



# TRANSFORMING PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT: EMERGING TRENDS IN PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT AND DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

**Safayev Javohir Omanbayevich,**  
Chief scientific officer of  
Parliamentary Research Institute  
under the Legislative Chamber of the  
Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan  
e-mail: [javahirsafayev@gmail.com](mailto:javahirsafayev@gmail.com)

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<b>Received:</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2025 <b>Accepted:</b> 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	<p>This article examines the prospects for improving parliamentary oversight exercised by the lower chamber, with a particular focus on institutional, legal, and technological dimensions. Special attention is given to the growing role of digital technologies and artificial intelligence in enhancing oversight capacities and facilitating public participation.</p> <p>The article proposes a set of reforms aimed at strengthening parliamentary oversight through legal consolidation, institutional modernization, digital transformation, and the introduction of performance evaluation mechanisms. These proposals are grounded in comparative analysis and contemporary international practices, offering practical recommendations for improving the effectiveness of parliamentary institutions in emerging democracies.</p>
<b>Keywords:</b> Parliamentary oversight, lower chamber, legislative control, accountability, digital parliament, artificial intelligence, monitoring mechanisms, democratic governance	

## INTRODUCTION

In modern democratic systems, parliamentary oversight has become an essential instrument for ensuring the accountability of the executive branch and the effectiveness of public administration.

The evolution of democratic governance demonstrates that the role of parliament is no longer limited to the adoption of legislation, but also encompasses the continuous supervision of governmental activities and the evaluation of policy implementation.

The importance of parliamentary oversight has been emphasized by numerous scholars and political thinkers. Woodrow Wilson, in his classical work on public administration, noted that vigilant supervision of administration is as significant as lawmaking itself.<sup>1</sup>

This observation remains highly relevant today, as the absence of effective oversight undermines political responsibility and weakens public trust in democratic institutions.

In recent years, many countries have undertaken comprehensive reforms aimed at strengthening parliamentary control mechanisms. These reforms reflect the growing recognition that effective oversight enhances transparency, improves governance quality,

and promotes responsible decision-making within the executive branch. In this context, the role of the lower chamber of parliament is particularly significant, as it represents citizens directly and functions as a primary platform for political accountability.

This article explores the prospects for developing parliamentary oversight exercised by the lower chamber, focusing on institutional and legal improvements, as well as innovative approaches derived from international experience. The study also examines emerging trends such as digitalization and the use of artificial intelligence, which are transforming parliamentary practices worldwide.

## METHODS

This study employs a qualitative and comparative research approach to examine the development and effectiveness of parliamentary oversight mechanisms. The research is based on the analysis of existing legal frameworks, institutional practices, and contemporary international experience in legislative oversight.

Comparative analysis of foreign parliamentary models and analytical methods were used to identify key challenges, trends, and opportunities for improving

<sup>1</sup> Woodrow Wilson. Congressional government. A Study in American Politics. Copyright, 1885. VI (conclusion) part.

oversight in the lower chamber. The study also incorporates conceptual analysis of modern approaches such as performance evaluation, rapid-response oversight, and digital transformation in parliamentary activity.

## RESULTS

In the current context of globalization, the oversight function exercised by parliament is gaining unprecedented importance worldwide. International organizations also assess parliamentary oversight as a key guarantee of effective public governance.

Recommendations of influential international organizations such as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) identify parliamentary openness, accountability, independent expertise, and systematic monitoring of the implementation of adopted recommendations as modern standards.

The experience of contemporary democratic states shows that parliamentary activity is not limited to adopting laws alone; by overseeing the executive branch, parliament ensures the effectiveness of governance.

In the practice of developed democratic countries, parliamentary oversight has become one of the most important functions of the legislative body. For example, in the United Kingdom, Select Committees<sup>2</sup> continuously analyze the activities of ministries; in the United States, the Government Accountability Office (GAO)<sup>3</sup>, accountable to Congress, audits the effectiveness of government programs; and in France, the weekly "Questions to the Government" session ensures open accountability of the executive branch.

Thus, the recent expansion of our parliament's oversight powers and the introduction of certain mechanisms are fully consistent with trends observed in developed countries.

The new version of the Constitution has further strengthened the legal status of parliamentary oversight and assigned representative bodies the responsible task of exercising systematic, transparent, and effective oversight over government activities.

At the same time, increasing the effectiveness of parliamentary oversight, improving its practical mechanisms, and harmonizing them with international experience have become pressing priorities.

### **Obsolescence of the current law in substance**

The existence of a comprehensive law on parliamentary oversight in Uzbekistan has been recognized by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

(OSCE).<sup>4</sup> This law is acknowledged in international practice as a distinctive legal model for strengthening parliamentary oversight, as it regulates all aspects of oversight (objects, forms, and enforcement mechanisms).

Nevertheless, to ensure the effectiveness of oversight, there is a need to supplement it with certain mechanisms. In recent years, the expansion of parliamentary powers, the increase in forms of oversight, and the rapidly changing practice have created a necessity to further improve this law in line with modern requirements.

### **Abundance of repetitive and fragmented norms**

Studies have revealed that the institution of deputy inquiry is enshrined in four laws, parliamentary inquiry in three laws, and legal norms regarding budget execution and the "government hour" are enshrined in two laws. In addition, other norms related to parliamentary oversight are duplicated across several laws. These norms are also repeated in the Regulations of the Legislative Chamber.

From the perspective of legal theory, repetition of the same norm across multiple regulatory legal acts weakens legal certainty, destabilizes the normative system, and creates ambiguity in determining responsibility.

Therefore, it is advisable to consolidate all key norms related to parliamentary oversight within a single, systematic legislative act.

### **Rapid response**

Scholars rely on various criteria when classifying forms of parliamentary oversight. American scholars Matthew McCubbins and Thomas Schwartz divide parliamentary oversight into two main forms: permanent ("police-patrol oversight") and extraordinary ("fire-alarm oversight").<sup>5</sup>

"Police-patrol oversight" involves systematic and continuous monitoring of government activities by parliament. This is costly but ensures regular inspection (for example, standing committee reviews and consideration of audit reports).

"Fire-alarm oversight" occurs when parliament or deputies intervene only when a problem arises — that is, when an "alarm" is triggered. In this approach, the public, media, and interest groups send signals, and parliament responds accordingly.

Based on this classification, it is advisable to strengthen rapid-response mechanisms in parliamentary activity, making rational use of the advantages of the "fire-alarm" approach. Currently, this approach is mainly used in the institution of deputy inquiry, while it is

<sup>2</sup>

<https://www.parliament.uk/about/how/committees/select/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gao.gov/about/what-gao-does>

<sup>4</sup> Parliamentary Oversight of the Executive in the OSCE Region, 2025. Pp. 51.

[www.osce.org/files/f/documents/8/9/590063.pdf](http://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/8/9/590063.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Congressional Oversight Overlooked: Police Patrols versus Fire Alarms Author(s): Mathew D. McCubbins and Thomas Schwartz Source: American Journal of Political Science, Vol. 28, No. 1 (Feb., 1984). Accessed: 25/08/2008. Pp. 165-179.

lacking in other areas of oversight (for example, committee hearings and parliamentary investigations).<sup>6</sup> This would increase the ability to hear “signals” from the public, media, and citizens in a timely manner, respond to problems without delay, and demand immediate explanations or action from the government.

### **Introducing an effectiveness evaluation system**

At present, there is no unified system for measuring and analyzing the effectiveness of different forms of parliamentary oversight. As a result, it is difficult in practice to determine which forms produce real results and which remain merely formal.

Therefore, it is advisable to introduce a system for evaluating the effectiveness of all forms of parliamentary oversight. Within this system, annual social surveys could be conducted among deputies to assess the practical significance, impact, and effectiveness of oversight forms. Based on the data obtained, recommendations would be developed to optimize low-efficiency forms, expand the use of the most effective ones, and improve their implementation mechanisms.

This approach would make it possible to measure qualitative indicators of parliamentary oversight and orient activities toward tangible results.

### **Monitoring**

Under the current procedure, there is no centralized and systematic monitoring mechanism for the implementation of decisions adopted within various forms of parliamentary oversight.

The problem is that because the implementation of measures identified as a result of oversight is not consistently tracked, the effectiveness of parliamentary decisions declines and accountability of responsible state bodies is insufficiently formed.

Therefore, it is proposed to introduce legislative provisions establishing a regular monitoring system for the outcomes of parliamentary oversight. Monitoring should include:

- entering all decisions, recommendations, and instructions adopted within all forms of oversight into a unified register;
- electronically tracking the actions of responsible executive bodies, deadlines, and the degree of implementation of instructions;
- launching mechanisms for additional hearings at the chamber level or repeated measures regarding unfulfilled or delayed items;
- discussing monitoring results in the form of quarterly analytical reports at sessions of the Legislative Chamber.

### **DIGITALIZATION**

It is no secret that digital technologies create opportunities for rapid analysis and convenient information exchange in parliamentary activity. This helps in drawing well-founded conclusions on the

implementation of laws and organizing parliamentary oversight more effectively.

Through modern platforms, issues can be studied quickly, and decisions can be shaped with the active participation of the broader public.

The World e-Parliament Report 2024 presents a comprehensive analysis of the use of digital technologies in parliaments worldwide. The report is based on surveys from 115 parliaments or chambers in 86 countries and inter-parliamentary institutions.<sup>7</sup>

The report notes increasing strategic attention to digital transformation: 68% of parliaments reported having multi-year digital strategies.

The use of artificial intelligence and cloud computing is growing rapidly. Cybersecurity has become one of the top priorities, and social media has become a tool used by nearly all parliaments.

Currently, 29% of parliaments use artificial intelligence in some form or scale. This represents significant growth compared to 2020, when only 10% used it, mostly experimentally.

For example, in the United Kingdom, MP Mark Sewards launched an AI clone called “AI Mark” to respond to constituents’ questions 24 hours a day.<sup>8</sup> Digital political avatars have also been piloted in Japan and Denmark.

The report emphasizes that parliaments worldwide are allocating a larger share of their budgets to ICT. While it was 15% in 2020, now 20% of parliaments spend more than 10% of their total budget on digital technologies. However, insufficient funding and a shortage of experienced personnel remain key obstacles to digital transformation.

The report also advances the following key recommendations:

- development of clear, multi-year digital strategies by parliaments;
- allocation of sufficient financial, human, and technological resources for digital transformation;
- creation of legislation ensuring responsible and transparent use of new technologies such as artificial intelligence;
- strengthening training programs for parliament members and staff on digital literacy, cybersecurity, and AI;
- expanding the use of digital platforms to ensure interactive and open communication with citizens.

Overall, these recommendations will help further strengthen the effectiveness of parliamentary oversight by increasing openness, transparency, and accountability in parliamentary activities.

### **CONCLUSION**

The development of effective parliamentary oversight remains a critical priority for strengthening democratic governance and ensuring accountability in public

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<sup>6</sup> Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On parliamentary control”. April 11, 2016, No. LRU-403. <https://lex.uz/uz/docs/-2929477>

<sup>7</sup> World e-Parliament Report 2024. Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2024. P. 5.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy5pr3q6lrpo>

administration. As the functions and responsibilities of parliaments continue to expand, the importance of robust oversight mechanisms becomes increasingly evident.

This study has identified several key areas requiring improvement, including modernization of the legislative framework, consolidation of legal norms, enhancement of rapid-response mechanisms, introduction of effectiveness evaluation systems, establishment of systematic monitoring procedures, and implementation of digital technologies.

Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive and integrated approach that combines legal reform, institutional development, and technological innovation. Strengthening parliamentary oversight not only enhances the efficiency of governance but also reinforces public trust in democratic institutions and promotes transparency in decision-making processes.

In the context of ongoing political and administrative reforms, the lower chamber plays a central role in ensuring effective parliamentary control. By adopting modern oversight mechanisms and embracing digital transformation, parliaments can significantly improve their capacity to respond to societal needs and contribute to sustainable democratic development.

The implementation of the proposals outlined in this article will support the formation of a more responsive, transparent, and results-oriented system of parliamentary oversight capable of meeting the challenges of contemporary governance.

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