United Nations

Inter-Parliamentary Union

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
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ISBN: 978-92-1-123187-8
SALES: E.10.II.H.5
ST/ESA/PAD/SER.E/161

ISBN: 978-92-9142-448-1
Reports and Documents N° 64

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.

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Acknowledgements

The main authors of the *World e-Parliament Report 2010* are Jeffrey Griffith and Gherardo Casini, who also provided coordination during its preparation. Important contributions were received by Daniela Giacomelli, Serge Kapto and Ana Carolina Kobe in the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, and by Andy Richardson in the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Statistical advice and inputs on data analysis and presentation were provided by Giorgina Brown, while Costantino Scammacca contributed to data management and processing. All document chapters benefited from the expert advice of Jane Bortnick Griffith.

In their personal capacity, a group of reviewers provided extremely useful comments, suggestions and inputs throughout the drafting of the Report. These are: Mohamed Nagib Abou-Zeid, Avinash Bikha, Rob Clements, Graziana Delpierre, Moira Fraser, Carlo Marchetti, Ravi Poliah, Gro Sandgrind, Enrico Seta, Raissa Teodori, Dirk Toornstra, Anne Washington and Flavio Zeni.

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

The Global Survey of ICT in Parliaments, on which the Report is based, was designed by Jeffrey Griffith with important suggestions offered by Giorgina Brown, Thomas Bruce, Gherardo Casini, Eduardo Ghuisolfi, Carlo Marchetti, Ann Macintosh, Cecilia Matanga, Mahesh Perera, Gro Sandgrind, Donna Scheeder, Reynold Schweickhardt, Carlo Simonelli, Piet van Rijn, Joao Viegas Abreu and Flavio Zeni.

The preparation of the Report greatly benefited from the presentations made by members of parliament, Secretaries General, parliamentary officials and experts at the World e-Parliament Conferences in 2008 and 2009 and from the discussions held on those occasions. Where possible, these contributions were openly acknowledged in the footnotes.

Special thanks are due to parliamentary staff and officials from one hundred and thirty four chambers around the world who spent considerable time completing the survey and sharing their experiences. The qualitiy of this Report is a direct result of their thoughtful responses and insights.