

Shaping the Information Society: The Role of Parliaments and Legislators

14-15 May 2008
Room XI - Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

AGENDA

14 May 2008 – Morning

09:30 – 10:00 **Inaugural Session**
Welcome remarks

- **Nitin Desai**, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General for Internet Governance
- **Gherardo Casini**, Executive Coordinator, Global Centre for ICT in Parliament

10:00 – 10:30 **Keynote address**

- **Jane Bortnick Griffith**, Senior Advisor, Global Centre for ICT in Parliament

10:30 – 12:30 **Session one – *Implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) goals: The United Nations system at work***

Chair: **Joseph Owona Kono**, Member of the National Assembly of Cameroon

Panel:

- **Charles Geiger**, Special Advisor to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and former Executive Director of the Secretariat of the WSIS
- **Susan Teltscher**, Chief, ICT Policy and Analysis Unit, ICT and E-Business Branch, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Open discussion

12:30 – 15:00 **Lunch Break**

15:00 – 18:00 **Session two – *Role of parliaments in advancing the Information Society***

Theme 1: Fulfilling parliamentary responsibilities

Chair: **Antonio Galamba**, Member of the Assembly of the Republic of Portugal

Panel:

- **Geoffrey Q.M. Doidge**, House Chairperson, National Assembly of South Africa
- **Tariq Azeem Khan**, Member of the Senate of Pakistan
- **Kyösti Karjula**, Member of the Committee for the Future, Parliament of Finland
- Representative of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy

Country reports and open discussion

Theme 2: Organizational approaches in parliaments

Chair: **Agostinho Branquinho**, Member of the Assembly of the Republic of Portugal

Panel:

- **Francisco Javier Costellon Fonseca**, Chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology, Senate of Mexico
- **Wellars Gasamagera**, Member of the Political and Good Governance Standing Committee and Member of the ICT Steering Committee, Senate of Rwanda

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10:00 – 13:00 **Session three – *The legislative role in promoting an equitable information society***

Theme 1: Bringing the information society to all

Chair: **Kostantinos Tsiaras**, Member of the Standing Committee on Research and Technology of the Hellenic Parliament

Panel:

- **Shri Nikhil Kumar**, Chairman of the Committee on Information Technology, House of the People of India
- **Hanne Agersnap**, Member of the Science and Technology Committee, The Danish Parliament

Country reports and open discussion

Theme 2: Ensuring equitable access

Chair: **Kostantinos Tsiaras**, Member of the Standing Committee on Research and Technology of the Hellenic Parliament

Panel:

- **Hannes Astok**, Member of the Estonian Parliament
- **Rishab Aiyer Ghosh**, Head, Collaborative Creativity Group, United Nations University/UNU-MERIT
- **Patrice Martin-Lalande**, Member of the National Assembly of France

Country reports and open discussion

13:00 – 15:00 **Lunch Break**

15 May 2008 - Afternoon

15:00 – 17:30 **Session four – *Parliament's role in guaranteeing citizen rights in the information society***

Theme 1: Protecting privacy in the Internet era

Chair: **Mincho Voktorov Spasov**, Chairman of the Internal Security and Public Order Committee, National Assembly of Bulgaria

Panel:

- **Stefano Rodotà**, Professor of Law, University of Rome "La Sapienza"
- **Rob van den Hoven van Genderen**, Expert, Council of Europe

Country reports and open discussion

Theme 2: Guaranteeing fundamental rights in the Web 2.0 environment

Chair: **Mincho Voktorov Spasov**, Chairman of the Internal Security and Public Order Committee, National Assembly of Bulgaria

Panel:

- **Augustin Jarquin**, Member of the National Assembly of Nicaragua
- **Christopher Kay Ridder**, Residential Fellow, Stanford Law School, Center for Internet and Society

Country reports and open discussion

17:30 – 18:00 **Closing Session**

Next steps and concluding remarks

- **Gherardo Casini**, Executive Coordinator, Global Centre for ICT in Parliament