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Assessing the Effectiveness of Parliamentary Diplomacy

A Case Study of Uganda

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Executive Summary

Parliamentary diplomacy has become an important dimension of contemporary international relations, providing legislatures with opportunities to complement executive diplomacy through political dialogue, inter-parliamentary cooperation and oversight of international commitments. For Uganda, parliamentary engagement at regional, continental and international levels offers opportunities to advance national interests, strengthen regional integration and contribute to international cooperation.

This paper examines the institutional role and effectiveness of parliamentary diplomacy in Uganda. It analyses the constitutional framework governing Parliament's involvement in international affairs, considers the significance of regional and international parliamentary platforms, and identifies factors that may influence the outcomes of parliamentary diplomatic engagements.

The study adopts a qualitative case-study approach informed by documentary analysis, constitutional and legislative provisions, parliamentary materials and academic literature. It draws on liberal institutionalism, multi-level governance and foreign-policy analysis to explain how parliamentary institutions can contribute to international cooperation and national policy objectives.

The analysis identifies six dimensions for assessing effectiveness: diplomatic influence, alignment with national priorities, institutional coordination, legislative oversight, partnership development and implementation of commitments. It argues that participation in international meetings and parliamentary organisations is an important indicator of diplomatic activity but is insufficient, on its own, to demonstrate effectiveness.

Recent parliamentary discussions concerning international agreements, reporting obligations and the follow-up of parliamentary engagements reinforce the importance of institutional accountability and outcome measurement (Parliament of Uganda, 2026a; Parliament of Uganda, 2026b). The paper therefore recommends a parliamentary diplomacy strategy, structured coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, standardised reporting procedures and a performance-monitoring framework.

The principal conclusion is that parliamentary diplomacy should be treated as a strategic institutional function rather than a collection of international visits and appearances. Its effectiveness should ultimately be assessed by its contribution to Uganda's foreign-policy objectives, the quality of international cooperation and the implementation of commitments that serve the national interest.

Keywords: Parliamentary diplomacy; Uganda; foreign policy; international cooperation; legislative oversight; regional integration; parliamentary accountability.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background to the study

Diplomacy has traditionally been associated with heads of state, foreign ministers and professional diplomatic services. The growing complexity of international relations has, however, expanded the range of institutions involved in external engagement. National legislatures increasingly participate in international policy discussions, bilateral exchanges, multilateral parliamentary forums and regional cooperation processes.

Parliamentary diplomacy encompasses international activities undertaken by legislators and parliamentary institutions to promote dialogue, strengthen relationships, influence policy discussions and facilitate cooperation across national boundaries. These activities may include bilateral parliamentary visits, inter-parliamentary conferences, legislative exchanges, international parliamentary assemblies and engagement with foreign political institutions (Stavridis and Jančić, 2017).

The significance of parliamentary diplomacy lies partly in its ability to connect international relations with domestic political institutions. International agreements frequently require legislation, public expenditure, regulatory changes or sustained political support. Parliament can contribute by scrutinising these commitments, facilitating legislative cooperation and holding government institutions accountable for implementation.

In Uganda, parliamentary diplomacy operates within a constitutional framework that distinguishes executive responsibility for official foreign relations from Parliament's legislative and oversight functions. These responsibilities intersect where international commitments have implications for domestic law, public expenditure and government policy (Republic of Uganda, 1995, art. 123).

Uganda's participation in regional, continental and international parliamentary platforms also creates opportunities to engage on trade, regional integration, security, migration, development cooperation and governance. The practical value of these engagements depends, however, on their contribution to identifiable policy objectives and the extent to which agreed actions are implemented.

This study examines parliamentary diplomacy as a complementary instrument of Uganda's foreign policy, with particular attention to its institutional foundations, effectiveness and prospects for improvement.

1.2 Problem statement

Participation in international parliamentary activities provides opportunities for Uganda to communicate its priorities, develop political relationships and engage in international cooperation. However, the number of meetings attended, delegations dispatched or resolutions supported does not necessarily establish the effectiveness of these activities.

International engagements may generate declarations without implementation, partnerships without sustained follow-up or recommendations that are not incorporated into domestic policy. Their contribution to national interests can therefore be difficult to determine without systematic documentation and evaluation.

Uganda's parliamentary debates have highlighted questions concerning the scrutiny of international agreements, the availability of reports from international engagements and the need to ensure that parliamentary participation produces practical benefits (Parliament of Uganda, 2026a; Parliament of Uganda, 2026b).

These issues establish a case for examining how parliamentary diplomacy is organised, how its outcomes are assessed and how coordination between Parliament and other foreign-policy institutions can be strengthened.

The central problem addressed by this paper is the need for a systematic, evidence-based framework for assessing the contribution of parliamentary diplomacy to Uganda's international engagement and foreign-policy objectives.

1.3 Research objectives

1.3.1 General objective

To assess the effectiveness of parliamentary diplomacy as an instrument of Uganda's international engagement and foreign policy.

1.3.2 Specific objectives

1. To examine the conceptual and theoretical foundations of parliamentary diplomacy.
2. To analyse the constitutional and institutional framework governing parliamentary diplomacy in Uganda.
3. To examine Uganda's engagement in regional, continental and international parliamentary platforms.
4. To identify institutional, political and operational factors influencing the effectiveness of parliamentary diplomacy.
5. To propose policy measures for strengthening parliamentary diplomacy and its contribution to national interests.

1.4 Research questions

The study addresses the following questions:

1. How does parliamentary diplomacy contribute to Uganda's foreign-policy objectives?
2. What constitutional and institutional arrangements shape parliamentary diplomacy in Uganda?
3. What opportunities arise from Uganda's participation in regional and international parliamentary platforms?

4. Which factors constrain the effectiveness of parliamentary diplomatic engagements?
5. What institutional measures could strengthen coordination, accountability and measurable outcomes?

1.5 Significance of the study

The study contributes to policy analysis on Uganda's foreign relations by examining Parliament's role in international engagement and domestic accountability.

For Parliament of Uganda, it provides a framework for improving diplomatic preparation, reporting and evaluation. For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it identifies opportunities for structured cooperation with Parliament while preserving their respective institutional responsibilities. For researchers and policy institutions, including CPSS Africa, it offers a basis for evaluating parliamentary diplomacy through evidence of influence and implementation.

1.6 Scope and methodology

The study focuses on Uganda's parliamentary diplomacy, including bilateral legislative exchanges, regional and international parliamentary engagement, and legislative scrutiny of international commitments.

It adopts a qualitative case-study approach based on documentary analysis of constitutional provisions, legislation, parliamentary materials and academic literature. The analysis is informed by scholarship on parliamentary diplomacy, international institutions and multi-level governance.

The paper develops an analytical framework for assessing effectiveness. It does not claim to have completed a comprehensive audit of parliamentary delegations, conducted original stakeholder interviews or quantified the outcomes of all international engagements. These limitations are important when interpreting the analysis: the paper identifies institutional opportunities, policy concerns and measures for further investigation rather than claiming that every aspect of current parliamentary diplomacy has been empirically evaluated.

2. Conceptual and Theoretical Framework

2.1 Conceptualising parliamentary diplomacy

Parliamentary diplomacy refers to international engagement undertaken by legislators and parliamentary institutions to facilitate political dialogue, promote cooperation and contribute to international policy discussions.

Stavridis and Jančić (2017) examine parliamentary diplomacy as an expanding feature of international governance, encompassing inter-parliamentary cooperation, political dialogue, legislative exchanges and relationships between parliamentary institutions.

For this study, parliamentary diplomacy is examined through four principal dimensions:

Figure 1. Four overlapping dimensions of parliamentary diplomacy

Bilateral parliamentary diplomacy	engagement between Uganda's Parliament and foreign legislatures.
Multilateral parliamentary diplomacy	participation in international parliamentary organisations and conferences.
Regional parliamentary cooperation	engagement in parliamentary processes associated with regional integration.
Parliamentary foreign-policy oversight	scrutiny of international commitments, government reporting and relevant implementation measures.

Source: CPSS Africa analytical framework developed for this study.

These dimensions overlap but are not identical. Uganda's participation in the East African Legislative Assembly, for example, involves a regional legislative institution with its own mandate. It should therefore be distinguished from bilateral diplomatic activities undertaken by Uganda's national Parliament.

The distinction between diplomatic activity and effectiveness is equally important. Attendance at an international meeting is an activity; an adopted recommendation is an output; and a demonstrable contribution to policy or cooperation is an outcome. A rigorous assessment must distinguish among these levels.

2.2 Parliamentary diplomacy and foreign policy

Foreign policy encompasses the decisions and strategies through which a state manages its international relationships and pursues national interests. These interests may include national security, trade, investment, regional stability, development cooperation and the protection of citizens abroad.

Although the executive conducts official foreign relations, Parliament can influence their domestic context through legislation, budgetary scrutiny, committee investigations and engagement with international partners.

Hill (2016) emphasises the importance of domestic political institutions in shaping foreign-policy decisions. Applied to Uganda, this perspective suggests that parliamentary diplomacy can contribute to international engagement in three ways:

1. Representation: communicating national priorities and parliamentary perspectives to international audiences.
2. Accountability: scrutinising government commitments and their implementation within Parliament's constitutional mandate.

3. Cooperation: facilitating relationships and exchanges that support international dialogue and institutional learning.

These functions complement executive diplomacy. They do not confer on Parliament a general authority to negotiate or conclude international agreements independently of the applicable constitutional and legal framework.

2.3 Liberal institutionalism

Liberal institutionalism provides a framework for understanding how international institutions facilitate cooperation. Keohane (1984) argues that institutions can reduce uncertainty, improve information-sharing and establish expectations that make cooperation more sustainable.

Applied to Uganda, this perspective suggests that parliamentary exchanges can help develop relationships with foreign legislatures, facilitate policy learning and create opportunities to address shared challenges.

Regional parliamentary engagement may, for example, provide a forum for discussing trade barriers, cross-border mobility and regional security. However, participation does not automatically generate influence. Effectiveness depends on institutional authority, the quality of engagement and the willingness of relevant actors to implement agreed decisions.

2.4 Multi-level governance

Multi-level governance emphasises the interaction of institutions operating at national, regional and international levels (Hooghe and Marks, 2001).

This perspective is particularly relevant to Uganda's engagement with regional institutions. Regional commitments may require domestic legislation, regulatory changes or administrative action. Parliamentary diplomacy can help connect these processes by facilitating dialogue and scrutinising implementation.

Its practical value depends on whether international engagement is linked to domestic policy processes. Without such connections, parliamentary discussions may remain separate from the legislative and administrative decisions necessary to produce results.

2.5 Analytical framework

Drawing on these theoretical perspectives, the paper proposes an analytical framework linking institutional capacity, diplomatic activities and measurable outcomes.

The framework has four components:

Figure 2. Proposed analytical framework

01 Institutional inputs	02 Diplomatic activities	03 Immediate outputs	04 Outcomes
mandates, expertise, funding, research capacity and coordination.	international visits, parliamentary exchanges, multilateral participation and policy dialogue.	recommendations, resolutions, partnerships, policy proposals and documented commitments.	policy influence, improved cooperation, legislative developments and implementation of commitments.

Source: CPSS Africa analytical framework developed for this study.

The principal proposition is that parliamentary diplomacy is more likely to be effective when its objectives are clearly defined, its activities are aligned with national priorities and its results are systematically documented.

3. Constitutional and Institutional Framework

3.1 Constitutional foundations

The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda establishes the legal framework governing diplomatic representation, treaty-making and parliamentary authority.

Article 122 addresses diplomatic representation, while Article 123 provides for the making of treaties, conventions and agreements by the President or a person authorised by the President. Article 123(2) requires Parliament to make laws governing their ratification (Republic of Uganda, 1995, arts 122–123).[1]

These provisions establish the constitutional context within which parliamentary diplomacy operates. They distinguish executive responsibility for official foreign relations from Parliament's legislative and oversight functions.

Parliament's role extends beyond formal treaty ratification. International commitments may have implications for domestic law, public expenditure and administrative practice, creating opportunities for parliamentary scrutiny and accountability.

3.2 The Ratification of Treaties Act

The Ratification of Treaties Act, 1998, now reflected in the revised laws of Uganda, establishes procedures for treaty ratification. Section 2 provides for Cabinet ratification in the general case and parliamentary ratification by resolution for specified categories, including treaties relating to armistice, neutrality or peace and treaties whose implementation would require a constitutional amendment, as certified by the Attorney General. Section 4 provides for treaties ratified by Cabinet to be laid before Parliament (Republic of Uganda, 1998, ss. 2–4).[2]

The Act is relevant because international agreements can create obligations affecting domestic legislation, public expenditure and government policy.

Parliamentary effectiveness in this area should be assessed by the quality of scrutiny, the identification of implementation requirements and the extent to which relevant commitments receive appropriate follow-up.

Treaty ratification should nevertheless be distinguished from parliamentary diplomacy more broadly. Ratification is a legal process; parliamentary diplomacy encompasses a wider range of international activities.

3.3 Parliamentary committees and foreign-policy oversight

Parliamentary committees provide institutional channels for examining international relations and related policy matters. The Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on East African Community Affairs are particularly relevant to this study (Parliament of Uganda, n.d.).

The Committee on Foreign Affairs provides a forum for scrutiny of matters within its mandate, while the Committee on East African Community Affairs focuses on regional integration. Other committees may contribute where international commitments intersect with their respective responsibilities.

For example, international trade commitments may require scrutiny of customs procedures and market access, while bilateral labour migration arrangements may raise questions about employment standards, worker protection and cooperation with partner countries.

The effectiveness of these arrangements depends on access to information, the quality of scrutiny, the responsiveness of responsible institutions and the implementation of recommendations.

3.4 Regional and international parliamentary platforms

3.4.1 East African Legislative Assembly

The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) is the legislative organ of the East African Community. It participates in regional legislative processes and provides a forum for addressing matters relating to East African integration.

Uganda's engagement with EALA is relevant to regional trade, mobility, infrastructure and other shared policy concerns. However, EALA's regional legislative mandate should not be conflated with the bilateral and multilateral diplomatic activities of Uganda's national Parliament.

3.4.2 Pan-African Parliament

The Pan-African Parliament provides a continental platform for parliamentary deliberation on African integration, governance and development. Uganda's participation offers opportunities to exchange policy perspectives and engage in discussions on shared continental priorities.

Its contribution to Uganda's national interests should be assessed by examining the influence of relevant deliberations, the institution's applicable mandate and the connection between continental discussions and domestic policy processes.

3.4.3 Inter-Parliamentary Union

The Inter-Parliamentary Union facilitates dialogue and cooperation among national parliaments on matters including peace, democracy, human rights and sustainable development.

Participation can support international networking and policy learning. Its effectiveness should be evaluated through documented contributions, institutional relationships and subsequent action rather than attendance alone.

3.4.4 Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association provides opportunities for parliamentary exchange and professional development among Commonwealth jurisdictions.

Its potential contribution includes the exchange of legislative experience, capacity development and engagement with other parliamentary systems. The value of participation depends on whether the knowledge and relationships generated are subsequently applied to Uganda's institutional and policy priorities.

4. Assessment of Parliamentary Diplomacy in Uganda

4.1 Diplomatic influence and national interests

Parliamentary diplomacy offers Uganda an additional channel for communicating its priorities and engaging foreign political institutions. Relevant priorities may include regional stability, trade, investment, migration, development cooperation and the protection of citizens abroad.

Legislators can raise concerns, exchange perspectives and explore opportunities for cooperation. However, the existence of such opportunities does not establish the degree of Uganda's diplomatic influence.

A substantive assessment would require evidence that parliamentary engagements contributed to adopted proposals, policy changes, sustained partnerships or other identifiable outcomes.

The appropriate unit of analysis is therefore the individual engagement and its stated objective, rather than the overall volume of international activity.

4.2 Regional integration

Regional integration is an important area in which parliamentary diplomacy can complement executive diplomacy.

Within the East African Community, trade, mobility, infrastructure and security require coordination across national jurisdictions. Parliamentary engagement can facilitate the exchange of legislative experience, identify regulatory differences and promote discussion of implementation challenges.

For Uganda, the practical value of these engagements depends partly on whether regional discussions are connected to domestic legislation and administrative processes.

Where regional commitments require national implementation, parliamentary committees can examine relevant legislative requirements and scrutinise government progress within their mandates.

Nevertheless, participation should not be equated with regional influence. Evidence is needed to establish whether Uganda's representatives contributed to decisions, advanced specific proposals or helped address identifiable policy problems.

4.3 Trade, investment and economic cooperation

Parliamentary diplomacy may complement economic diplomacy by facilitating engagement with foreign legislatures and political institutions concerned with trade and investment.

Such engagement can support discussion of market access, investment regulation, development partnerships and economic cooperation. It may also provide opportunities to communicate Uganda's priorities and identify policy obstacles affecting international economic relationships.

Commercial negotiations and investment promotion, however, remain dependent on the mandates of the responsible executive institutions and private-sector actors.

Parliamentary effectiveness in this area should therefore be assessed through documented contributions to regulatory improvements, substantive policy dialogue or the resolution of institutional obstacles. The number of meetings held is an activity measure, not proof of economic impact.

4.4 Peace and security

Parliamentary diplomacy can provide opportunities for political dialogue on regional tensions, conflict prevention, counterterrorism and humanitarian concerns.

Legislators may engage their counterparts in neighbouring countries, raise concerns about cross-border challenges and participate in discussions on regional peace and security.

These activities should complement rather than replace formal security cooperation and executive-led diplomatic processes. Claims that parliamentary engagement has resolved a conflict or prevented violence require specific supporting evidence.

Relevant indicators include sustained dialogue, documented contributions to established peace initiatives, informed parliamentary oversight and identifiable cooperative measures.

4.5 Legislative accountability

Parliament's contribution to international relations includes scrutiny of the implementation of commitments with domestic legal, financial or administrative implications.

Committees may examine government reports, question responsible officials and recommend action where implementation is delayed or inadequate.

The existence of formal committee structures provides a basis for this work. Effectiveness, however, depends on access to information, the quality of scrutiny, government responsiveness and the implementation of recommendations.

This dimension connects parliamentary diplomacy directly to domestic governance and accountability.

4.6 Effectiveness indicators

The following framework identifies evidence that was used to evaluate parliamentary diplomatic engagements.

Table 1. Six-dimensional effectiveness assessment framework

Assessment dimension	Key question	Evidence required
Diplomatic influence	Did engagement influence a policy discussion or decision?	Official records, adopted proposals or documented policy changes
Strategic alignment	Did the activity support an identified national priority?	Approved strategies, policy briefs and engagement plans
Institutional coordination	Were relevant national institutions consulted?	Meeting records, joint plans and correspondence
Legislative impact	Did engagement inform legislation or oversight?	Committee reports, parliamentary debates and legislative records
Partnership development	Did engagement produce sustained cooperation?	Formal agreements and records of subsequent activity
Accountability	Were commitments followed up and evaluated?	Delegation reports, action trackers and review documents

Source: 2026 CPSS Africa analytical framework developed for this study.

The framework was applied to a defined sample of engagements. Each case was assessed against its stated objectives, outputs, follow-up actions and documented outcomes. This allowed

comparisons across engagements and helped identify which approaches generate the strongest results.

5. Constraints Affecting Effectiveness

5.1 Institutional coordination

Parliamentary diplomacy involves parliamentary leadership, committees, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, diplomatic missions and relevant government agencies.

Where coordination is inadequate, engagements may lack clearly defined objectives, consistent policy messaging or agreed follow-up arrangements. This can reduce their contribution to national priorities.

A structured consultation mechanism could improve information-sharing while preserving Parliament's independence in legislative scrutiny and oversight.

5.2 Strategic prioritisation

The range of international parliamentary forums creates competing demands on time, expertise and public resources.

Without clear priorities, institutions may struggle to distinguish engagements with substantial policy potential from activities primarily concerned with protocol or relationship-building.

A strategy identifying priority countries, regions, policy areas and intended outcomes would support more deliberate allocation of resources.

5.3 Monitoring and evaluation

Assessing parliamentary diplomacy requires more than counting meetings and delegations. It requires evidence of the relationship between intended objectives, immediate outputs and subsequent results.

Parliamentary discussions concerning international delegation reports and the scrutiny of international agreements underscore the importance of systematic documentation and follow-up (Parliament of Uganda, 2026a; Parliament of Uganda, 2026b).

A monitoring system should establish objectives before engagements, document outputs afterwards and track agreed actions over time. Its design should build on existing parliamentary arrangements rather than presume that no reporting systems currently exist.

5.4 Research and technical capacity

Effective parliamentary diplomacy requires adequate preparation and access to reliable policy analysis.

Engagements concerning trade, international finance, climate change, security and regional integration may require specialised legal, economic or diplomatic knowledge.

Investment in research briefs, comparative legislative analysis and staff development would strengthen preparation and improve the capacity of legislators to assess complex international issues.

5.5 Institutional continuity

Changes in parliamentary membership and committee composition may disrupt relationships and weaken continuity in international engagement.

Institutional reporting, shared records, formal handovers and centralised contact management could help preserve knowledge and maintain relationships across parliamentary terms.

5.6 Domestic implementation

International engagements may produce recommendations or commitments requiring action by government ministries, regulators or other institutions.

Where responsibilities and deadlines are unclear, outcomes may remain unimplemented. Effective parliamentary diplomacy therefore requires clear assignment of follow-up responsibilities and appropriate scrutiny of progress.

6. Policy Recommendations

6.1 Develop a parliamentary diplomacy strategy

Parliament should consider adopting a medium-term strategy aligned with Uganda's foreign-policy priorities and constitutional responsibilities.

The strategy should identify priority countries, regions, policy areas, institutional partners and intended outcomes. Potential themes include regional integration, trade, labour migration, peace and security, development cooperation and climate policy.

It should also distinguish engagements intended primarily to build relationships from those expected to produce specific policy outcomes.

6.2 Strengthen coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Parliament and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should consider establishing a structured consultation mechanism for major parliamentary diplomatic engagements.

This could include pre-engagement briefings, information-sharing, coordination with diplomatic missions and post-engagement reviews. The arrangement should preserve Parliament's independence in legislative scrutiny and oversight.

6.3 Standardise delegation reporting

Major parliamentary diplomatic engagements should produce structured reports covering:

1. The objectives and policy relevance of the engagement.

2. The principal meetings and issues discussed.

3. Commitments, recommendations and proposed actions.

4. Institutions responsible for follow-up.

5. Timelines and resource implications.

6. Outcomes achieved and outstanding matters.

Reports should be submitted through appropriate parliamentary procedures and made publicly accessible where permitted.

6.4 Introduce a monitoring and evaluation framework

Parliament should consider maintaining a central register of major diplomatic engagements and their outcomes.

The register could record the objective, participating institutions, commitments, follow-up responsibilities and implementation status.

Performance indicators could include the proportion of engagements aligned with approved priorities, completion of delegation reports, implementation of agreed actions and documented contributions to policy or legislative developments.

Baselines and targets should be established following a review of current practices.

6.5 Strengthen research support

Parliamentary research services and relevant committees should prepare country briefs, policy assessments, legislative comparisons and stakeholder analyses before major engagements.

Think tanks and universities, including CPSS Africa, could contribute through independent research, technical workshops and policy dialogue. Such partnerships should be transparent and preserve the independence of both parliamentary institutions and research organisations.

6.6 Strengthen regional parliamentary cooperation

Uganda should seek to improve the connection between its engagement in regional parliamentary institutions and domestic policy processes.

Regular briefings, exchanges between relevant committees and systematic review of regional legislative developments could help identify implications for national legislation and administrative practice.

6.7 Institutionalise professional development

A structured parliamentary diplomacy training programme could cover diplomatic protocol, negotiation, foreign-policy analysis, international law, economic diplomacy, regional integration and diplomatic reporting.

Training should be linked to participants' responsibilities and evaluated according to demonstrated improvements in institutional practice.

6.8 Improve public communication

Parliament should consider publishing accessible summaries of major diplomatic engagements, including their objectives, documented outcomes and subsequent actions.

Transparent reporting would help citizens assess the purpose and results of parliamentary diplomacy and strengthen accountability for the use of public resources.

7. Proposed Implementation Framework

The recommendations could be introduced progressively over three years, subject to institutional approval and available resources.

Table 2. Proposed three-year implementation roadmap

Period	Priority actions	Expected output
First six months	Review current practices and establish baseline indicators	Baseline assessment report
Months 6–12	Develop a strategy, reporting templates and coordination procedures	Draft strategy and operating procedures
Year 2	Pilot the monitoring framework and targeted training	Initial performance reports
Year 3	Review implementation and assess outcomes	Evaluation report and revised framework

The timeline is indicative and does not imply that the proposed measures have already been approved or funded. Implementation should be led by the relevant parliamentary authorities in consultation with appropriate government institutions.

8. Conclusion

Parliamentary diplomacy offers Uganda an additional means of advancing international engagement, supporting regional integration and strengthening accountability for international commitments. Through bilateral exchanges, participation in regional and international parliamentary institutions and legislative oversight, Parliament can contribute to political dialogue and cooperation.

Uganda's constitutional framework provides a basis for this role, while the parliamentary committee system offers opportunities for specialised scrutiny of foreign affairs and regional integration. Recent parliamentary discussions concerning international agreements and the reporting of diplomatic engagements also demonstrate the importance of institutional accountability and follow-up.

However, the existence of institutional structures and international activities does not establish their effectiveness. A credible assessment must examine the relationship between diplomatic objectives, institutional processes, documented outputs and subsequent outcomes.

CPSS Africa therefore recommends an outcome-oriented approach to parliamentary diplomacy, supported by a clear strategy, structured reporting, systematic monitoring, stronger research capacity and sustained institutional cooperation.

The principal policy conclusion is that parliamentary diplomacy should be treated as a strategic institutional capability rather than a collection of international visits and appearances. Its value to Uganda ultimately depends on whether it contributes demonstrably to national foreign-policy objectives, effective international cooperation and public interests.

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