



Strengthening links between parliaments and citizens

Geneva, Switzerland

Thursday 7 October 2010

The purpose of the series of joint conferences of the IPU and the ASGP is to foster dialogue on recent developments in parliamentary practice and working methods. The conference provides a venue for parliamentarians and Secretaries General from developed and developing countries to exchange perspectives, share good practices and nurture new ideas. The conference aims to be interactive and practical in nature. Since the series began in 2006, the issues of parliamentary broadcasting; parliaments and ICT; parliamentarians' information needs; and evaluating parliamentary performance have been addressed.

Programme

- 9.30 a.m. - 9.45 a.m. **Opening remarks**
- 9.45 a.m. - 11.15 a.m. **The roles and responsibilities of parliamentarians and parliamentary administration in strengthening links with citizens**
- Panellists:
- Mr. José Carlos Mahía, Member of the House of Representatives, Uruguay
 - Mr. Ghulam Hassan Gran, Secretary General, House of Representatives, Afghanistan
 - Mr. V.K. Agnihotri, Secretary General, Rajya Sabha, India
- 11.15 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. *Coffee break*
- 11.30 a.m. - 1 p.m. **Innovations in building links between parliaments and citizens**
- Panellists:
- Ms. Silvia Makgone, Member of the National Assembly, Namibia - *Constituency work*
 - Ms. Marija Lugarić, Member of the Croatian Parliament - *Social Media – A Tool for Communication*
 - Mr. John Pullinger, Director General, Information Services, House of Commons, United Kingdom - *Welcoming, worthwhile, relevant: are we?*

1 p.m. - 2.30 p.m.

Lunch

2.30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Knowledge café: sharing good practices

Many parliaments experience similar challenges in strengthening links with citizens. Using the 'knowledge café' format, each participant will be invited to identify one challenge that they have faced. Then, working in small groups, participants will share advice on practical solutions to the challenges that have been identified.

4 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.

Setting priorities in a context of limited resources

Many parliaments are facing budgetary restrictions as a consequence of the global economic crisis. In this context, what are the priorities that parliaments are setting to strengthen links with citizens?

This session will be moderated by Mr. Austin Zvoma, Secretary General of the House of Assembly of Zimbabwe.

Closing remarks