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World e-Parliament Report 2010

Prepared by the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament

A partnership initiative of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
and the Inter-Parliamentary Union inspired by the outcome of the
World Summit on the Information Society

Note

The Global Centre for Information and Communication Technologies in Parliament is a joint partnership initiative of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and a group of national and regional parliaments launched in November 2005 on the occasion of the World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunis. The Global Centre pursues two main objectives: a) strengthening the role of parliaments in the promotion of the Information Society, in light of the WSIS outcome, and b) promoting the use of ICT as a means to modernize parliamentary processes, increase transparency, accountability and participation, and improve inter-parliamentary cooperation. <http://www.ictparliament.org>

The Global Centre for ICT in Parliament is administered by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

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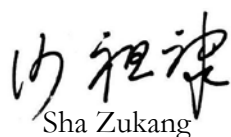
Foreword

The Global Centre for ICT in Parliament represents a broad partnership initiative of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, inspired by the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society. Since its founding in 2006, it has made significant progress in bringing together the parliamentary community of the world around the simple idea that sharing knowledge and good practices in the use of information and communication technologies helps make democracy stronger and more responsive to citizens. The Global Centre has been successful in carrying out this mission because parliaments have shown themselves eager to establish a forum to carry on a dialogue with one another to identify ways to address the institutional and political challenges brought about by today's technologically-pervasive societies.

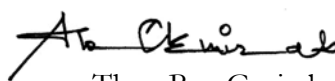
The rapid growth of information and communication technology has changed the environment within which parliaments operate. Rather than being mere witnesses to these transformative effects, they can choose to use these new opportunities strategically to strengthen development, democracy and political participation by ensuring accessible, transparent and accountable institutional and legislative processes. They also have the opportunity now to engage a new generation of citizens for whom ICT is central to their way of life and to whom the notions of participatory networked societies and social and political engagement through new media are highly valued.

With this second edition of the World e-Parliament Report the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Inter-Parliamentary Union offer parliaments a useful instrument with which to assess the progress made by legislatures in the past two years and draw lessons from different practices and experiences. The Report, based on data contributed by more than one hundred and thirty parliaments from around the world, continues to represent the most authoritative baseline against which legislatures can evaluate their own developments, identify innovative actions, and adopt measures to improve their capacity to participate in the Information Society.

Furthermore, the *World e-Parliament Report 2010* examines how global and regional inter-parliamentary cooperation can exploit synergies among nations to help parliaments in developing countries bridge the digital divide by overcoming the barriers of limited resources and technical constraints. It proposes to the parliamentary and donor communities a shared framework for e-parliament based on strategic goals that serve democracy, good governance, and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals.



Sha Zukang
Under-Secretary-General
for Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations



Theo-Ben Gurirab
President
Inter-Parliamentary Union

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Daniela Giacomelli coordinated the final production of the Report. The layout, design and all graphic work were done by Ludovica Cavallari.

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