



## Fourth Parliamentary Forum on Shaping the Information Society

### The Triple Challenge of Cybersecurity: Information, Citizens and Infrastructure

18–20 May 2011

Geneva, Switzerland



## Summary

The Fourth Parliamentary Forum on Shaping the Information Society “The Triple Challenge of Cyber-Security: Information, Citizens and Infrastructure” was held from 18 to 20 May 2011 at the Headquarters of the International Labour Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. The event was co-organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and ITU.

The Forum was the fourth meeting of members of parliament focusing on issues relating to the Information Society organized within the framework of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, a partnership initiative launched by UNDESA and the IPU at the WSIS in 2005.

The aim of the Forum series is to further dialogue among legislators on parliamentary actions that can contribute to the shaping of the Information Society in view of the WSIS implementation, follow-up and future 2015 review. It also intends to strengthen the interaction at international level between members of parliaments and representatives of international organizations working in this domain with a view of identifying good parliamentary practices for the advancement of ICT-related policies in favour of the internationally-agreed development goals.

The Fourth Parliamentary Forum attracted about 100 members of parliament, including chairs/presidents of parliamentary committees with responsibility for science and technology, information and telecommunication, from all over the world. Other participants included senior representatives and officials of international organizations, as well as experts from agencies, governments and the academia.

Following consultations, led by the Parliament of Chile, participants endorsed a final declaration, which highlighted the following issues:

Effective and harmonized legal frameworks are necessary to address the challenges of cybersecurity:

- Confidence in cyberspace is vital for the development of the information society. Parliamentarians have the responsibility to enact legislation that promotes a safe and enabling environment for citizens, businesses and institutions to fully benefit from the Internet revolution.
- Cybercrime and the illicit use of ICT cannot be combated effectively without greater harmonization of our national legislation. The lack of harmonization creates an environment in which criminal activities can proliferate in relative impunity, and it is therefore urgent to act promptly.

While noting with satisfaction the regional and international initiatives to promote cybersecurity, participants deplored the absence of an internationally agreed instrument that would provide a comprehensive framework for countries to coherently address cybersecurity issues in a coordinated manner.

Participants called upon the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament to strengthen its engagement with parliaments on topics related to the Information Society. In particular, they requested the Global Centre to create a working group of parliamentarians to explore ways to harmonize legislation on cybersecurity, and to report back on progress at the next Parliamentary Forum.

At the end of the meeting, participants thanked the co-organizers – the UN, ITU and IPU – as well as the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, and encouraged all parliaments to participate in the next annual forums in preparation of the 2015 review of the World Summit on the Information Society.