The Status of ICT in Parliaments: 2009

Global Centre for ICT in Parliament

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Topics

- Preliminary results from selected survey questions 2009
- Developments that could affect parliaments
- Goals for ICT in parliaments by 2020
2009 Survey

• 90 + Countries

• 127 Assemblies

• Purpose
THE STATE OF THE TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

KEY INDICATORS

(A preliminary assessment)
Does the parliament have a local area network (LAN)?

- 95% of 127 institutions replied yes.
- The rest are planning or considering.
Document Management Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>Planning or Considering</th>
<th>No, and not planning or considering such a system</th>
<th>Does not apply to this parliament or chamber</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
XML

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No, but planning for or considering using XML</th>
<th>No, and there are no plans or consideration for XML</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Basic Technical Services

Please indicate which of the following are provided by parliament to each member of parliament for his or her personal use?

• Between 2007 and 2009, the following stayed essentially the same:
  - Email (83%)
  - Printers (70%)
  - Intranet (70%)

• But access to the Internet rose from 79% to 85%
Networking and Cooperation

Does the parliament currently provide support, or would it be willing to consider providing support to other parliaments to help develop or enhance their use of ICT? (out of 127 institutions)
Communication: Parliaments and Citizens

(A preliminary assessment)
Communication: Parliaments and Citizens

- Top methods being used or considered (50%-70% of parliaments)
  - Webcasting of plenary sessions (70%)
  - Parliamentary TV channels (50%)
  - Webcasting of committee meetings (50%)
Communication: Parliaments and Citizens

- 40%-50% of parliaments are using or planning to use:
  - TV programs on other channels (47%)
  - Alerting services (47%)
  - Parliament WebTV (46%)
  - Webcasting of special programs (44%)
  - e-Consultation on bills (42%)
  - Blogs (40%)
Challenges in using new media

- Members not familiar with technology = 39%
- Citizens not familiar with the legislative process = 34%
- Effort required = 30%
- Citizen access to Internet = 24%
- None = 24%
Citizen use of communication technologies increasing
Observations based on the preliminary results of the survey

• Gains in the infrastructure have been slow
  – It takes time to build
  – It takes resources
  – We need lower cost solutions

• Excellent opportunities for networking and cooperation among parliaments to improve ICT
  – Parliaments are expressing a need for support
  – Parliaments are expressing a willingness to help
Observations based on the preliminary results of the survey

• Communication with citizens using ICT tools is growing

• Main barriers
  – Knowledge of Members about the technology
  – Knowledge of citizens regarding the legislative process and the technology
  – Access to the Internet
Developments that could affect parliaments

• Growth of cell phones
• Evaluations of the new media
Cell Phones

“It looks highly likely that global mobile cellular teledensity will surpass 100% with the next decade, and probably earlier.”

Hamadoun Toure, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunications Union.
Where to look for growth
Mobile-phone subscriptions, bn

Developing countries
Developed countries*

Sources: World Bank; ITU
*OECD members
Cell Phones

What does it mean for parliaments that within the decade, everyone will be connected to each other… and not long after that, everyone will be connected to the Internet?

And what countries will take the lead in finding the answers?
Evaluation of New Media

• What is helpful to legislators?
• What is helpful to citizens?
Evaluation – One Study

- Congressional Management Foundation Study
  - Evaluated 20 Teletown Hall meetings, 600 participants
  - Eight U.S. Representatives and one Senator
  - Single issue – Immigration policy in the U.S.
  - Compared participant group and “control group”
  - Three interviews – 1 before and 2 following
Evaluation – Three Findings

• Attracted a diverse array of constituents
  – Participants were from groups usually less engaged in politics or frustrated with the political system

• Increased engagement in politics
  – Participants more likely to vote and more likely to attempt to engage others

• Popular with constituents
  – 95% stated they would like to participate in future events
Fundamental Requirements for Moving Forward

• A robust and responsive technical infrastructure
• Well trained staff
• Good management
• Laws and policies that support the growth of an equitable and inclusive information society
 Goals for ICT in Parliaments 2010-2020

• Proposed by the Board of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament

• A call to parliaments and the international community to strengthen legislatures through the use of ICT

• Strong parliaments are essential for better governance
Goals for ICT in Parliaments 2010-2020

• Enhance the *connection* between legislatures and constituencies
• Improve the *equality of access* to the law and the lawmaking process of the country
• Ensure that all legislatures around the world can *harness ICT tools* in the service of the legislative, oversight and representative functions
Goals for ICT in Parliaments 2010-2020

• National and international *policies* to create equitable and inclusive information society

• More robust and *well coordinated program of technical assistance*
Measuring Success
(Examples of metrics)

• Goal: harness ICT tools and build a technical infrastructure
  – A strategic plan regularly updated
  – All members have a computer and access to the Internet
  – Parliament has a document management system
TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE METRICS

Plan  PC+Net  DMS

2012  2016  2020
Measuring Success
(Examples of metrics)

• Connecting with citizens
  – Parliaments using new interactive communication tools
  – Usability standards used for websites to support persons with disabilities
  – Email management tools employed
Communication with Citizens

- New media
- Email
- Usability

2012, 2016, 2020
Access to the Law and the Law Making Process

- Complete Websites
- Open Standards
- Access to Laws

Year:
- 2012
- 2016
- 2020
Conclusion

• We are at moment that holds great promise for the strengthening of parliaments
  – The technology is here
  – Our knowledge of how to use ICT effectively is growing
  – The intent to share that knowledge with each is clearly evident
Conclusion

We look to the panel for their thoughts about how parliaments and the international community can take advantage of these developments to establish a coordinated program for strengthening parliaments through ICT.
World e-Parliament
Conference 2009

3-4-5 November 2009 // U.S. House of Representatives // Washington D.C.