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Main takeaways

Examples of AI governance in parliaments

22 May 2025

The webinar [Examples of AI governance in parliaments](#), hosted by the IPU's Centre for Innovation in Parliament, brought together senior parliamentary technologists from the National Assembly of Angola, the Shura Council of Bahrain and the National Assembly of Mauritius to share their experiences of implementing AI governance frameworks. The discussion revealed common challenges, innovative approaches and good-practice solutions for establishing trustworthy AI in parliaments.

Video of the webinar:

- [00:00](#) – Mr. Ludovic Delepine, Archives Unit, European Parliament
- [02:45](#) – Mr. Edmar Tati, National Assembly of Angola
- [16:00](#) – Ms. Saseeta Ramsahye-Rakha, National Assembly of Mauritius
- [31:20](#) – Ms. Abeer Al-Obaidulli, Shura Council of Bahrain
- [53:35](#) – Ms. Stefania Boschetto, Directorate-General for Information Technologies and Cybersecurity, European Parliament

Key approaches

National Assembly of Angola: Focusing on practical implementation

Mr. Edmar Tati, Data Analyst and Developer at the National Assembly of Angola, emphasized the importance of adopting practical, immediate applications while building towards comprehensive governance. The National Assembly uses AUDIMUS, a local speech-to-text solution, along with Zoom AI Companion for artificial intelligence (AI)-powered transcription and documentation, significantly reducing administrative burden. After experiencing a cyberattack, the parliament implemented Cloudflare for enhanced security, demonstrating the dual nature of AI as both an opportunity and a threat. Looking forward, the National Assembly is partnering with local companies to develop a proprietary large language model (LLM) using retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) in order to keep sensitive data processing in-house.

National Assembly of Mauritius: Developing a comprehensive framework

Ms. Saseeta Ramsahye-Rakha, Manager of Parliamentary Digital Services at the National Assembly of Mauritius, presented a structured approach towards developing a complete AI policy framework guided by the IPU's [Guidelines for AI in parliaments](#). The framework includes an AI Board, chaired by the Clerk, with external advisers ensuring transparency. The National Assembly is developing Mauritian Creole transcription capabilities in preparation for the potential introduction of the language into parliamentary proceedings in order to make them more accessible to citizens. Until now, proceedings have only been conducted in English.

The AI framework, which is driven by the Speaker, places special emphasis on gender inclusion and includes measures to prevent gender bias in AI outputs. This is particularly important for Creole, which includes colourful expressions that could otherwise be mishandled by AI systems. The comprehensive risk management approach covers bias mitigation, data protection, and alignment with local laws and international frameworks.

Shura Council of Bahrain: Balancing innovation and governance

Ms. Abeer Al-Obaidulli, Director of Systems and Digital Solutions at the Shura Council of Bahrain, shared a perspective on balancing innovation with governance requirements. The Shura Council's [Legislative Tracker Platform](#) provides comprehensive, AI-powered workflow management across all legislative stages. Having initially launched some initiatives before clear AI governance frameworks were in place, the parliament deliberately slowed down in order to establish proper structures, forming a dedicated AI Committee to develop a five-year road map.

Bahrain has adapted frameworks based on international standards, including the [European Union \(EU\) AI Act](#), the IPU's *Guidelines on AI in parliaments* and [ISO/IEC 42001](#), creating a governance framework with clear accountability and comprehensive documentation requirements founded on international good practice.

Common challenges and solutions

Three common challenges were raised in the webinar:

- **Privacy and data protection:** The representatives of all three parliaments identified data privacy as one of their primary concerns, citing the risks of sensitive parliamentary data being exposed through commercial AI services. To manage this, they are developing in-house models, enforcing strict data-handling protocols and ensuring compliance with local data protection laws.
- **Bias mitigation:** Ms. Ramsahye-Rakha from the National Assembly of Mauritius presented a structured approach to bias mitigation that included the establishment of an

Ethics Subcommittee on AI – a body tasked with evaluating risks and reviewing proposed projects for fairness and alignment with national values. Consideration was also given to the diversity and inclusivity of governance structures, the use of culturally rooted data sets, and the integration of bias auditing mechanisms, particularly in multilingual and gender-sensitive contexts.

- **Balancing innovation and security:** The representatives of all three parliaments identified the tension inherent in balancing innovation with risk management and cybersecurity. Participants noted that developing strong governance frameworks could slow down innovation but emphasized that phased implementation, pilot projects and continuous framework updates were necessary.

Critical success factors

The presenters argued that the following factors were critical to the successful establishment and operationalization of AI governance:

1. Governance structure

- Establish clear decision-making bodies with diverse representation.
- Include external advisers for transparency and expertise.
- Create specific roles and responsibilities for AI oversight.

2. Policy framework development

- Build comprehensive policies before widespread implementation.
- Align with international standards (the IPU's *Guidelines on AI in parliaments*), the EU AI Act, ISO standards).
- Address ethics, security, privacy and bias systematically.

3. Phased implementation

- Start with pilot projects and proofs-of-concept which are driven by need.
- Build internal capacity before scaling.
- Build in learning opportunities for users.
- Learn from experience and adapt frameworks accordingly.

4. Security-first approach

- Implement robust cybersecurity measures.
- Consider developing sensitive applications in-house.
- Conduct regular security assessments and updates.

Lessons learned and recommendations

The webinar yielded several important lessons and recommendations.

Universal principles that apply to all parliaments, regardless of their level of AI implementation:

1. **Human oversight** must remain central to all AI applications.
2. **Transparency** and **accountability** are non-negotiable.
3. AI must serve **democratic values** and the **public good**.
4. **Continuous learning** and **adaptation** are essential.
5. **International collaboration** strengthens individual efforts.

For parliaments beginning AI integration:

1. **Start small but think big:** Begin with practical applications while developing comprehensive governance frameworks.
2. **Prioritize security:** Establish robust cybersecurity measures from the outset.
3. **Learn from others:** Leverage international guidelines and peer experiences.
4. **Build capacity first:** Invest in staff training and AI literacy before major implementations.

For parliaments with existing AI initiatives:

1. **Review and strengthen governance:** Even when starting without frameworks, it is never too late to establish proper governance.
2. **Update frameworks regularly:** AI technology is evolving rapidly, and governance frameworks must adapt accordingly.
3. **Share knowledge:** Participate in international networks in order to learn from, and contribute to, collective knowledge.

Looking ahead

The experiences shared by representatives of the parliaments of Angola, Bahrain and Mauritius provided valuable lessons for parliaments embarking on their AI journeys. The webinar emphasized the continued value of peer-to-peer learning through inter-parliamentary exchanges, involving parliaments at all levels of digital maturity and AI readiness.

About the *Transforming Parliaments* webinar series

The *Transforming Parliaments* webinar series began in 2021 as an initiative of the Parliamentary Data Science Hub (hosted by the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil) and the IT Governance Hub (hosted by the European Parliament) within the framework of the IPU's Centre for Innovation in Parliament. It provides a regular platform for online peer-to-peer learning for parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, experts in digital transformation and innovation, and civil society organizations working on parliamentary strengthening.

Contact: For questions or more information, or to propose ideas for a future webinar, please contact us at innovation@ipu.org.