



United Nations



Inter-Parliamentary Union



International
Telecommunication Union

08 March 2010

Madam President,
Mr. President,

We are pleased to invite your parliament to participate in the Third Parliamentary Forum on Shaping the Information Society on "ICT and the Global Economic Crisis: Current Situation and Future Perspectives".

The event is co-organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, a partnership initiative of the UN and IPU. It will be held from 3 to 5 May 2010 at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, on the eve of the WSIS Forum 2010.

The Third Forum will build on the results of the First and Second Parliamentary Forums on the Information Society (Geneva and Hyderabad) and aims at furthering dialogue among legislators on parliamentary actions that can contribute to the shaping of the future Information Society. It follows a Parliamentary Conference on the Global Economic Crisis organized by IPU in May 2009.

The Forum will focus on the role that ICT can play in confronting the crisis and facilitating economic and social recovery by addressing key issues such as: investments in high-speed Internet networks; e-government and competitiveness; the social and economic costs of cybercrime; the liberalization of telecommunication/ICT markets and promoting competition; national responses to regulation challenges; and an assessment of the current status of the ICT industry.

We are pleased to enclose the aide mémoire, preliminary agenda and practical information note on this Forum. Additional information concerning the Forum will be made available on the web site of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament at www.ictparliament.org/parliamentaryforum2010.

It is proposed that delegations be led by Chairs of parliamentary committees with responsibility for ICT and/or committees on economic affairs. The names of the full delegation of your parliament should be submitted to the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament by 15 April 2010 using the enclosed registration form (e-mail: info@ictparliament.org; fax: +39 0668211960). Delegations can also register online at the Conference web page mentioned above.

To stimulate discussion during the Forum and share important policy elements with parliaments from around the world, we kindly request parliaments to submit in advance a written contribution describing the actions taken by parliament to tackle the crisis through the use of ICT. The contribution should follow the guideline contained in the attached template.

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

Please accept, Madam/Mr. President, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Sha Zukang
Under-Secretary-General
United Nations

Anders. B. Johnsson
Secretary General
IPU

Hamadoun Touré
Secretary-General
ITU