World e-Parliament Conference 2012

13, 14 and 15 September 2012
Chamber of Deputies
Rome, Italy

AIDE MEMOIRE

Background

The World e-Parliament Conference is the biennial forum of the community of parliaments addressing, from both the policy and technical perspectives, how the use of information and communication technology can help improve representation, transparency, accountability, openness, and effectiveness in the complex parliamentary environment.

The World e-Parliament Conference 2012, to take place on 13, 14 and 15 September 2012 at the Chamber of Deputies of Italy in Rome, builds on the results of four previous conferences held respectively in Geneva (2007), Brussels (2008), Washington D.C. (2009) and Johannesburg (2010) as well as on the findings of the World e-Parliament Report 2012, to be officially launched on this occasion.

At the conference, presiding officers and members of parliaments, secretaries-general, parliamentary staff and officials, experts from international organizations and academics who work and deal with information and communication technologies in legislatures will have the opportunity to analyze good practices, exchange views on latest trends and institutional developments, learn from each other's experiences, network with peers, and build partnerships in an international setting.

The conference will purposely conclude on the International Day of Democracy 2012.

The event is co-organized by the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, through the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament[1], and hosted by the Chamber of Deputies of Italy.

Structure and topics of the World e-Parliament Conference 2012

The World e-Parliament Conference 2012 will last two and a half days, starting at 9 a.m. on Thursday, 13 September 2012 and ending in the late morning of Saturday, 15 September 2012.

The event is structured around policy and management oriented plenary sessions and sessions of a more technical nature.

The policy and management oriented plenary sessions will touch upon the following topics:

- *The Status of ICT in Parliaments in 2012*
- *The impact of technology on parliamentary openness and accountability*
- *The challenges of today's participatory media for legislatures and members of Parliament*
- *Innovations in parliamentary communications*
- *Benefits and values of open data for fostering greater transparency in legislatures*
- *ICT strategic planning and implementation in Parliament: doing more with less*
- *Cloud services in Parliaments*
- *Delivering information and documents through tablets and mobile devices*
- *Protection of the ICT environment and minimization of external threats*

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[1] The Global Centre for ICT in parliament is a partnership initiative launched by the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union on the occasion of the World Summit on the Information Society (www.ictparliament.org).

Presenters will include Speakers and senior members and officials of Parliament, high-level representatives of Governments and international organizations, and world renowned experts. In each session time will be set aside for open discussion from the floor.

In the conference agenda, sessions of a technical nature have been scheduled to run in parallel with the policy and management oriented sessions from the afternoon of the first day. Each session will feature two to three presentations delivered by senior staff from different legislatures, followed by open discussions to foster exchanges of views among participants.

The technical sessions will focus on the following themes:

- *Technology options for recording and reporting parliamentary proceedings*
- *Applications for federated searching in parliamentary libraries and research services*
- *Electronic voting systems in plenary and committee rooms*
- *XML applications and services*
- *Inter-parliamentary cooperation to achieve a legislative XML standard*
- *Joint open source projects to deliver quality information*

In the morning of 15 September, three final high-level plenary sessions addressing the topic of democracy in today's information society will bring the conference to its conclusion during the International Day of Democracy 2012.

The first session, *e-Parliament and freedom of access to information*, will highlight the benefits of using technology in legislatures to respond effectively to the growing demand of laws and norms for access to information. The session *Strengthening democracy in the age of the information society* will focus on national and international efforts to raise the quality of democracy by leveraging the rapid evolution of technology in recent years. The third session, *Opening to citizens' voices through new technology*, will address the issue of how political representatives and governing institutions can use technology solutions to increase participation in the decision-making progress of the nation.

Participants

It is expected that 350 participants will attend the World e-Parliament Conference 2012, representing parliamentary assemblies from around the world. Delegations will include presiding officers and members with decision-making power over information and communication technology policies of the legislature, secretaries-general and clerks with management responsibilities over legislative processes and organizational matters, directors of ICT departments and information services, parliamentary ICT staff and experts, as well as representatives of international organizations, the civil society, the donor community, and academia.

Languages

The working languages of the World e-Parliament Conference 2012 will be English, French and Spanish.