

**Regional Workshop "Towards a Regional Network of Information Technology
Experts of Latin America" – Geneva 9th October, 2007**

Closing Remarks by the Government of Italy

**Ms Nicoletta Piccirillo, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Italy to the United
Nations Office in Geneva**

Ladies and gentleman,

Delegates and technology experts from Assemblies of Latin America.

I am pleased, on behalf of the Government of Italy, to see such a large and committed participation to today's Workshop. I am aware that the agenda for your working day has been intense and challenging. And I am pleased to receive confirmation that the mutual exchange of experiences and knowledge between experts from the Parliaments of the Region, with the experts of the Global Center for ICT in Parliaments, United Nations, the Inter-American Development Bank and the academia, has been vivid, effective and rewarding.

This is was indeed the objective that the Italian Development Cooperation endorsed when Italy decided to support a dedicated chapter for Latin America of the Global Initiative for Information and Communication Technologies in Parliaments.

As you know, the Italian Government and the Italian Parliament have been supporting and promoting this Initiative since 2003, and with growing intensity after the World Summit on Information Society of Geneva and Tunis in 2003 and 2005, that called for "strengthened cooperation between national and regional parliaments".

I would like to underline that only the joint efforts and commitment of all the parties present here has made this event and Initiative a reality in a short time frame.

Let me acknowledge in particular:

- the participation of almost all Parliaments of the Region, which have responded to our call with the participation of distinguished delegates, you, that have made this meeting a special and "historical" occasion;

- the Inter-Parliamentary Union, that has hosted and endorsed this Seminar;

- the Inter-American Development Bank and the United Nations Global Centre for ICT and Parliament, that have proved the concept that collaboration between international organizations is possible and is key to the creation of value added for scaling-up programs for the benefit and inclusion of beneficiary counterparts who own the processes, a concept that the Italian Government has always promoted.

- the experts and academicians, and the University of Bologna, that have poured their knowledge and skills in today's debate.

It is true in general that information technology can support the activities of Parliaments, their internal operations, the dialogue and openness to citizens, the management of legal information and laws. It is also true that a structured dialogue among national parliaments on new tools and technologies can generate mutual learning and multiply access and sharing to knowledge. Coordination and sharing does pay off.

In the case of Latin America, we believe that information technology can do even more: IT technology can be indeed a supporting tool for the Regional Agenda on integration and coordination of national policies and programs. Since these are reflected in the national legislative and normative production, common technology standards for legislation management and exchange, such as the open data formats that have been illustrated today, are key to the establishment of a common platform.

Today has been the launch of a longer term working Agenda, that you have agreed together. The Regional Network of Information Technology Experts of Latin America is now born under the best circumstances and framework: a network of skilled and committed professionals from the Parliaments of Latin America here during the annual World e-Parliament Conference in Geneva, working with the Inter-American Development Bank, and the United Nations. This is the picture that the Italian Government has supported. But now the sustainability of this network is in your hands.

Let me wish you a fruitful stay here in Geneva for the next working days, and, express our strong expectations that the most from this Network has yet to come, and that the cooperative Agenda for the Region will establish itself as one of the best practices of this Global Initiative.