



30 June 2012

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

We are very pleased to announce that the next World e-Parliament Conference will be held at the Chamber of Deputies of Italy in Rome on 13, 14 and 15 September 2012. The conclusion of the Conference will purposely fall on the International Day of Democracy 2012.

The World e-Parliament Conference 2012 is co-organized by the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, through the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, and it is hosted by the Chamber of Deputies of Italy. The Conference is the leading world forum for learning about best practices, networking with peers, and building partnerships in an international setting in the area of ICT and parliaments. The 2012 edition will build on the results of the four previous meetings held respectively in Geneva (2007), Brussels (2008), Washington (2009) and Johannesburg (2010), as well as on the experiences shared over the past two years by the parliamentary community in the area of information and communication technologies.

The theme of the Conference - open Parliament - presents a unique opportunity at a global level for legislatures to exchange views and lessons learned on the use of technologies to foster the principles of parliamentary transparency, openness, accountability and efficiency. As in past editions, the World e-Parliament Conference is aimed presiding officers, members of parliaments, secretaries general and clerks, parliamentary staff and officials, experts from international organizations, and academics who deal with information and communication technologies in parliaments, either from a decision-making or from a technical perspective.

Approximately 350 participants are expected to take part in the general debate and parallel tracks forming the agenda. Presentations, which will be delivered by parliamentary leaders, senior staff, and world renowned experts, will showcase innovative solutions, offer informative case studies, and provide important points for discussion on critical issues.

The World e-Parliament Conference 2012 will also serve as a forum to identify and agree upon future technology goals for the international community of parliaments, as well as for further strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation in this domain.

The concluding sessions of the World e-Parliament Conference 2012, taking place during the International Day of Democracy 2012, will focus on the relationship between parliamentary democratic values and the progress and evolution of the information society.

During the World e-Parliament Conference 2012 simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish.

The preliminary agenda, a document outlining the goals, expectations and structure of the World e-Parliament Conference 2012, a practical information note and the registration form are enclosed as a first reference. Additional information concerning the events will be made available on the web site www.ictparliament.org/WePC2012. However, information can also be obtained from the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament in Rome, Italy (conference@ictparliament.org; tel +39 06 6813-6320; fax +39 06 68211960).

We very much hope that your Assembly will participate in this event and we look forward to receiving the names of your delegates in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Rainer Wieland
Vice President
European Parliament

Co-Chair of the Board
Global Centre for ICT in Parliament



Maurizio Lupi
Vice President
Chamber of Deputies
Italy

Member of the Board
Global Centre for ICT in Parliament



Abel Martínez
President
Chamber of Deputies
Dominican Republic

Co-Chair of the Board
Global Centre for ICT in Parliament