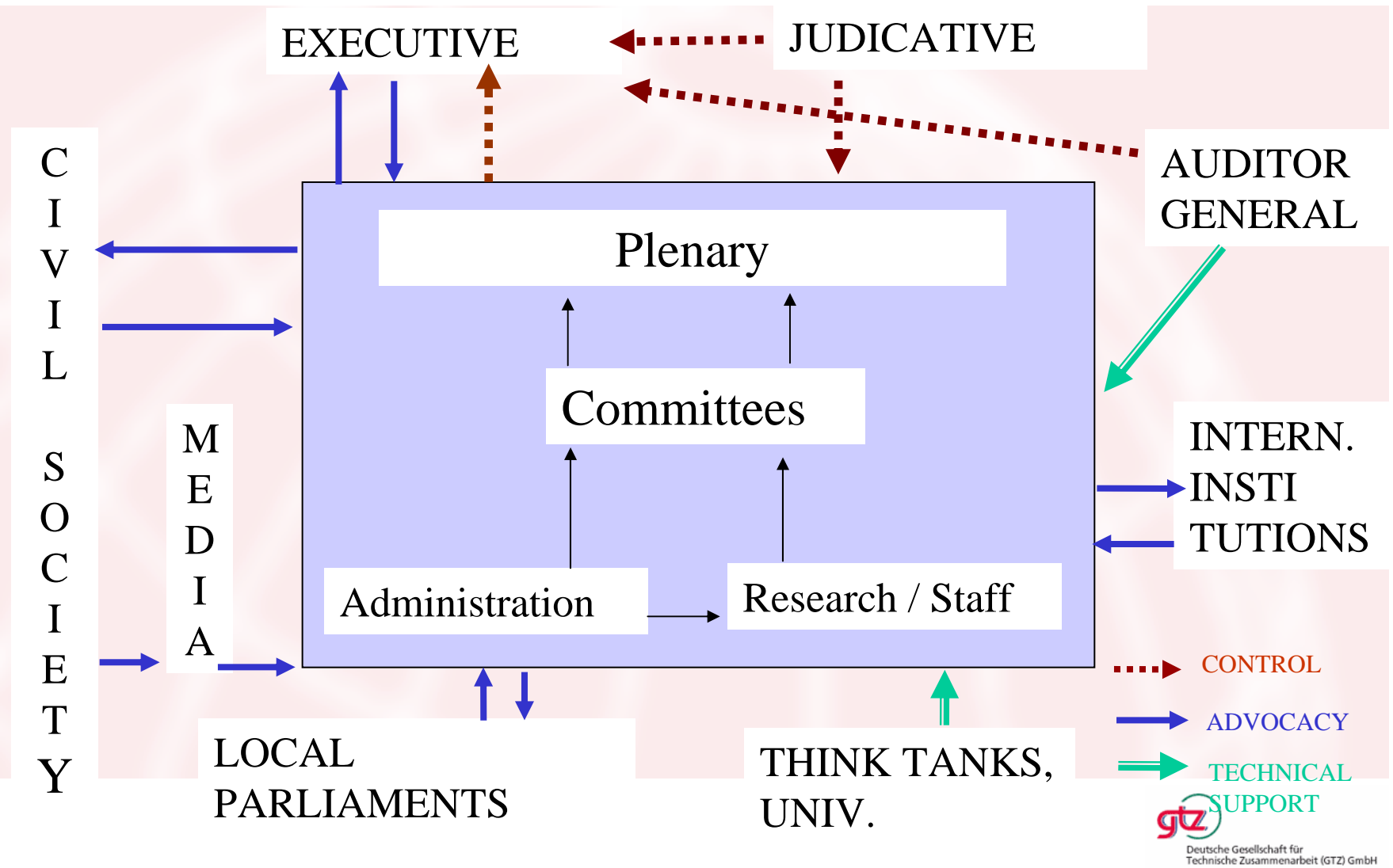
Direct support:

- Help strengthen efficiency and professionalism of the Parliament

Indirect support:

- Help strengthen its role in the political context

Strengthening P's role in the political context





Challenges of parliamentary promotion

⚡ Legitimation and Acceptance

(e.g. lack of representativeness, low acceptance...)

⚡ Effectiveness and Efficiency

(e.g. lack of information, lack of independence....)

⚡ Relevance

(e.g. competition with civil society,
funding goes to Ministries, Auditor General,
Ombudsmann....)



Chances of Parliamentary Promotion

✓ Democracy and Rule of Law

Parliaments are key institutions for balancing power relations and for democratic control of the use of power

✓ Poverty Reduction

Parliaments can provide for a more just distribution of positive and negative consequences of economic development

Chances of Parliamentary Promotion

✓ Political Culture

Parliaments are the sites where democracy is practiced (Procedures, attitudes towards minority positions, consensus-building)

✓ Global Governance Architecture

Parliaments are pivotal actors between supranational, national and subnational levels

Danke!

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