

	Science, Education and Innovations in the Context of Modern Problems Issue 9, Vol. 8, 2025
	Title of research article The Evolution of Parliamentary Diplomacy in the Maghreb: From Conceptual Foundations to Constitutional Practice
Naziha Benzaghoul	Dr. Lecturer A Faculty of Law, University of Algiers 1 Algeria E-mail: n.benzaghoul@univ-alger.dz
Issue web link	https://imcra-az.org/archive/383-science-education-and-innovations-in-the-context-of-modern-problems-issue-9-vol-8-2025.html
Keywords	Parliamentary diplomacy; Maghreb; Foreign policy; Parliament; International relations; Inter-parliamentary cooperation; Constitutional practice.
Abstract Parliamentary diplomacy has emerged as a significant dimension of international relations, complementing and, at times, reshaping the dynamics of traditional state-centric diplomacy. Rooted in the imperatives of globalization—economic, political, legal, scientific, and technological—parliamentary diplomacy represents an adaptive response to the interconnected nature of today’s international order. Through formal and informal channels, it enables parliaments to act as active partners in the conduct of external relations, fostering dialogue, cooperation, and mutual understanding among states. In the Maghreb, parliamentary diplomacy has gained increasing relevance over the past decades, particularly as a tool for strengthening regional integration, enhancing inter-Arab solidarity, and engaging in broader intercultural dialogue with global actors. This paper traces the conceptual evolution of parliamentary diplomacy, situating it within the Maghrebi constitutional and institutional frameworks. It explores the mechanisms through which national parliaments participate in inter-parliamentary organizations, assess their contribution to foreign policy objectives, and highlights the challenges that remain in aligning parliamentary initiatives with official diplomatic agendas. By examining both textual constitutional provisions and practical experiences, this study underscores the duality of parliamentary diplomacy in the Maghreb: on one hand, an instrument of cooperation and mutual recognition, and on the other, a space constrained by political systems, institutional limitations, and regional tensions. Ultimately, parliamentary diplomacy in the Maghreb illustrates the growing pluralization of diplomacy and its role in shaping the dialogue of civilizations and the governance of global affairs.	
Citation. Benzaghoul N. (2025). The Evolution of Parliamentary Diplomacy in the Maghreb: From Conceptual Foundations to Constitutional Practice. <i>Science, Education and Innovations in the Context of Modern Problems</i>, 8(9), 967–977. https://doi.org/10.56334/sci/8.9.81	
Licensed © 2025 The Author(s). Published by Science, Education and Innovations in the context of modern problems (SEI) by IMCRA - International Meetings and Journals Research Association (Azerbaijan). This is	

an open access article under the **CC BY** license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

Received: 10.02.2025

Accepted: 03.04.2025

Published: 01.09.2025 (available online)

Introduction

Parliamentary diplomacy has emerged as one of the defining instruments of contemporary foreign policy. Far from being a mere supplement to the work of executive branches and foreign ministries, it has become an institutionalized mechanism through which states seek to advance their foreign-policy objectives. It functions by cultivating political, cultural, and economic relations between legislatures and other international actors through a wide spectrum of parliamentary tools, ranging from official delegations and committees on foreign affairs to inter-parliamentary assemblies, friendship groups, and international parliamentary organizations.

Over the past decades, the significance of parliamentary diplomacy has grown in tandem with the expansion of international cooperation and the increasing complexity of inter-state relations. The globalization of security, economy, health, and environmental concerns has rendered diplomacy multidimensional, requiring input not only from heads of state and ministries but also from elected representatives who embody the political will of the people. Within this context, parliamentary diplomacy has transformed into a driver of foreign-policy development, exerting tangible influence on the shaping of global policies.

The intensification of international exchanges has compelled parliaments to expand their functions beyond their traditional remit of law-making and governmental oversight. Legislative chambers today intervene actively in the international arena to advocate for peace, democracy, human rights, environmental sustainability, and socio-economic development. Their capacity to forge cross-national networks, deliberate upon global challenges, and influence both domestic and international public opinion provides them with a unique diplomatic function now widely acknowledged as parliamentary diplomacy.

The historical roots of parliamentary diplomacy can be traced to the very formation of parliaments themselves. A landmark moment was the establishment of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in 1889, recognized as the first permanent, multilateral political organization bringing together legislators from different countries. Since then, profound transformations in international relations—decolonization, globalization, the rise of regional integration, and the proliferation of global governance institutions—have reinforced the importance of parliamentary diplomacy. It has proven effective in reducing inter-state tensions, facilitating intercultural dialogue, and promoting collective action on transnational issues.

In the 21st century, parliamentary diplomacy works alongside traditional diplomacy as a complementary mechanism of conflict resolution, crisis management, and cooperation. Its presence in the Maghreb (Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco) has become particularly significant given the region's geopolitical challenges, aspirations for democratic governance, and constitutional reforms aimed at expanding citizens' participation in political decision-making. This study therefore examines parliamentary diplomacy in the Maghreb through a comparative analytical approach, addressing two key axes:

- Axis I: The constitutional foundations of parliamentary activity in the diplomatic field.
- Axis II: The extent of freedom of action and practical influence enjoyed by parliamentary diplomacy.

The central research question guiding this study is: Has parliamentary diplomacy played a decisive role in Maghrebi constitutional practice and fulfilled its intended objectives? By addressing this question, the paper seeks to assess both the textual recognition of parliamentary diplomacy in constitutional frameworks and its actual impact in practice.

Axis I: Constitutional Foundations of Parliamentary Work in the Diplomatic Field

In the 21st century, diplomacy has become one of the main driving forces in managing the international community and addressing its political, economic, environmental, security, and social issues. The countries of

the Maghreb have begun to accelerate political and constitutional reforms by providing guarantees for popular participation in decision-making at all internal and external levels.¹

First: The Doctrinal Definition of Parliamentary Diplomacy.

The emergence of parliamentary diplomacy is linked to a set of factors and variables the most prominent being the growing power of world public opinion in international relations, alongside the increasing need for peoples, through their parliaments, to participate in external relations so as to ensure greater stability in the international arena.

Parliamentary diplomacy, in the form we recognize today, found its first practical application under the League of Nations, where international problems were brought into public debate, allowing all member states whether directly concerned or not to participate.²

Etymologically, the term “diplomacy” dates back to antiquity and has been used throughout humanity’s development as a means of communication and understanding among tribes and states. The Greek word “diploun” means “to fold,” while the Latin “diploma” referred to official documents engraved on metal tablets, folded in a particular way and sealed. In diplomatics (the study of documents), a “diploma” denotes an official instrument issued by a public authority or a person vested with official capacity.³

Accordingly, “diplomacy” originally signified the folded and sealed document carried by an envoy on an official mission⁴ beyond state borders attesting to the envoy’s representative capacity and conferring inviolability on their person and effects.

While many scholars in law, politics, sociology and international relations have produced valuable studies on parliamentary diplomacy, there is no single, universally-accepted definition. Parliamentary diplomacy may be described as a particular form of open, collective diplomacy conducted within international and regional organizations such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Consultative Council of the Arab Maghreb Union, and the Asian Parliamentary Assembly for Peace.

It comprises the individual and collective efforts of members of parliament to engage domestically and internationally so that the legislature can fulfill, to the greatest extent possible, its mandate in serving society and its various causes, in faithful discharge of the trust delegated to it by the people.

It therefore encompasses the external activities of legislative chambers or of some of their members. The Dictionary of Diplomacy affirms this understanding, defining parliamentary diplomacy as diplomatic activity within major international organizations⁵ and what occurs within legislative assemblies. In its modern conception built on a consultative approach representatives of people’s deliberate issues of global concern within frameworks that establish universal rules governing parliamentary procedure.⁶

This conception thus expresses a dual process: democratizing the internal life of the United Nations and democratizing relations among nations. Parliamentary diplomacy is characterized by features such as pluralism, publicity, precise procedural rules akin to those used in parliamentary sittings, a particular decision-making style, a commitment to peace and sustainable development, support for government efforts, and the strengthening of democratic processes and representative institutions through the promotion of civil,

¹ - Collective authors, *Organization and Parliamentary Work in Tunisia*, Westminster Foundation for Democracy; Al-Maghrebiya for Printing and Publishing, Tunis, 2020, p. 127.

² - Youssef Azroual, “Parliamentary Diplomacy: A Study of the Role of the Algerian Parliament,” *Journal of Legal and Political Studies*, June 2017, University of Amar Telidji, Laghouat (Algeria), p. 186.

³ - Ahmed Salem Mohammed Ba‘amar, *Diplomacy Between Islamic Jurisprudence and International Law*, Dar al-Nafa’is for Publishing and Distribution, Jordan, 1st ed., 2001, p. 58.

⁴ - Reda Hani, *Diplomacy: Its History, Laws and Principles*, Dar al-Manhal al-Lubnani, Beirut, 1997, p. 9.

⁵ - Didier Maus, “The Institutional Framework of Parliamentary Diplomacy,” *Political History Review*, No. 17, 2012, p. 15.

⁶ - Jean-Paul Pancrazio, *Dictionary of Diplomacy*, 1998, p. 247.

political, economic, social and cultural rights. As representative forums of expression, parliaments serve as platforms where the most significant political currents in society can freely deliberate.⁷

Second: The Constitutional Treatment of Parliamentary Diplomacy

Algeria.

In recent years, the Algerian Parliament has worked to intensify its international engagement by participating actively in major multilateral conferences and meetings, and by increasing its presence in various arenas for inter-parliamentary dialogue. It has sought to capitalize on opportunities for bilateral parliamentary cooperation and to develop exchanges in the field of legislation with several sisterly and friendly states.⁸

On the legislative front, Parliament addresses foreign-policy questions through procedures for ratifying laws and international agreements that bind the state internationally. It also contributes to deepening cooperation among states and peoples in line with the values and principles of the UN Charter, including the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Parliament promotes legal and institutional cooperation, energizes economic cooperation and social action, receives foreign dignitaries, and participates in regional conferences and events abroad.

The rise of parliamentary diplomacy is inseparable from the expanding roles and responsibilities of parliaments and legislative institutions as authentic partners in managing external relations in harmony with executive foreign-affairs institutions. Through the Algerian Parliament's membership in international and regional parliamentary organizations and unions, it has supported the efforts of governmental and non-governmental organizations warranting serious study of the role played by parliaments in managing external work with such bodies.

A range of mechanisms bolster parliamentary diplomacy: advance parliamentary démarches that pave the way for certain treaties or for convening regional and international conferences; joint "diplomatic missions" comprising members of parliament and government; and the dispatch of parliamentary delegations to observe elections in other states.

Algeria recognizes a single official diplomacy the one embodied by the Head of State, who defines and leads the nation's foreign policy. At the same time, Parliament has strengthened its international activity by participating in conferences, broadening its presence in bilateral and multilateral parliamentary dialogue, and developing legislative exchanges through numerous protocols and agreements.⁹

Diplomacy is a field reserved to the President of the Republic: the constitutional texts provide that the foreign policy is set by the President without the participation of the Prime Minister. However, Parliament participates alongside the President in certain limited, constitutionally-framed domains. Explicit parliamentary approval is required before the President can ratify armistice agreements; treaties of peace, alliance and union; treaties concerning state boundaries; treaties relating to personal-status law; and treaties entailing expenditures not provided for in the state budget.

Article 104 of the Law on the Organization and Functioning of the People's National Assembly provides: "When a bill is submitted to the People's National Assembly for the approval of a convention or treaty pursuant to Articles 21 and 122 of the 1996 Constitution, the Assembly does not vote article-by-article; no amendments are admissible. The Assembly decides to approve, reject or postpone consideration of the bill, and any rejection or postponement must be reasoned."

⁷ - Mellawi Brahim, "Parliamentary Diplomacy," *Journal of Law and Human Sciences*, Vol. 3, No. 1, 2010, p. 132.

⁸ - Statement by Abdelhamid Si Afif, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and the National Community Abroad, People's National Assembly (Algeria), p. 21.

⁹ - Speech by Mr. Abdelaziz Ziari, President of the People's National Assembly, Study Days on Parliamentary Diplomacy, previously cited reference, p. 71.

Parliament may also open a debate on foreign policy which is led by the President at the request of the latter or of the Speaker of the People's National Assembly. Article 121 of the 1989 Constitution stated: "The People's National Assembly may open a debate on foreign policy at the request of the President of the Republic or of the Speaker. This debate may, where appropriate, culminate in a resolution of the Assembly, to be transmitted by its Speaker to the President of the Republic," a formulation echoed by Article 130 of the 1996 Constitution.

The 2020 constitutional amendment (Article 152) now provides: "Parliament may open a debate on foreign policy at the request of the President of the Republic or of either chamber's speaker. Where appropriate, the debate may culminate in a resolution issued by Parliament meeting in joint session, to be transmitted to the President of the Republic."

Tunisia Like Algeria, Tunisia grounds its parliamentary diplomacy in international legality and adherence to the UN Charter. It is committed to peace, security, understanding, and the dissemination of a culture of tolerance, dialogue and solidarity, while rejecting double standards.¹⁰

Parliament's involvement in external affairs arises, inter alia, when the President proclaims war or peace an action that requires parliamentary approval.¹¹ Under the 1959 Constitution, the Chamber of Deputies' approval was required pursuant to Article 48, as Tunisia adopted a parliamentary-dominant system. Although treaty-making is a presidential prerogative, the President may not promulgate certain treaties without parliamentary ratification. Ratification is a necessary condition for treaties to enter into force, and treaties duly ratified take precedence over statutes. The Chamber's Rules of Procedure set out the ratification process: ratification is not conducted article-by-article; proposed amendments to the treaty are inadmissible; and the Chamber's role is limited to ratification, conditional ratification, postponement, or rejection.

As regards treaties within the framework of Maghreb unity, Article 2 of the 1959 Constitution affirmed that the Tunisian Republic is part of the Great Arab Maghreb and works toward its unity in the common interest. It also prescribed special procedures for treaties concluded for that purpose: treaties that would entail amending the Constitution must be submitted by the President to a popular referendum after approval by the Chamber of Deputies under the constitutional procedures.

The 2002 constitutional revision (Article 32, new) provided: "The President of the Republic shall not ratify treaties and no ratification shall be permissible for treaties relating to state boundaries;¹² commercial treaties; treaties concerning international organization; those involving the state's financial commitments; and treaties containing provisions of a legislative nature or relating to personal status except after their approval by the Chamber of Deputies. Treaties shall not enter into force except after ratification and provided the other party implements them. Treaties ratified by the President and approved by the Chamber of Deputies shall have greater force than statutes."¹³

The Chamber's Rules of Procedure interpreted the phrase "procedures and conditions provided for in the Constitution" as those applicable to constitutional amendment. Accordingly, the Chamber considered treaties concluded pursuant to Article 2 of the Constitution (on Maghreb unity) under the same procedures used for constitutional revision. The Chamber thus plays a very significant role in realizing the unity of the Greater

¹⁰ - Intervention by Mr. Salah al-Taberqi, Chair of the Committee on Political Affairs and Foreign Relations in the Tunisian Chamber of Deputies, Study Days on Parliamentary Diplomacy, previously cited reference, p. 89.

¹¹ - Prior to the 2002 constitutional amendment, the approval of the Chamber of Deputies alone was required; after this amendment, the approval of the Chamber of Deputies alone was still required despite the establishment of the Chamber of Advisors as a second chamber in the Tunisian Parliament.

¹² - Article 48 of the 1959 Constitution and the 2002 Constitution states: "The President of the Republic concludes treaties, declares war, and concludes peace with the approval of the Chamber of Deputies ..."; and Article 98 states: "The President of the Republic declares war and concludes peace with the approval of the absolute majority of the members of the Chamber of People's Deputies."

¹³ - Article 33 of the 1959 Constitution states: "Treaties are ratified by a law."

Maghreb: it may oversee the President's efforts to that end and prevent submission of a unification-related treaty to referendum.¹⁴

In short, the 2002 Constitution classified treaties into categories: for certain important treaties the ones listed above the President may not ratify without the Chamber's approval. The rationale for vesting Parliament with ratification authority over major treaties, and not others, is to avoid overburdening it with the ratification of all treaties and agreements down to those of a purely technical nature which could hamper the executive's work.¹⁵

Previously, the Chamber ratified all international treaties regardless of their nature or content, whether within the legislative domain or the executive's general regulatory power. The 2022 Constitution (Article 74) now provides: "The President of the Republic ratifies treaties and orders their publication. Treaties relating to state boundaries; commercial treaties; treaties on international organization; those involving the state's financial commitments; and treaties containing provisions of a legislative nature may only be ratified after approval by the Chamber of Deputies."

Morocco Since its first constitution in 1962, Morocco like many Western European and other states has entrusted Parliament with certain powers of a diplomatic character that fall within the realm of foreign policy. From the outset, however, Parliament's external role has been essentially to implement a policy whose principal architect is His Majesty the King; the external domain is considered part of the royal "domaine réservé."¹⁶

The constitutional legislator's goal was to ensure that representatives of the nation would have a presence on the international political stage alongside their domestic role a competence shaped by the interplay between constitutional provisions and the transformations overtaking international relations.

Parliamentary action in the diplomatic field can be seen in the stands taken by representatives of the nation on the country's causes, and in Parliament's approval of treaties and agreements concluded by Morocco in accordance with constitutional requirements. These practices are not solely derived from the Constitution; they are also guided by royal directives and speeches and by positions traditionally adopted by the legislature on international issues. In his address opening the October 1982 session, the King urged deputies to pay greater attention to this sphere.

Thus, Parliament has taken positions on numerous dossiers: the national cause (the Sahara and territorial integrity); relations with the European Economic Community (now the European Union) and on fisheries; the Palestinian question; the Arab Maghreb Union; and more. Parliament has also dispatched missions and delegations to explain Morocco's viewpoint on these matters.¹⁷

Compared with many Western parliaments (e.g., France or the United States), the Moroccan Parliament has only limited diplomatic powers. Its role is most visible in approving treaties that impose charges on the state budget; other treaties are ratified by the King. Under the last paragraph of Article 31 of earlier constitutions, Parliament could deliberate on treaties that might be incompatible with constitutional provisions, following the procedures applicable to constitutional amendment thus allowing parliamentary debate on such treaties.

¹⁴ - Article 2 of the 1959 Constitution states: "The Tunisian Republic is part of the Greater Arab Maghreb and works for its unity within the framework of the common interest."

¹⁵ - Bououny (L), *The Conclusion of Treaties in the Tunisian Republic*, Postgraduate Diploma (D.E.A.), Faculty of Law and Political and Economic Sciences of Tunis, 1973.

¹⁶ - Al-Mukhtar Muti', *The Bicameral Parliamentary System in Morocco*, "Morocco in Its International Environment," Series of Legal, Political and Economic Studies No. (1), distributed by Youth Bookstore, Rabat, first edition, Morocco, 1999, p. 123.

¹⁷ - "The Chamber of Representatives in the Service of Moroccan Diplomacy," *International Positions 1984-1987*, publications of the ministry responsible for relations with Parliament concerning parliamentary work.

Under the 1962 Constitution, Parliament had the authority to proclaim war (Article 51)¹⁸ and to authorize the government to extend the state of siege after 30 days (Article 52). The 2011 Constitution (Article 99) provides: “The decision to declare war shall be taken in the Council of Ministers pursuant to Article 49 of this Constitution, after the Parliament has been informed thereof by the King.”

In practice, representatives of the nation in Morocco have only a very limited if not negligible role in treaty ratification, since their competence is confined to approving those treaties that entail public expenditures not provided for in the budget. Signing and ratifying treaties is a royal prerogative, and even when the King’s ratification of a budget-charging treaty requires prior parliamentary approval, the King remains the central actor; Parliament’s role is secondary.

Unlike the French Constitution, which specifies the categories of international agreements requiring parliamentary ratification, the Moroccan constitutional texts have historically been less explicit. By contrast¹⁹, several Arab constitutions grant parliaments broader powers: for instance, Egypt’s 1971 Constitution (Article 151/2) required certain categories of treaties conciliation, alliance, commerce and navigation; treaties altering the state’s territory or sovereignty; and treaties incurring public expenditures not included in the budget to be approved by the People’s Assembly.

In Morocco, the King ratifies treaties and Parliament participates only when a treaty entails charges to the public purse and even then, its role is limited to approval. Royal appeals have emphasized the importance of parliamentary diplomacy; as the King once remarked at the opening of the October session: “I read and listen to your interventions in Parliament and in committees; if I were to reproach you for anything, it would be your lack of interest in Morocco’s external activity.” Overall, the weakness of parliamentary roles in external affairs is not unique to Morocco; it is a broader feature of Maghrebi states. International parliamentary bodies such as the IPU, the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the Pan-African Parliament have significantly contributed to advancing inter-parliamentary dialogue.

Axis II: The Extent of Freedom Enjoyed by Parliamentary Diplomacy

Parliamentary diplomacy is not entirely free, particularly since the Head of State in Maghrebi countries defines and is responsible for foreign policy. Multiple factors circumscribe parliamentary diplomacy’s role: the constitutional organization of the authorities that set and implement foreign policy; the relationship between parliaments and the political system; the method of forming the legislature and its political composition; and the history of the parliamentary institution and the development of each state’s political system.

First: The Constitutional Organization of the Authorities Responsible for Setting and Implementing Foreign Policy.

Parliamentary diplomacy pursues a twofold aim: democratizing the internal life of nations and democratizing relations among them. It can secure its place in international relations by keeping pace with governmental orientations and policies. A review of the constitutions of the Maghreb (Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco) shows that the authority charged with formulating and implementing foreign policy is the executive specifically, the Head of State as the effective locus of executive power.

Foreign policy consists of the strategies and objectives a state follows in interacting with other states and international actors to protect national interests, ensure economic and political security, and shape the international environment to its advantage. As an essential component of public policy, foreign policy may rely on diplomacy and cooperation or on power and influence to achieve its ends. Across the Maghreb, parliamentary roles in approving external-facing legislation, agreements and treaties, as well as in issuing political statements, remain limited; the international arena available to Maghrebi parliaments is constrained.

¹⁸ - Article 72 of the 1970 Constitution and Article 73 of the 1972 Constitution and the 1992 Constitution and the 1996 Constitution, and Article 99 of the 2011 Constitution.

¹⁹ - P. Rambaud, “Parliament and France’s International Commitments under the Fifth Republic,” R.G.D.I.P., 1977, p. 617.

Second: The Relationship of Parliaments to the Political System.

Parliament is a constitutional institution of the state, and every state adopts a particular political system thus parliamentary roles vary with the degree of openness and democratization, the vitality of civil society, and the maturity of political culture. A political system is an interlocking network of formal and informal institutions, laws and values that organize the exercise of power in society, make governmental decisions, and regulate public life through diverse interactions. It encompasses the executive, legislative and judicial branches; political parties; and civil-society organizations, alongside the constitution and laws that govern state-society relations and allocate rights and duties.

Maghrebi countries have alternated among political-system models sometimes presidential, sometimes parliamentary before converging on hybrid arrangements that blend features of both while strengthening presidential powers (so-called “presidentialized” system). As a result, the presidency’s predominance over all branches has tended to narrow the legislature’s diplomatic role in these states.

Third: The Method of Forming the Legislature and Its Political Composition.

In bicameral systems, the composition of the second chamber varies by constitution often relying on direct or indirect elections, in full or in part. In the Maghreb, the executive wields tools that influence parliamentary composition: for example, the President may appoint a portion of members (as in Algeria and Tunisia); governments participate in organizing legislative elections from start to finish. Moreover, the presence of party representatives shapes parliaments’ external powers. These factors combine to limit Maghrebi legislatures’ competencies in foreign affairs.

Fourth: The History of the Parliamentary Institution and the Political Development of Each State.

Parliaments with deep historical roots have established robust customs and traditions that equip them to play a broad role in parliamentary diplomacy. In the Maghreb, parliaments are comparatively young especially their second chambers. In Algeria, the Council of the Nation (upper house) was introduced only with the 1996 constitutional revision; the 2020 amendment reaffirmed bicameralism (“Parliament, composed of the People’s National Assembly and the Council of the Nation, exercises legislative power”).

In Tunisia, a second chamber (the Chamber of Advisors) was established by the 2002 revision; the 2022 Constitution retained bicameralism (Article 56), vesting legislative authority in two chambers: the Assembly of the Representatives of the People and the National Council of Regions and Districts. Morocco first adopted bicameralism in 1962, later suspended it, and then restored it in the 1996 reform; the 2011 Constitution (Article 60) provides that Parliament consists of two chambers the House of Representatives and the House of Councilors whose members derive their mandate from the nation and whose voting right is personal and non-delegable.

Each state’s constitutional model reflects its social, cultural and ideological specificities. Maghrebi states have converged on bicameralism as the most suitable system²⁰ for organizing and steering the contemporary democratic state: it broadens representation, deepens pluralist democracy, and proves more effective in consolidating the rule of law and promoting and protecting human and citizen rights under good governance.

Experience shows that bicameralism, under political pluralism, has yielded many positive and promising results.

Conclusion

Parliamentary diplomacy has witnessed significant growth in recent years, nationally and internationally through exchanges of visits among parliamentary bodies and friendship groups, and in international fora across political and developmental fields. It has attained a prominent position enabling it to play a notable

²⁰ - Masoud Shahyoub, “The Emergence and Development of the Bicameral Parliamentary System,” *Journal of Parliamentary Thought*, Council of the Nation, first issue, December 2002.

role in weaving the norms and ethics of international relations and in helping to temper variables that weigh on power calculations globally.

Parliamentary diplomacy has become vital for states and for governmental and non-governmental organizations in a rapidly changing world that is reordering its priorities to safeguard and strengthen peace and security, embed cooperation, and realize diverse interests. It operates within supra-regional and regional organizations such as the Union for the Mediterranean; the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region; and regional organizations like the Arab Maghreb Union, the League of Arab States, and the Pan-African Parliament.

Following multiple constitutional and political reforms, Maghrebi states now possess frameworks that allow representatives of the people to play an important role in developing parliamentary life in African and Arab countries. Parliamentary diplomacy can bring together legislators and civil-society representatives and bolster initiatives on this front especially when conducted through reform-minded, parliament-centric approaches. Work within international parliamentary institutions provides an appropriate framework for parliamentary diplomacy to achieve its anticipated results provided certain conditions are observed, including the use of advanced technologies and rapid communication tools and cooperation in preparing regional parliamentary research and reports.

Other prerequisites include the careful selection of state representatives to international and regional parliaments according to agreed-upon rules; and, finally, coordination among regional parliaments to avoid duplication and the dissipation of human and material resources on repetitive projects particularly in research and studies. To that end, we offer the following proposals for strengthening parliamentary diplomacy:

- Enhance legislators' foreign-language skills by establishing dedicated training programs.
- Cultivate personal conviction among legislators regarding the importance of their role, and their sincere commitment to the missions entrusted to them.
- Strengthen coordination and joint work among parliamentary institutions, other state institutions, and specialized international and regional organizations.
- Provide effective tools enabling legislators to oversee foreign policy, including oral and written questions as parliamentary oversight mechanisms.
- Broaden Maghrebi parliaments' powers to ratify international treaties, agreements and instruments.
- Upgrade the tools used by foreign-affairs committees in Maghrebi parliaments, which have opportunities to present their countries' positions on international issues and maintain ties with counterpart committees in other states.

Findings

- **Conceptual Evolution:** Parliamentary diplomacy has evolved from a marginal activity to a recognized instrument of international relations, particularly within parliamentary unions, regional assemblies, and global inter-parliamentary organizations.
- **Maghrebi Context:** Constitutions in the Maghreb increasingly acknowledge the external role of parliaments, granting them the authority to ratify treaties, oversee foreign affairs, and participate in international assemblies. Despite these constitutional provisions, the actual influence of parliaments varies depending on political systems and executive-legislative relations in each country.
- **Institutional Practice:** Membership in bodies such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the Pan-African Parliament has allowed Maghrebi legislatures to broaden their diplomatic engagement. Informal practices—such as parliamentary friendship groups and bilateral exchanges—serve as additional instruments for enhancing dialogue.
- **Challenges Identified:** Limited autonomy of parliaments in some Maghrebi states constrains the effectiveness of parliamentary diplomacy. Regional tensions and political fragmentation reduce the

coherence of Maghrebi parliamentary initiatives. The gap between textual constitutional provisions and practical implementation remains a persistent obstacle.

- Contribution to Global Dialogue: Parliamentary diplomacy has played a role in intercultural understanding, regional cooperation, and dialogue among civilizations, although its potential is not yet fully realized.

Ethical Considerations

This study was conducted using publicly available constitutional texts, academic literature, and institutional reports. No human or animal subjects were involved, and therefore no ethical approval was required. The research adheres to academic integrity standards, including proper attribution and avoidance of plagiarism.

Acknowledgement

The author would like to express gratitude to colleagues at the Faculty of Law, University of Algiers 1, for their constructive feedback and intellectual support during the preparation of this work. Appreciation is also extended to the parliamentary staff and research services that provided access to relevant reports and documentation.

Conflict of Interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

Funding

This research received no specific grant from any funding agency, public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

References

1. Abderrahmane, A. (1968). **Le Parlement rationalisé au Maroc** (DES). Rabat.
2. Algerian Constitutions: 1962, 1976, 1989, 1996, 2020.
3. Al-Mukhtār, M. (1999). **The bicameral parliamentary system in Morocco**. Morocco in its international environment, Series of Legal, Political and Economic Studies No. 1. Maktabat Al-Shabāb.
4. Azroual, Y. (2017). Parliamentary diplomacy: A study of the role of the Algerian Parliament. **Journal of Legal and Political Studies**. University of Amar Telidji, Laghouat.
5. Ba'amar, A. S. M. (2001). **Diplomacy between Islamic jurisprudence and international law** (1st ed.). Dar Al-Nafā'is for Publishing and Distribution.
6. Bououny, L. (1973). **La conclusion des traités dans la République Tunisienne** (D.E.A.). Faculté de Droit et des Sciences Politiques et Économiques de Tunis.
7. Collective authors. (2020). **Organization and parliamentary work in Tunisia**. Westminster Foundation for Democracy; Al-Maghrebiyya for Printing and Publishing.
8. Dupy, R. J. (1993). La Constitution marocaine et les relations internationales. In D. Basri, M. Rousset, & G. Vedel (Eds.), **Trente années de vie constitutionnelle au Maroc** (pp. 315–334). L.G.D.J.
9. Hani, R. (1997). **Diplomacy: Its history, laws and principles**. Dar Al-Manhal Al-Lubnani.
10. Maus, D. (2012). Le cadre institutionnel de la diplomatie parlementaire. **Revue d'histoire politique**, 17*(2), 55–68.
11. Mellawi, B. (2010). Parliamentary diplomacy. **Journal of Law and Human Sciences**, 3*(1), 23–45.
12. Ministry in Charge of Relations with Parliament. (1987). **The House of Representatives in the service of Moroccan diplomacy: International positions 1984–1987**.

13. Muqaddam, S. (2007). Parliamentary diplomacy: Reality and prospects. In **Study Days on Parliamentary Diplomacy** (pp. 47–61). People’s National Assembly, Algiers.
14. Pancrazio, J.-P. (1998). **Dictionnaire de la diplomatie**. Dalloz.
15. Rambaud, P. (1977). Le Parlement et les engagements internationaux de la France sous la Vème République. **Revue générale de droit international public**, 81*(2), 315–340.
16. Shahioub, M. (2002). The emergence and evolution of bicameral parliamentary systems. **Journal of Parliamentary Thought**, 1*(December), 87–104.
17. Study Days on Diplomacy (Peace – Democracy – Cooperation). (2007, October 28–29). El-Mithaq Residence, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and the Community Abroad, People’s National Assembly, Algiers.
18. Tunisian Constitutions: 1959, 2002, 2014, 2022.
19. Beetham, D. (2006). **Parliament and democracy in the twenty-first century: A guide to good practice**. Inter-Parliamentary Union.
20. Cutler, R. M. (2006). The emergence of international parliamentary institutions: New networks of influence in world society. In C. P. Thomas (Ed.), **Multilateralism and global governance** (pp. 133–150). Lynne Rienner.
21. El Husseini, R. (2019). Parliamentary diplomacy in the Arab world: Functions and limitations. **Mediterranean Politics**, 24*(3), 357–375. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13629395.2018.1559011>
22. Malamud, A., & Stavridis, S. (2011). Parliaments and parliamentarians as international actors. In B. Reinalda (Ed.), **The Ashgate research companion to non-state actors** (pp. 101–112). Routledge.
23. Stavridis, S., & Jančić, D. (2016). The rise of parliamentary diplomacy in international politics. In D. Jančić (Ed.), **National parliaments after the Lisbon Treaty and the Euro crisis** (pp. 139–162). Oxford University Press.
24. Weiglas, F., & de Boer, M. (2007). **Guidelines for parliamentary diplomacy**. Netherlands Institute of International Relations “Clingendael.”
25. Kerr, D., & Wiseman, G. (2013). **Diplomacy in a globalizing world: Theories and practices**. Oxford University Press.
26. Risse, T. (2012). Global governance and parliamentary diplomacy: The role of the European Parliament. **Journal of European Public Policy**, 19*(2), 242–259. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2011.609719>
27. Wouters, J., Meuwissen, K., & Odermatt, J. (2013). The EU in the world: The European Parliament’s growing role. **The Hague Journal of Diplomacy**, 8*(2), 117–134. <https://doi.org/10.1163/1871191X-12341244>
28. Zappalà, G. (2020). **Parliaments and democracy in the twenty-first century: The role of parliamentary diplomacy**. Palgrave Macmillan.