



ICTParliament

A horizontal banner with a blue background. On the left, there are vertical blue lines. In the center, there is a semi-transparent image of a parliament chamber. On the right, there is a glowing blue globe with white grid lines.

The Global Centre  
for Information  
and Communication  
Technologies in Parliament



## Background

- Since 2003 UN-DESA has been implementing a Programme in Africa with eight African Parliaments and the Pan-African Parliament, which recently became the Africa i-Parliaments Action Plan
- In 2005, consultations were undertaken by the President of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy and the Speaker of the People's Assembly of Egypt on behalf of the United Nations
- Launch of the Global Centre by the **United Nations** Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and the **Inter-Parliamentary Union** (IPU) at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunis, November 2005





## Mission

- To promote the role of Parliaments in the development of a conducive environment for an inclusive and equitable Information Society
- To help Parliaments harness the potential of ICT to modernize parliamentary processes and practices, improve citizens' participation and inter-parliamentary cooperation





## Objectives

- To raise awareness on the role of Parliaments to promote the Information Society and on the use of ICT as a tool to support representative, legislative and oversight functions
- To act as a clearing house for disseminating information and sharing experiences and good practices in these fields
- To facilitate dialogue and collaboration and foster partnerships among parliaments and stakeholders
- To facilitate project development and to provide technical assistance
- To promote coherence and effectiveness of development aid





## Link to WSIS

- Action Line C1 – The role of public governance authorities in the promotion of ICT for development (multistakeholders group facilitated by UN-DESA)
- Establishment of a subgroup under Action Line C1 on ICT and Parliaments in 2006
- UN-DESA and IPU act as co-facilitators of the Subgroup on ICT and Parliaments with the support of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament





## Link to the 2005 World Summit

- Governance
- Technology for development
- Global partnerships

and

- (art. 171) .. call for strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and national and regional parliaments, in particular through the Inter-Parliamentary Union...





## How the Global Centre operates

- A **Board** composed of Speakers/Presidents of Parliament guides the work of the Global Centre
- The **Office** of the Global Centre, based in Rome, is headed by an Executive Coordinator responsible for implementing the work programme
- An international and broad **alliance of partners** committed to the Centre's goals supports its activities
- Voluntary **stakeholders'** engagement, commitment and support is continuously sought





## Board members as of today (1)

- Mr. Pier Ferdinando Casini, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (*ex officio*)
- Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations (*ex officio*)
- Mr. Wu Bangguo, President of the National People's Congress of China
- Mr. Fausto Bertinotti, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy
- Mr. José De Venecia, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines
- Mr. Boris Gryzlov, President of the State Duma of the Russian Federation





## Board members as of today (2)

- Ms. Baleka Mbete, Speaker of the National Assembly of South Africa
- Ms. Gertrude Mongella, President of the Pan-African Parliament
- Mr. Hans-Gert Poettering, President of the European Parliament
- Mr. Ahmed Fathy Sorour, Speaker of the People's Assembly of Egypt
- Ms. Katalin Szili, Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary
  
- Mr. Anders Forsberg, President of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments

The first Board meeting took place in March 2007 in Rome





## Some results achieved (1)

- Establishment of collaborations with major stakeholders (national parliaments, IFLA Section, NCSL-NALIT, IDB, IPAIT, Universities, etc.)
- Sound coherence between the Global Centre activities and those of the *Africa i-Parliament Action Plan*
- Establishment of the Subgroup on ICT in Parliament under the WSIS implementation process (24 May 2007, Geneva)
- Conference “*The policymaking role of Parliaments in the Development of the Information Society*” (with a six points Chair’s declaration) – Rome, March 2007





## Some results achieved (2)

- Workshop and Conference in Abuja, Nigeria with the establishment of the African Parliamentary Knowledge Network
- Launch of the Portal for parliament information and services ([www.ictparliament.org](http://www.ictparliament.org))
- Summer school on legal informatics at the EUI in September 2007 - 6 fellowships for participants from developing countries sponsored by the Global Centre
- Launch of the worldwide survey on ICT in Parliament





## Areas of work

- Information dissemination
- Networking and Coordination
- Technical Assistance
- Analysis and Research





## Portal for Parliament Information and Services

- News, studies, reports, articles, and a global compendium of regulatory acts on ICT
- Video lectures
- Online forums
- Calendar of events in the area of ICT and Parliament
- Hyperlinks to organizations, institutions, associations working in the area of ICT and Parliament

[www.ICTParliament.org](http://www.ICTParliament.org)





## Global Network of IT Experts in Parliament

### Objectives:

- To enhance cooperation among parliamentary administrations and peers
- To share experiences and best practices
- To facilitate the adoption of common standards and interoperability frameworks
- To facilitate the identification of appropriate technological solutions in a collaborative way





## Technical Assistance

Create a critical mass of knowledge and expertise based on a network of experts in parliaments around the world and in other organizations to support technical cooperation activities in a neutral and independent way.

Focus on:

- Harmonization of laws and regulations in the ICT domain
- Modernization of parliamentary processes and practices
- Legislative information systems
- Common standards to share digital legislative documentation
- Collaborative development and approaches to ICTs
- Human resources capacity building





## Training/Fellowship programme

Partnering with parliaments and universities to organize trainings and study visits

### Objectives:

- To facilitate capacity building and sharing of skills and experiences
- To strengthen the knowledge base of parliamentary officials and ICT professionals





## Studies and Guidelines

- Prepare focused studies on relevant aspects, such as legal informatics, e-democracy practices, knowledge and information management, etc.
- Prepare guidelines and handbooks for parliaments in the ICT domain
- Issue a biannual Global Report on ICT in Parliament





## Next challenges

- World e-Parliament Conference 2007
- Global Report on ICT in Parliament, to be issued in February 2008
- Second high-level Board meeting in New York, February 2008
- Strengthening of the Training/Fellowship Programme
- Strengthening the linkages with the WSIS process





## World e-Parliament Conference 2007 Geneva, 11 October 2007

- Organized by the United Nations, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Association of Secretaries General of Parliament, with the support of the Global Centre

### Objectives:

- To encourage parliaments to debate the challenges and benefits provided by ICT in the modernization of parliamentary processes
- To analyze successful approaches and showcasing best practices and lessons learned
- To provide a platform for a dialogue among MPs, SGs, IT Managers, and other stakeholders





## World e-Parliament Conference 2007 - related meetings -

- 9 October - Regional meeting of officers from Latin American Parliaments, organized in cooperation with the Inter-American Development Bank
- 10 October - International Workshop “e-Parliament: Managing Innovation” for parliamentary staff and officials from around the world
- 12 October 2007 - Meeting of the members of the Network of IT Experts in Parliament





## Global Report on ICT in Parliament

### Objectives:

- To assess the state of deployment of ICT in parliaments worldwide
- To establish a baseline for trend analysis
- To provide a tool for self evaluation
- To identify examples of good practices
- To outline emerging trends and innovative solutions





## Worldwide survey on ICT in Parliament

- The survey was issued in three languages (English, French and Spanish)
- Possible to complete the survey online and access it in the next months
- Designed as a tool for parliament for self-evaluation
- 36 assemblies responded as of 5 October 2007
- Target of at least 80 assemblies by the end of October 2007





## Worldwide survey on ICT in Parliament

The survey is divided into eight sections:

- Oversight, Management, and Planning of ICT
- Services, Infrastructure, Applications, and Resources
- Systems for Creating Bills and Amendments
- Systems for Creating Documents Other Than Bills and Amendments
- Recording And Tracking Legislative Actions
- Knowledge Management: Library and Research Services
- Websites for Parliament and the Public
- Systems for Supporting Communication Between Citizens and Parliament





## ASGP and the Global Centre - opportunities for collaboration -

- Global Report and Survey on ICT in Parliament
- World eParliament Conference 2007 and beyond
- Support of Training/Fellowship Programme
- Joint seminars, workshops and conferences
- Support to the analysis and research area of work by sharing plans, studies, expertise, good practices and documentation





## ASGP and the Global Centre - opportunities for collaboration -

- ICT has become an essential tool to the effectiveness of parliaments and only through strong management will the goals of ICT in parliament be realized
- A parliament able to use the technology itself will be able to be a major player in shaping the information society.
- Secretaries General play a pivotal leadership role in determining the success of ICT in parliaments for several key reasons:
  - Effective management by the SGs is needed for ensuring that ICT is implemented effectively, maintained adequately, and aligned with the priorities of parliament
  - SGs have a special relationship with Presiding Officers and Members and can obtain their involvement in developing a vision for ICT and essential commitment





**ICTParliament**

**Thank you**

**Gherardo Casini  
Executive Coordinator  
Global Centre for ICT in Parliament  
[casini@un.org](mailto:casini@un.org)**

**Meeting of the Association of Secretaries General in Parliament**  
Geneva, Switzerland, 8-11 October 2007