Key points for MPs

The IPU's *Guidelines for AI in parliaments* stress that the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) by parliaments should be gradual, well-planned and aligned with democratic principles. MPs play a crucial role in ensuring that AI enhances rather than undermines parliamentary democracy.

The Guidelines provide a comprehensive framework for the responsible adoption and use of AI in parliaments, with several crucial considerations for MPs.

Benefits of AI

AI offers significant opportunities to enhance parliamentary work. It can strengthen legislative research and analysis, streamline administrative processes, improve public engagement and transparency, enable better data analysis for evidence-based policymaking, automate document processing and translation, and provide valuable support for post-legislative scrutiny.

Key risks and challenges

Implementing AI presents important challenges that must be carefully managed. These include potential bias in AI systems that could affect decision-making, concerns about privacy and data protection, and cybersecurity vulnerabilities. There is a critical need for human oversight and control, and parliaments must be mindful of the risk of eroding public trust if AI is not implemented properly. The potential for job displacement must also be considered and planned for.

Essential principles

1. **Human oversight:** use of AI to augment, not replace, human decision-making in parliamentary processes
2. **Transparency:** clear communication about when and how AI is being used
3. **Privacy:** strong protection of personal and sensitive data

4. **Accountability:** clear responsibility structures for AI systems
5. **Fairness:** avoidance of discrimination and bias by AI systems

Recommended approach

Success with AI requires a measured, strategic approach. Parliaments are advised to start with small pilot projects in order to build experience and confidence, focusing on use cases that offer clear benefits while ensuring that risks are manageable. Robust human oversight of AI systems is essential, as is investment in data literacy and AI literacy training. Engaging with diverse stakeholders throughout implementation, and regularly monitoring and evaluating AI systems, are crucial for success.

Key responsibilities for MPs

1. Understanding both the opportunities and limitations of AI
2. Exercising oversight of AI implementation in parliament
3. Ensuring ethical principles are upheld
4. Protecting constituents' interests and privacy
5. Supporting transparent communication about AI use
6. Contributing to AI governance decisions

Contact

For more information about the Guidelines, contact innovation@ipu.org.