



United Nations



Chamber of Deputies of Italy



Inter-Parliamentary Union

World e-Parliament Conference 2012

Agenda

13-15 September // Chamber of Deputies of Italy // Rome

SUMMARY

13 September	08:00 am – 09:15 am	Registration of delegates	
		Aula dei Gruppi	
	09:15 am – 10:00 am	Official opening of the World e-Parliament Conference 2012	
	10:00 am – 10:30 am	The State of ICT in Parliaments today: the World e-Parliament Report 2012	
		Aula dei Gruppi	Sala del Mappamondo
	10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Session A1 - The impact of technology on parliamentary openness and accountability	Session B1 – Bungeni Parliamentary and Legislative Information System: features, architecture and localization
	12:00 pm – 01:30 pm	Session A2 - The challenges of today’s participatory media for parliaments and legislators	Session B2 - Bungeni Parliamentary and Legislative Information System: the way forward
	01:30 pm – 03:00 pm	Lunch break	
		Aula dei Gruppi	Sala del Mappamondo
	03:00 pm – 04:30 pm	Session A3 - Innovations in parliamentary communications	Session B3 - Technology options for recording and reporting parliamentary proceedings
	04:30 pm – 05:00 pm	Coffee break	
	05:00 pm – 06:30 pm	Session A4 - Benefits and values of open data for fostering greater transparency in legislatures	Session B4 - The added value of libraries to parliamentary information: making content more powerful
		Aula dei Gruppi	
06:30 pm	Report on the outcome of the meeting of the high-level Board of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament		
07:00 pm – 08:30 pm	Welcoming reception for all delegates		

14 September		Aula dei Gruppi	Sala del Mappamondo
	09:30 am – 11:00 am	Session A5 - ICT Strategic Planning in Parliament: doing more with less	Session B5 - XML applications and services in Parliament
	11:00 am – 11:30 am	Coffee break	
	11:30 am – 01:00 pm	Session A6 - Tools and technologies for meeting mobility requirements	Session B6 - Inter-parliamentary cooperation to achieve an international parliamentary and legislative XML standard
	01:00 pm – 02:30 pm	Lunch break	
	02:30 pm – 04:00 pm	Session A7 - Delivering information and documents through tablets and mobile devices	Session B7 - Joint open source projects to deliver quality information
	04:00 pm – 04:30 pm	Coffee break	
	04:30 pm – 06:00 pm	Session A8 - Protecting the IT environment and minimizing external threats	Session B8 - Options for electronic voting systems in plenary and committee rooms
	06:00 pm – 08:00 pm	Tours of the Chamber of Deputies	

15 September		Aula dei Gruppi	
	09:00 am – 10:15 am	Session A9 – e-Parliament, transparency laws and freedom of access to information	
	10:15 am – 11:15 am	Session A10 – Being open to citizens’ voices, participation and dialogue: the formal launch of the Parliamentary Monitoring Organisations’ Declaration on Parliamentary Openness	
	11:15 am – 01:00 pm	Celebrations of the International Day of Democracy – Promoting Tolerance and Peace	

AGENDA

13 September

08:00 am – 09:15 am Registration of delegates

Aula dei Gruppi

09:15 am – 10:00 am **Official opening of the World e-Parliament Conference 2012**

- **Gianfranco Fini**, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy
- **Anders Johnsson**, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
- **Thomas Stelzer**, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs of the United Nations (video)
- **Abel Martínez Durán**, President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Dominican Republic and Co-Chair of the Board of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament
- **Rainer Wieland**, Vice President of the European Parliament and Co-Chair of the Board of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament (video)
- **Maurizio Lupi**, Vice President of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy and member of the Board of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament
- **Benedetto Adragna**, Senator and Questor of the Senate of Italy
Greetings on behalf of the Presidency of the Senate

10:00 am – 10:30 am **The State of ICT in Parliaments today: the World e-Parliament Report 2012**

Key note address: **Jeffrey Griffith**, Senior Advisor, Global Centre for ICT in Parliament

Aula dei Gruppi

Sala del Mappamondo

10:30 am – 12:00 pm **Session A1 - The impact of technology on parliamentary openness and accountability**

Chair: Jennifer Simons, Speaker of the National Assembly of Suriname

- **Antonio Palmieri**, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy
- **Juan José Lucas Giménez**, 1st Vice President of the Senate of Spain
- **Chifumu Banda**, Deputy Chairperson of Committees of the National Assembly of Zambia
- **Benedetto Adragna**, Senator and Questor of the Senate of Italy

Open debate

Session B1 – Bungeni Parliamentary and Legislative Information System: features, architecture and localization

Chair: João Viegas Abreu, Senior Programme Expert, Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

- **Flavio Zeni**, Chief Technical Adviser, Africa i-Parliaments Action Plan, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations
- **Fabio Vitali**, Co-Chair of the OASIS LegalDocumentML Committee Professor of Computer Science, University of Bologna

Open debate

12:00 pm – 01:30 pm **Session A2 - The challenges of today's participatory media for parliaments and legislators**

Chair: Abdelouahed El Ansari, Vice President of the House of Representatives of Morocco

- **Cedrick Frolick**, House Chairperson of the National Assembly of South Africa
- **Archy Kirkwood**, Chairman of the Information Committee of the House of Lords of the United Kingdom
- **Eriko Yamatani**, Member of the House of Councillors of Japan
- **Ramón Farías Ponce**, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile

Open debate

Session B2 - Bungeni Parliamentary and Legislative Information System: the way forward

Chair: Miriam Ngoka, Programme Officer, Africa i-Parliaments Action Plan, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

- **Shirley-Ann Fiagome**, Deputy Director ICT, Parliament of Ghana
- **Owino Harrison**, Head of ICT Services, National Assembly of Kenya
- **Saseeta Ramsahye-Rakha**, Ag. Parliamentary ICT Manager, National Assembly of Mauritius
- **Cheryl Pinas**, Head of the ICT department, National Assembly of Suriname
- **Wabwire Julius**, Senior Systems Analyst, Parliament of Uganda
- **Michael Mukuka**, Principal Clerk ICT, National Assembly of Zambia

Open debate

01:30 pm – 03:00 pm Lunch break

Aula dei Gruppi

Sala del Mappamondo

03:00 pm – 04:30 pm **Session A3 - Innovations in parliamentary communications**

Chair: Audrey O'Brien, Clerk, House of Commons of Canada

- **Hayono Isman**, Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation of the House of Representatives of Indonesia
- **Stephen Clark**, Head of Web Communications, European Parliament
- **Andy Wiliamson**, Consultant, Inter-Parliamentary Union

Open debate

Session B3 - Technology options for recording and reporting parliamentary proceedings

Chair: Damir Davidovic, Secretary General, Parliament of Montenegro

- **Saseeta Ramsahye-Rakha**, Ag. Parliamentary ICT Manager, National Assembly of Mauritius
- **Andreas Sidler**, Chief Information Officer, Federal Parliament of Switzerland
- **Miano Njoka**, Software Developer Officer, Africa i-Parliaments Action Plan, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

Open debate

04:30 pm – 05:00 pm Coffee break

05:00 pm – 06:30 pm **Session A4 - Benefits and values of open data for fostering greater transparency in legislatures**

Chair: Jani Makraduli, Vice President of the Assembly of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

- **Paolo Gentiloni**, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy and **Elena Flavia Candia**, IT Department Officer, Chamber of Deputies of Italy
- **Rogério Ventura Teixeira**, Director General, Chamber of Deputies of Brazil
- **Robert Reeves**, Deputy Clerk, House of Representatives of the United States of America

Open debate

Session B4 - The added value of libraries to parliamentary information: making content more powerful

Chair: Sonia L'Heureux, Librarian, Parliament of Canada

- **Raissa Teodori**, Secretary of the IFLA Section on Library and Research Services for Parliaments and Head of Office, Joint Parliamentary Library of Italy
- **Alim Garga**, Director of the Library, National Assembly of Cameroon
- **John McDonough**, Head of Collections, Library and Research Services, Parliament of Ireland

Open debate

Aula dei Gruppi

06:30 pm

Report on the outcome of the meeting of the high-level Board of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament

- **Rainer Wieland**, Vice President of the European Parliament and Co-Chair of the Board of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament

07:00 pm – 08:30 pm Welcoming reception for all delegates

14 September

Aula dei Gruppi

Sala del Mappamondo

09:30 am – 11:00 am	<p>Session A5 - ICT Strategic Planning in Parliament: doing more with less <i>Chair: Dick Toornstra, Director of the Office for Promotion of Parliamentary Democracy, European Parliament</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Antonieta Teixeira, Director of the IT Department, Assembly of the Republic of Portugal• Thomas Taimu, Director of the IT Department, National Assembly of Malawi• Shmulik Hizkiya, Head of the Information Division, and Oz Cohen, Deputy Chief Information Officer, Parliament of Israel <p><i>Open debate</i></p>	<p>Session B5 - XML applications and services in Parliament <i>Chair: Ravi Poliah, acting Division Manager, Parliament of South Africa</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• João Holanda, Director of SSALEP, Prodasen, Senate of Brazil• Kirsten Gullickson, Senior Systems Analyst, House of Representatives of the United States of America• Ashok Hariharan, Software Developer Coordinator, Africa i-Parliaments Action Plan, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations <p><i>Open debate</i></p>
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Coffee break	
11:30 am – 01:00 pm	<p>Session A6 - Tools and technologies for meeting mobility requirements <i>Chair: Carol Mills, Secretary, Department of Parliamentary Services, Parliament of Australia</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Koo Heekwon, Vice Secretary General, National Assembly of the Republic of Korea• Joan Miller, Director of Parliamentary ICT, Parliament of the United Kingdom• Fakhreddine Aouadi, IT Applications Specialist, European Parliament <p><i>Open debate</i></p>	<p>Session B6 - Inter-parliamentary cooperation to achieve an international parliamentary and legislative XML standard <i>Chair: Gherardo Casini, Head, Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enrico Seta, Senior Officer, Research Department, Chamber of Deputies of Italy• Carlo Simonelli, Coordinator of the ECPRD Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments and Head of Office, Central Systems, Chamber of Deputies of Italy• Monica Palmirani, Co-Chair of the OASIS LegalDocumentML Committee and Professor of Legal Informatics, School of Law - CIRSIFID, University of Bologna <p><i>Open debate</i></p>
01:00 pm – 02:30 pm	Lunch break	

	Aula dei Gruppi	Sala del Mappamondo
02:30 pm – 04:00 pm	<p>Session A7 - Delivering information and documents through tablets and mobile devices</p> <p><i>Chair: James Rege, Chairman of the Energy, Information and Communication Committee of the National Assembly of Kenya</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geert Jan Hamilton, Secretary General, Senate of the Netherlands • Mukul Pande, Joint Secretary, and Pradeep Chaturvedi, Director, Council of States of India • Simon Nicholls, Director of Programmes and Development, Parliamentary ICT, Parliament of the United Kingdom <p><i>Open debate</i></p>	<p>Session B7 - Joint open source projects to deliver quality information</p> <p><i>Chair: Bassel Dohaini, Chairman of the ICT Department, Parliament of Lebanon</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mauro Fioroni, acting Head of the IT Department, and Carlo Marchetti, Head of the Information Systems Development Office, Senate of Italy • Claudio Fabiani, Project Manager, Directorate General for Innovation and Technological Support, European Parliament • Mario Ruggier, Software Developer Officer, Africa i-Parliaments Action Plan, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations <p><i>Open debate</i></p>
04:00 pm – 04:30 pm	Coffee break	
04:30 pm – 06:00 pm	<p>Session A8 - Protecting the IT environment and minimizing external threats</p> <p><i>Chair: Jesus Alfonso Rodriguez Camargo, Secretary General, House of Representatives of Colombia</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hernán Figueroa, Director of Information Technology, Chamber of Deputies of Chile • Stéphan Aubé, Chief Information Officer, House of Commons of Canada <p><i>Open debate</i></p>	<p>Session B8 - Options for electronic voting systems in plenary and committee rooms</p> <p><i>Chair: Garreth Ferguson, Information Systems Manager, Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patricio Alvarez, Director of the IT Department, Senate of Chile • Marian Botocan, IT Director, Chamber of Deputies of Romania • Umberto Biagi, Senior Advisor, IT Department, Chamber of Deputies of Italy • Reynaldo Gaibor, Responsible of Information Systems, General Coordination of Technology Services, National Assembly of Ecuador <p><i>Open debate</i></p>
06:00 pm – 08:00 pm	Tours of the Chamber of Deputies	

15 September

Aula dei Gruppi

09:00 am – 10:15 am

Session A9 – e-Parliament, transparency laws and freedom of access to information

Chair: Timothy Hamel-Smith, President of the Senate of Trinidad and Tobago

- **Javier Barrero**, 2nd Vice President of the Congress of Deputies of Spain
- **Päivi Lipponen**, Chair of the Committee for the Future of the Parliament of Finland
- **Julio César Valentín Jiminián**, Chair of the Committee on Justice and Human Rights of the Senate of the Dominican Republic
- **Sérgio Sampaio Contreiras de Almeida**, Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil

Open debate

10:15 am – 11:15 am

Session A10 – Being open to citizens' voices, participation and dialogue: the formal launch of the Parliamentary Monitoring Organisations' Declaration on Parliamentary Openness

Chair: Andrew Mandelbaum, Senior Governance Officer, National Democratic Institute

- **María Baron**, co-Coordinator, Latin American Network for Legislative Transparency, and Executive Director, Directorio Legislativo Foundation
- **John Wonderlich**, Policy Director, Sunlight Foundation
- **Marwa Abou Dayya**, Executive Board Member, Nahwa Al-Muwatiniya (Towards Citizenship)
- **Gregor Hackmack**, co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, ParliamentWatch.org
- **Aline Pennisi**, Vice President, OpenPolis Association
- **Anna Scisłowska**, Project Coordinator, Association 61

Open debate

11:15 am – 01:00 pm

Celebrations of the International Day of Democracy – Promoting Tolerance and Peace

co-Chairs:

Maurizio Lupi, Vice President of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy

Thomas Stelzer, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs of the United Nations

Key note addresses:

- **Giulio Terzi**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy
- **Abdelwahad Radi**, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
- **Chukwuemeka Nkem Ihedioha**, Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of Nigeria
- **Vannino Chiti**, Vice President of the Senate of Italy

Statements by Presidents and Speakers of Parliament

Conclusions

- **Thomas Stelzer**, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs of the United Nations
- **Abdelwahad Radi**, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
- **Renzo Lusetti**, Member of the Bureau of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy

ANNOTATED AGENDA

13 September

08:00 am – 09:15 am Registration of delegates

Aula dei Gruppi

09:15 am – 10:00 am **Official opening of the World e-Parliament Conference 2012**

The World e-Parliament Conference 2012 will be officially opened by the representatives of the United Nations, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Chamber of Deputies of Italy, and the Co-Chairs of the Board of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament.

10:00 am – 10:30 am **The state of ICT in Parliaments today: the World e-Parliament Report 2012**

In early 2012, the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament launched the third Global Survey of ICT in Parliaments in preparation for the release of the third issue of the World e-Parliament Report. The survey was conducted between February and May 2012. 156 parliamentary ICT organizations coordinated the completion of the questionnaire (corresponding to 177 chambers), marking a significant increase from the 134 responses received in 2009. The *World e-Parliament Report 2012*, prepared by the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, will be presented to parliaments, as well as to the community of international experts, in this session. The presentation of the findings of the Report will highlight best practices and improvements that have occurred since the last edition in 2010, as well as areas that need further development.

10:30 am – 12:00 pm **Session A1 - The impact of technology on parliamentary openness and accountability**

Information and communication technologies offer unprecedented means for citizens to hold legislatures accountable, to access information regarding the activity of legislators and of institutions in a variety of formats, and to be engaged in the decision-making process. Expectations of citizens in this regard have been growing in recent years, and 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.

While the impact of the newest technologies on the political sphere is still in progress, their potential can already be glimpsed through 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 21st century and the primary representative of the people.

The panel will consider what impact technology has had on the institution and on society and how it is possible to use it as a means to encourage the effective engagement of citizens and increase their participation in the political debate, as well as to support the commitment of parliaments to greater openness, transparency and accountability for fostering democratic values.

Session B1 – Bungeni Parliamentary and Legislative Information System: features, architecture and localization

Systems for managing documentation work flows in digital formats make parliamentary operations more efficient and help support transparency. These systems need to encompass the entire lifecycle of documents, from creation to publishing, in a seamless way. The experiences of many parliaments show that the resource needed to build and sustain effective systems for creating, managing and preserving parliamentary records can be considerable and should not be underestimated. The long term benefits and efficiency gains, however, can be substantial.

In parliaments experiencing financial constraints or budget reductions, the open source development model is becoming increasingly appealing, since collaborative software developments among partnering legislatures offer a unique opportunity to leverage a wider network of expertise and experience and to make best use of limited funds for deploying new systems. It also ensures high and more sustainable quality results as applications are available to all parliaments. One example is provided by the open source Bungeni Parliamentary and Legislative Information System, developed by the United Nations in the framework of the *Africa i-Parliaments Action Plan* initiative.

The session will present the features, architecture and localization opportunity of the Bungeni system, as well as its support of the *Akoma Ntoso* XML standard.

12:00 pm – 01:30 pm **Session A2 - The challenges of today's participatory media for parliaments and legislators**

Today's participatory media have a great potential to support the goals of transparency and citizen's participation, and to facilitate the dialogue between citizens, their elected representatives and legislatures. Social media enable faster and more frequent interactive communication, providing new mechanisms for public engagement and participation. By offering new channels for two-way communication among individuals, they are having a powerful impact on the ability of citizens to build politically engaged communities able to put pressure on legislators and political groups. These developments are forcing representative institutions and members of parliament to embrace these new technologies and to understand the complex network of information and communication channels used by citizens.

This session will address both the opportunities and the challenges that the phenomenal development of social media in recent years is offering to legislatures and members of parliaments to gain public trust and support their representative functions.

Session B2 - Bungeni Parliamentary and Legislative Information System: the way forward

This year a number of parliaments in Africa have begun the process of deployment of the *Bungeni* Parliamentary Information and Legislative System, and a growing number outside this continent have considered it and/or evaluated it to assess its capacity of meeting their information management needs.

During this session several parliaments will report on the state of their implementation of *Bungeni* and will share their experiences and challenges concerning the adoption of the system.

The discussion that follows will examine some of these common challenges to identify the solutions that may address them, as well as ways to improve inter-parliamentary cooperation in the domain of collaborative software development.

01:30 pm – 03:00 pm Lunch break

Aula dei Gruppi

Sala del Mappamondo

03:00 pm – 04:30 pm **Session A3 - Innovations in parliamentary communications**

Parliaments have identified improving communication with the public as a high priority and a promising area for the application of a variety of information and communications technologies. ICT offers an opportunity to open up the parliament to public view, to disseminate information about the parliament and to engage citizens more directly in policy discussions. It holds the promise of countering the disaffection of the public with political institutions and bringing in a new generation of voters to the political process. Almost all legislative bodies now have websites that they use to communicate information about their activities to the public. Increasingly, legislatures are exploring new media for reaching constituents, especially younger people. Use of social networks, text messaging tools and web platforms are a few examples of how parliaments are introducing innovative tools to make their activities more transparent and promote engagement of people in the democratic process. These technology evolutions have also affected the

Session B3 - Technology options for recording and reporting parliamentary proceedings

With the advent of the Internet, the demands for accessing the records of parliamentary proceedings have increased significantly in both text and audio and video formats. Today, making proceedings available in a timely and accurate way has become an important benchmark for measuring the openness and transparency of a parliament.

As the technology options available to legislatures have expanded considerably, meeting these expectations and demands is no longer an ICT issue.

This session 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. It will address the common obstacles faced by parliamentary administrations in releasing draft versions of records on their websites and indicate possible solutions.

relations between parliaments and the press. This session will focus on current innovations in parliamentary communications, providing an overview of best practices and successful applications, challenges and policy and management options.

04:30 pm – 05:00 pm **Coffee break**

05:00 pm – 06:30 pm **Session A4 - Benefits and values of open data for fostering greater transparency in legislatures**

Adopting open data policies means making information freely available in a format that can be examined and reused, assembled in a variety of ways and republished on different platforms.

The use of open data can help institutions become more transparent, accountable and efficient, and can facilitate the presentation of parliamentary information in innovative and more attractive ways. Open data publishing can promote the creation of new way for citizens to interact with members of parliament and participate in parliamentary monitoring and policy analysis. However, the availability of parliamentary data in open data formats remains a challenge at a time of growing requests from the public.

This session will present means of implementing open data in legislatures, focusing not only on technical options but also on business and knowledge issues, as well as on associated management and policy frameworks.

Session B4 - The added value of libraries to parliamentary information: making content more powerful

Like all major institutions parliaments are information intensive and information demanding organizations. They create information themselves through their documents and their actions, and require access to many external sources, including from the government, the judiciary, civil society, experts, the media, academics, international organizations, and other legislative bodies. Acquiring, organizing and integrating parliamentary and external information sources in a way that enables the creation of a parliamentary knowledge base has major value for legislative institutions and the public. Parliamentary libraries, although different in size, history, mission and staff, embody the knowledge and the skills to carry out this challenging task.

This session will consider how parliamentary libraries can take advantage of ICT to make parliamentary information more accessible, more useful, more relevant and more engaging both for the parliament and for citizens. It will describe experiences and practices of how individual parliamentary libraries have accomplished this and explore opportunities for cooperation, networking and knowledge sharing.

Aula dei Gruppi

06:30 pm **Report on the outcome of the meeting of the high-level Board of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament**

The Board meets annually and when possible on the occasion of World e-Parliament Conferences. Delegates will be informed by the co-Chair of the high-level Board about the meeting outcome and the Board views.

07:00 pm – 08:30 pm **Welcoming reception for all delegates**

09:30 am – 11:00 am

Session A5 - ICT Strategic Planning in Parliament: doing more with less

When resources are constrained, as they have been for many parliaments during the last years, strategic planning and the management of ICT takes on a special importance in the complex legislature environment.

One of the most valuable contributions of the planning process under these circumstances is that it forces decision makers to focus not just on the “what” of ICT but also on the “why”. It requires parliaments to identify the benefits they will to gain as a result of implementing new systems or acquiring devices and to weigh those benefits against the cost implications. This leads to the establishment of a vision, the identification of strategic priorities and an improved ability to assess how projects can be phased in when, as increasingly happens, funds have to be allocated over several years.

This session will focus on how sound frameworks for ICT strategic planning, management, and oversight can be developed, and the particular role senior management and IT staff plays in this domain.

Session B5 - XML applications and services in Parliament

For a parliament to fully reap the benefits of technical advances information needs to be managed making use of open semantic standards, such as XML. XML allows the different parts of parliamentary records to be tagged in machine-readable format so that they can be used properly by various computers and mobile devices for editing, displaying, searching and exchanging. XML has become a critical element in meeting the growing requirements for transparency, accountability, and openness, and for the management, dissemination and long-term preservation of official documents.

However, implementing XML is a complex process and needs specific tools. Yet, there are a number of examples where success has been achieved through the right mix of planning, stakeholders’ engagement and understanding, and the application of good practices and methodologies.

This session will focus on the current implementation of XML in parliaments, the services that can be delivered making use of XML, and the tools that can be used to create and manage XML documents. It will do so through the presentation of concrete examples and by highlighting resources required, technical options and concrete applications and services.

11:00 am – 11:30 am

Coffee break

11:30 am – 01:00 pm

Session A6 - Tools and technologies for meeting mobility requirements

The rapid growth and increased sophistication of mobile devices, coupled with developments in connectivity, are placing new demands on parliaments to meet the mobility demands of users by providing services wherever needed and whenever wanted.

To respond to this challenge, many parliaments are experimenting with applications that can enhance the productivity of members and staff when outside their offices. In this context, cloud computing is also offering institutions greater capabilities in this area, and legislatures are evaluating how to benefit from this solution while still meeting requirements for data ownership and security.

This session will address the recent developments and trends in the delivery of mobile services and in cloud computing from the perspectives of strategic management and technical architecture.

Session B6 - Inter-parliamentary cooperation to achieve an international parliamentary and legislative XML standard

Achieving an international parliamentary and legislative XML standard is crucial for supporting the exchange of documents and data across legislative branch organizations and for creating synergies and economies of scale that will greatly lower the adoption barriers for parliaments that are planning the deployment of XML.

The adoption of the *Akoma Ntoso* schema in several parliaments and the establishment of the OASIS LegalDocumentML Technical Committee that has begun its formal standardization process indicate that there could be promising developments on this front in the near future.

This session will address the opportunities for the wider adoption of *Akoma Ntoso* among parliaments through a collaborative approach that would facilitate convergence and interoperability. The session will also take into account the Conclusions of the EU Speakers Conference on standardization and a proposal to establish a Working Group on Open Document Standards in Parliament.

01:00 pm – 02:30 pm Lunch break

02:30 pm – 04:00 pm **Session A7 - Delivering information and documents through tablets and mobile devices**

Legislatures are facing a growing demand from members to receive information wherever they are located and to be able to carry out their work in a paperless and mobile environment. At the same time publishing information in formats readable on different mobile platforms expands the capacity of legislatures to disseminate information and make it more easily accessible to citizens. However, implementing ICT for mobile devices, such as smart phones and tablets, can present significant challenges and require new staff skills.

This session will focus on current implementation practices that have allowed parliaments to provide solutions for the delivery of information on mobile devices and achieve savings and efficiency gains.

Session B7 - Joint open source projects to deliver quality information

The fast pace of innovation and the characteristics of open source ICT systems – collaborative development, low cost of duplication, sharing of resources, etc. -- present parliaments with new opportunities to exchange experiences and engage in joint development of applications. Collaborative development in the open source software arena is a path that parliaments may take to develop advanced and sustainable solutions. The open source nature of tools developed through such collaborative approaches makes them more easily customizable for the specific needs of each parliament.

The session will present specific open source projects that have been developed by different parliaments to deliver high quality services, and that can be made available to peer institutions for adoption and improvement.

04:00 pm – 04:30 pm Coffee break

04:30 pm – 06:00 pm **Session A8 - Protecting the IT environment and minimizing external threats**

Improving security to ensure continuity of service, protect members confidentiality, and provide adequate defenses against hacking and cybercrime is a critical priority for parliaments that are increasingly receiving external threats from within and outside the national borders. While some parliaments have long recognized the vital nature of this requirement, others have been slower to take appropriate measures. This is a challenge that parliaments acting on their own can solve only in part. It calls for coordinated and collaborative efforts with other public institutions within the country and with other organizations on a world-wide basis. Nevertheless, recognition of the problem followed by the establishment of good policies and sound practices must begin at home with the parliament itself.

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.

Session B8 - Options for electronic voting systems in plenary and committee rooms

Different technological options exist for the deployment of electronic voting systems in plenary and committee rooms. These systems can improve efficiency in conducting parliamentary business and increase the volume, the timeliness, and the internal and external availability of information regarding actions taken during the law-making process.

This session will present various technology solutions that have been adopted for electronic voting systems, including user authentication, and discuss how these systems are improving citizens' access to information concerning the attendance and voting decisions of their representatives.

06:00 pm – 08:00 pm **Tours of the Chamber of Deputies**

09:00 am – 10:15 am **Session A9 – e-Parliament, transparency laws and access to information**

With the changes brought about by the extraordinary growth of ICT in this digital era, transparency laws and/or laws on freedom of access to information have incorporated principles and norms that take into account the expanding use of the Internet, digital documents, and technology by public institutions and by society. In many cases, they call for governing institutions to disclose acts, documents and data through the Internet and website platforms, and to respond to public requests in digital or electronic formats.

Most parliaments are also required to provide information either upon citizens' request or by rules that mandate the disclosure of documentation relating to members and staff, the parliamentary administration and its relation with contractors. In these instances, e-parliament has played an important role in helping the legislature to meet these demands efficiently and effectively and to comply with the transparency standards enshrined in the laws.

This session will highlight country cases and review the benefits for legislatures of making technology a means to respond to the increasing demands of laws and norms for access to information and greater parliamentary transparency.

10:15 am – 11:15am **Session A10 – Being open to citizens' voices, participation and dialogue: the formal launch of the Parliamentary Monitoring Organizations' Declaration on Parliamentary Openness**

Parliamentary Monitoring Organizations (PMOs) are growing in number and are increasingly focusing public attention on parliamentary bodies. The majority of these PMOs are using technologies in a sophisticated way to provide citizens with additional instruments to scrutinize, but also understand and appreciate, the law-making process. They are also attracting the public's interest by presenting and retrieving information on user-friendly platforms with social networking layers that support civic engagement.

In the last two years Parliamentary Monitoring Organizations have improved coordination through exchanges at the international level. One result of this effort is an internationally agreed *Declaration on Parliamentary Openness*, which among others goals addresses issues related to the use of technology in legislatures to increase transparency. In this session, representatives of the network of PMOs will formally launch the Declaration and discuss with members its key elements, in addition to presenting some aspects of the work done individually.

11:15 am – 01:00 pm **Celebrations of the International Day of Democracy – Promoting Tolerance and Peace**

The International Day of Democracy provides an opportunity to celebrate democracy around the world. The overall theme chosen to conclude the meeting - "Promoting Tolerance and Peace" - will be addressed by high level members of international organizations and representative institutions as well as by speakers and presidents of Parliament.

