World e-Parliament Conference 2014
Lessons learned and future horizons
8-10 May 2014
Co-organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the
National Assembly of the Republic of Korea

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Background and focus of the Conference

The World e-Parliament Conference is the biennial forum of the community of parliaments on their use of information and communication technologies (ICT). It addresses, from both the policy and technical perspectives, how ICT can help improve representation, law-making and oversight and increase parliament's openness, accessibility, accountability and effectiveness.

The World e-Parliament Conference 2014, to take place in Seoul on 8, 9 and 10 May 2014 at the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, builds on the results of five previous conferences held respectively in Geneva (2007), Brussels (2008), Washington D.C. (2009), Johannesburg (2010) and Rome (2012), as well as on the activities undertaken by the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, a joint initiative of the IPU and the United Nations, since 2007.

The overarching theme of the Word e-Parliament Conference 2014 is "Lessons learned and future horizons". By focusing on this theme, the sixth World e-Parliament Conference intends to take stock of the progress made by the parliamentary community in responding to citizens' calls for greater institutional openness and dialogue. At the same time, it will look at the emerging and future challenges that parliaments will need to address to keep pace with technological change in society.

These challenges are increasing by the day and often, to answer them, greater inter-parliamentary cooperation is required. When the Conference series started in 2007, for example, social media were still in their infancy, mobile devices were not yet "smart", and tablets and apps were three years away from their first release. Members' opportunities for ubiquity were restricted to laptops and mobile phones - some with access to email. Only a few parliaments could foresee the wave of changes that technology would bring to their working methods.

Today, the majority of legislatures around the world have understood that ICT in Parliament is a matter of policy as much as of technology. Parliaments have developed strategic plans for the development of ICT within the institution; are using the IPU Social Media Guidelines to reinforce their communication channels; and are supporting the law-making process by providing accurate and timely online information to members and the public.

Yet, the pace of technological change continues to accelerate. There is much to be done to reduce the growing gap between parliaments in their capacity to harness the potential of ICT. Adjusting Parliament's online presence to the cultural changes occurring in the society, providing legal information and data that is open and reusable by media and citizens, protecting the security of institutional and member's communications are just a few examples of the challenges that parliaments are currently facing.

As the topics of the World e-Parliament Conferences have increasingly touched on policy-making and the institutional framework, the presence of parliamentary leaders in these forums has grown over time. The conference maintains its uniqueness by

providing a platform for members of parliament, Secretaries General, parliamentary staff, experts from international organizations and academics to jointly analyze good practices, exchange views on latest trends, discuss institutional developments, learn from each other's experience, network with peers, and build partnerships in an international setting.

Structure and topics of the World e-Parliament Conference 2014

The World e-Parliament Conference 2014 will last three full days, starting at 9.30 a.m. on 8 May 2014 and ending in the afternoon of 10 May 2014.

The event is structured around plenary sessions on policy and management issues and parallel sessions of a more technical nature.

After the *Inaugural Ceremony* and a session aimed at *Reviewing progress in e-Parliament since 2007*, the policy and management sessions will touch upon the following topics:

- Lessons learned on the role of ICT in making Parliament more open, accessible, accountable and effective
- Policies for providing access to open parliamentary data
- Good practices in the reuse of parliamentary data
- Access to the law and legislative documents
- Adding social media channels to Parliament's communication strategy
- ICT strategic planning in Parliament
- Effective partnerships for building ICT capacity
- Protecting parliamentary communications and securing parliamentary data
- Responding to new forms of citizen participation

Presenters will include Speakers and senior members of Parliament, Secretaries General and parliamentary ICT Directors, high-level representatives of Governments and international organizations, and world renowned experts. In each session time will be set aside for open discussion from the floor.

In the conference agenda, sessions of a technical nature have been scheduled to run in parallel with the policy and management sessions from the afternoon of the first day to the morning of the third day. Each session will feature two to three presentations by experts or senior staff from different legislatures, followed by open discussions to foster exchanges of views among participants. In selecting the themes, particular attention has been given to technical issues that affect parliament's internal organization, regardless of their unique development levels.

The technical sessions will focus on the following themes:

- Effective outsourcing of ICT projects
- Cloud technology
- (Re)building parliamentary web sites
- Capturing and publishing parliamentary records: timeliness, accuracy and preservation
- Mobile services and apps for MPs
- Using ICT in research services: information discovery, organization and delivery
- Delivering effective internal services through Intranets
- Inter-parliamentary cooperation on XML

In the afternoon of the third day, two high-level plenary sessions will bring the conference to its conclusion.

The first will examine ways and means implemented by parliaments aimed at better *Responding to new forms of citizen participation*, ranging from the establishment of special advisory committees to the use of civic media for increased bidirectional parliamentary engagement.

The second and final session will distil the findings of the Conference discussions and project them into *Future horizons: e-Parliament in 2020+.* The objective will be to identify extended trends, agree on a renewed e-Parliament framework for the parliamentary community as a whole*,* and consider national benchmarks for measuring progress against the framework on a voluntary basis.

Participants

It is expected that around 400 participants will attend the World e-Parliament Conference 2014, representing parliamentary assemblies from around the world.

Delegations will include presiding officers and members with decision-making power over information and communication technology policies of the legislature and ICT budgets, secretaries general and clerks with management responsibilities over legislative processes and organizational matters, directors of ICT departments and of information and research services, parliamentary ICT staff and experts, as well as representatives of international organizations, the civil society, the donor community, and academia.

Languages

The working languages of the *World e-Parliament Conference 2014* will be English, French and Spanish.

One additional interpretation booth may be made available to delegations upon request.

Co-organizers

The *World e-Parliament Conference 2014* is co-organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, in cooperation with the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament.

Information concerning the conference can be viewed at www.ipu.org/splz-e/eparl14.htm. Additional information can be obtained from the Secretariat of the Conference, via Mr. Andy Richardson at the IPU (e-mail: ar@ipu.org; telephone: +41 22 919 41 50).