

## World e-Parliament Conference 2009

3- 5 November 2009 - Washington, D.C.

### ANNOTATED AGENDA

3 November 2009

12:00 pm - 02:00 pm	Arrival and registration of delegates
02:00 pm - 03:00 pm	Official Opening of the World e-Parliament Conference 2009
03:00 pm - 03:30 pm	Keynote address
03:30 pm - 05:00 pm	<p><b>High-level panel</b></p> <p><b>Connecting Parliaments and citizens: new technologies to foster openness, transparency and accountability</b></p> <p>Information and communication technologies (ICT) have significantly changed the way citizens interact with each other and with legislatures. The pace of technological change makes it difficult to predict what new capabilities may be possible and what new societal developments may emerge in the future.</p> <p>While the impact of the newest technologies on the political sphere is at an early stage, their potential can already be glimpsed through recent elections and changes in the modalities of communication of citizens and civil societies with their legislatures. This presents both opportunities and challenges for parliaments as they seek to affirm their role as vital democratic institutions of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the primary representative of the people.</p> <p>The panel will consider how ICT can be used to encourage the effective engagement of citizens and increase their participation in the political debate, as well as support the commitment of parliaments to greater openness, transparency and accountability with the goal of furthering the state of democracy.</p>
05:00 pm - 06:30 pm	<p><b>High-level panel</b></p> <p><b>How information and communication technologies (ICT) can strengthen Parliaments in young and emerging democracies</b></p> <p>One of the greatest challenges to young and emerging democracies, especially in a post conflict environment, is the development of strong and effective political institutions. National parliaments are crucial to democracy and good governance, particularly because of their traditional responsibilities to debate and pass legislation that provides the country's legal framework and to ensure oversight of the government.</p> <p>In recent years, a growing number of developing countries have moved toward a multi-party parliamentary system. In many cases the new constitutional framework has assigned an enhanced role to the parliament and required the adaptation of</p>

	<p>existing laws and the adoption of new legislation. The resulting legislative agenda can often be extensive and at times overwhelming, especially if the parliament does not have the experience, staff, information, and technology to serve its membership and constituencies effectively.</p> <p>The panel will consider the potential of ICT to strengthen and support parliament's primary functions of representation, law-making, and oversight in politically challenging environments, and how these tools can be used to make the legislature a vital forum for the expression of the diversity of society.</p>
07:00 pm - 09:00 pm	Welcoming reception hosted by the U.S. House of Representatives

#### 4 November 2009

#### Parallel sessions

	General session	Specialized session
09:00 am - 10:45 am	<p><b>ICT Strategic Planning, Management and Oversight: the complexity of the legislature environment</b></p> <p>The active engagement of the leadership of parliaments, from the political level to the administrative and technical levels is a necessary ingredient for implementing complex ICT programmes and projects. This session focuses on sound frameworks for ICT strategic planning, management, and oversight, and the particular role Secretaries General play in this domain.</p>	<p><b>Open standards for parliamentary documentation: cooperative approaches</b></p> <p>As parliaments develop systems to digitally produce, manage, and preserve parliamentary documents, the choice of the standards used in preparing those documents becomes crucial for ensuring long term access and availability. This session will focus on inter-parliamentary cooperation for improving and adapting existing schemas to facilitate convergence and interoperability, as well as to foster synergies for cost reductions in the development of high value tools and services for both parliaments and citizens</p>
10:45 am - 11:15 am	Coffee break	
11:15 am - 01:00 pm	<p><b>How parliamentary websites can serve different purposes and users</b></p> <p>Websites are fundamental in supporting parliaments' objectives of representation, accountability, accessibility, transparency, and effectiveness. For an increasing percentage of citizens, websites are becoming a primary source of information about the legislature. This session will focus on how parliaments can use their websites to serve a variety of purposes related to their core responsibilities, and meet the needs of diverse users.</p>	<p><b>Implementing XML in Parliament</b></p> <p>Implementing open document standards, such as XML, is a complex process, yet there are a number of examples where success has been achieved through the right mix of planning, stakeholder engagement and understanding, and the application of good practices and methodologies. This session will focus on the implementation of XML in parliaments and will highlight its benefits and challenges.</p>

01:00 pm - 02:30 pm	Lunch break	
02:30 pm - 03:45 pm	<p><b>Special event</b></p> <p><b>How important are international and regional networks to support Parliament's responsibilities?</b></p> <p>Cooperation and the sharing of knowledge is one of the least expensive and potentially most effective ways for parliaments to enhance their use of technology to meet their legal and constitutional responsibilities. Cooperative networks at the regional and global level, as well as through bilateral or twinning arrangements, can enable more parliaments - in both developed and developing countries - to realize the full potential of ICT to support greater efficiencies and effectiveness in their legislative, oversight, and representational work and attain new levels of transparency, accountability, and accessibility.</p> <p>This special event will focus on the role of parliamentary networks in fostering the sharing of knowledge and best practices. Particular attention will be paid to lessons learned from existing global and regional networks such as the ASGP, the APKN, the SGFAPP, the ECPRD, the IFLA Parliamentary Library and Research Services Section and the NCSL.</p>	
03:45 pm - 04:15 pm	Coffee break	
04:15 pm - 06:00 pm	<p><b>The use of new social media and other Internet communication tools in the parliamentary environment: lessons learned</b></p> <p>This session will draw upon the lessons learned in the use of new social media and other Internet-based communication technologies. It will analyze successful uses of such things as blogging, twittering, flickr, YouTube, Facebook, and online forums with constituents, which have the potential to support the goals of transparency and greater citizen participation.</p>	<p><b>Security and reliability of technical infrastructures: challenges for parliaments</b></p> <p>Legislatures require a safe and reliable technical infrastructure free from disruptions. Improving security and ensuring continuity of service are essential, yet in many legislatures these requirements are still not being addressed adequately. This session will focus on internal and external vulnerabilities and on practices that could be adopted to minimize risk and ensure greater confidence and trust.</p>
06:15 pm - 07:15 pm	Reception hosted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union	

5 November 2009

Parallel sessions

	General session	Specialized session
09:00 am - 10:45 am	<p><b>Systems for managing the lifecycle of legislative documentation</b></p> <p>The growing reliance of parliaments on digital technologies as the primary means for managing their documents pose a number of technical and procedural challenges. This session will focus on how modern systems designed around the lifecycle of legislative documents can better support legislative research and analysis, enable more effective parliamentary information services, and ensure preservation and permanent access.</p>	<p><b>Technology options for recording and reporting floor and committee proceedings</b></p> <p>With the advent of Web 2.0 technologies, such as blogging and social networking, the demand for recordings of parliamentary proceedings in both digital scripted, audio, and video formats has evolved. This discussion will focus on how parliaments make use of technologies to provide recordings of proceedings, in which types of format, at what speeds, and with what methods of access.</p>
10:45 am - 11:15 am	Coffee break	
11:15 am - 01:00 pm	<p><b>Chamber technologies: experiences and trends</b></p> <p>Chamber technologies serve a twofold purpose: first, to facilitate the work of legislators during proceedings; second to provide the public with access to accurate information about what is occurring in the assembly. This session will highlight experiences and trends in implementing an array of technologies in chambers.</p>	<p><b>Enhancing parliamentary research and information services through ICT</b></p> <p>This session will focus on the use of new technologies to enhance the capacity of parliaments to respond to the research and formation needs of members and committees. Special attention will be given to solutions for providing library and research services using modern technologies.</p>
01:00 pm - 02:30 pm	Lunch break	

Plenary session

02:30 pm - 05:30 pm	<p><b>High-level panel</b></p> <p><b>Promoting democracy and inter-parliamentary cooperation: a collaborative approach to institutional building through a shared framework for e-parliament</b></p> <p>Results of the 2007 survey of ICT in parliaments and preliminary results of the 2009 survey show that most parliaments need to achieve a significantly higher capacity in the use of ICT to support their legislative, oversight and representational functions. To respond to this challenge, there is a need for a global multilateral effort and greater coordination among all actors working in this field - parliaments, donors, international organizations and civil society organizations.</p> <p>In this session, panelists will present the ongoing initiatives of their institutions in support of parliamentary development, express views on multilateral vs. bilateral approaches and discuss a set of strategic goals, identified by the Board of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, which taken together form a shared e-Parliament framework for possible adoption by the</p>
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	international community.
05:30 pm - 06:00 pm	<b>Official closing of the World e-Parliament Conference 2009</b>
06:00 pm - 08:00 pm	Guided Tours