World e-Parliament Conference 2016

28-30 June 2016

Co-organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the
Chamber of Deputies of Chile
#eParliament

AIDE-MEMOIRE

Background

The World e-Parliament Conference is the biennial forum of the parliamentary community on the use of information and communication technologies (ICT). It addresses, from both the policy and technical perspectives, how ICT can help improve representation, law-making and oversight, and increase parliament's openness, accessibility, accountability and effectiveness.

The Conference is one of the major activities created by the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament (a joint initiative of IPU and the United Nations) in the follow up to the World Summit on the Information Society. Since October 2013, the Conference has been taken forward by IPU with support from many parliaments and partners.

Six Conferences have taken place since 2007, which have been hosted by national parliaments in Italy, the Republic of Korea, South Africa and the United States of America, as well as the European Parliament, the Pan-African Parliament and IPU.

69 national parliaments were represented at the most recent Conference in the Republic of Korea in May 2014. Parliamentarians have typically made up around one-third of participants, with the remainder being mostly senior parliamentary staff (Secretaries General, directors of ICT, library and research services, communications etc) and a number of experts from academia, civil society, etc.

World e-Parliament Conference 2016

The World e-Parliament Conference 2016 will take place on 28-30 June in Valparaiso (Chile).

Vision and objectives

The Conference is intended to inspire participants by showing how ICT can bring a range of benefits to the work of parliament. It is expected to challenge thinking about how ICT can be implemented successfully and sustainably in the parliamentary environment, in the context of available resources and local parameters.

Participants of the Conference shall hopefully return to their parliament with renewed ambitions about what they would like to achieve, and practical knowledge about how to do so.

With this view, the prime objectives of the Conference are:

- To take stock of recent global trends and innovations in parliamentary use of ICT;
- To share specific examples of how parliaments are using technology to support parliamentarians and the different areas of parliamentary work;
- To promote inter-parliamentary cooperation in the effective use of technology.

The Conference will provide concrete follow-up to the Outcome Document on "Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth" adopted by the 134th IPU Assembly in March 2014. It will also make the link with the role of parliaments in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including but not limited to Goal 16 on Peace, justice and strong institutions.

Co-organizers

The World e-Parliament Conference 2016 is co-organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Chamber of Deputies of Chile, in partnership with UNDP and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and with support from partner organizations. The Conference agenda has been developed with input from a group of experts in parliaments and partner organizations.

Structure

The conference shall feature the following components:

1. Presentation of the World e-Parliament Report 2016 and discussion of the key findings.
2. Half-day thematic blocks (broadly aligned with the main chapters of the World e-Parliament Report) to enable in-depth discussions of policy and technical issues.
3. Daily "Innovation in parliaments" segments in plenary to promote the sharing of innovations.
4. Two workshops on (a) how parliaments engage with citizens via social media, and (b) how parliaments with lesser resources can deploy effective and sustainable ICT solutions.
5. An "Unconference" providing a space for informal small-group discussions between participants on topics of mutual interest e.g. *XML document standards*, *parliamentarians´ use of social media,* etc.
6. A "Hackathon" intending to demonstrate how parliaments can effectively develop innovative ICT solutions by engaging and collaborating with civil society. The Hackathon shall deliver applications (Apps) developed over three days.

A dedicated Conference website (www.wepc2016.org) will provide information and continuous updates. On the social media front there will be a Twitter hashtag #eParliament to allow participants (and non-participants) to join in the conversation, before, during and after the Conference.

Format

The Conference will be based on the principles of 'participation' and 'interaction'.

The opening and closing sessions will take place in plenary. During the rest of the Conference, two parallel sessions will be held in different rooms, with seating for 350 and 150 participants respectively. Interpretation will be available in both rooms in English, French and Spanish, and proceedings in both rooms will be webcast.

Summaries of the main points from the Conference will be captured on the Conference website and a more extensive report will be made available after the Conference.

Conference proceedings shall be further enhanced by information-sharing and networking opportunities including:

- An online "Innovation Board" which shall be available from 1 June on the conference website. Parliaments can basically post innovation stories on the board, in any desired format e.g. a brief text, an uploaded PDF, pictures, a short YouTube movie etc.;

- A "virtual brainstorming space" for the Unconference that will also be available from 1 June on the Conference website, and allow participants to propose topics for discussion during the Unconference, which will take place on 30 June;

- A "Hackathon" in collaboration with parliamentary staff and IT experts from civil society ("hackers"). Working with international parliamentary datasets, the Hackathon is expected to demonstrate the potential of collaboration with civil society for opening parliamentary data; deliver prototypes of legislative applications; and promote collaboration between regional and global networks on parliamentary openness. A daily update will be given in plenary during the "Innovation in parliaments" segment, and the Hackathon team will present the prototypes developed on the final afternoon of the conference. The Hackathon will be coordinated by a team from the HackerLab in the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil.

Participants

It is expected that around 350 participants will attend the World e-Parliament Conference 2016, representing parliamentary assemblies from around the world.

Delegations will include members of parliament, secretaries general and parliamentary ICT staff. Parliaments are encouraged to send gender-balanced delegations.

Other participants in the conference will include experts from civil society, academia, the private sector and international organizations etc.

Languages

The working languages of the World e-Parliament Conference 2016 will be English, French and Spanish. One additional interpretation booth may be made available to delegations upon request.

Further information

Information concerning the Conference can be viewed at www.ipu.org/wepr2016 and www.wepc2016.org.

Requests for further information concerning the World e-Parliament Conference 2016 should be addressed to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (E-mail: postbox@ipu.org: Phone: +41 22 919 41 50)