

Transforming Parliaments webinar series: Strategic actions towards AI governance

8 October 2025



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Key takeaways

On 8 October 2025, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) organized a webinar entitled [Strategic actions towards AI governance](#). The event, which explored how parliaments can effectively manage AI implementation while maintaining democratic principles and human oversight, featured speakers from the Chamber of Deputies of Italy, the UK Parliament, the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil and the Parliament of South Africa, and brought together participants from parliaments worldwide.

Resources:

- [Video of the webinar](#)
- [IPU Innovation Tracker](#)
- [Guidelines for AI in Parliaments](#)
- [Transforming Parliaments webinar series](#)

The challenge: Managing AI implementation strategically

At a time when parliaments worldwide are facing an influx of AI possibilities and technological opportunities, speakers highlighted a critical challenge: creating coherent frameworks that balance innovation with responsibility.

The presentations revealed that successful AI governance requires not just technical solutions, but strategic decision-making processes that take into account people, culture and democratic values.

Four strategic approaches to AI governance

Chamber of Deputies of Italy: Four key pillars

In April 2024, the Chamber of Deputies of Italy adopted a comprehensive AI framework built around the following four key pillars:

- **Protect rights and ensure fairness:** Safeguarding democratic principles in AI applications
- **Assess and secure:** Conducting mandatory risk assessments, with a strong cybersecurity focus
- **Protect confidentiality:** Ensuring data privacy and security
- **Ensure human responsibility and training:** Maintaining human oversight

Ms. Claudia Di Andrea (Deputy Secretary General) emphasized that the Chamber placed training and awareness at the heart of its AI strategy. The Chamber has established a collaborative e-learning platform with the National School of Administration, aimed at both internal staff and parliamentary assistants. The goal is to foster AI literacy – the capacity to use these technologies thoughtfully, critically and ethically. The framework includes clear procedures: identify and assess needs, set priorities, pilot solutions, and continuously review and improve. All AI-generated outputs undergo strict quality control, with AI supporting humans rather than replacing them.

UK Parliament: A comprehensive governance structure

The UK Parliament has established a comprehensive governance structure overseen by the Information and Digital Board, which provides leadership on information, data and digital services for both chambers. Mr. Luke Hussey (Director of Digital Value) described the UK Parliament's multi-tiered approach:

- **AI Strategy Group:** Chaired by the Chief Technology Officer, with senior representatives from every department, and tasked with shaping the strategic approach and making informed choices
- **AI Assessment Group:** A technical working group established to evaluate specific AI use cases
- **Local working groups:** Department-specific teams (committees, libraries, communications, human resources, finance) exploring AI applications
- **Member dialogue groups:** Speaker's Group on AI and Lord Speaker's Group on AI, supporting MPs and peers in using AI and scrutinizing its use by government

In December 2024, the Parliament published comprehensive guidance for members, covering what AI is good for and how to choose the right tools, and including risk, data-protection and cybersecurity considerations, an overview of parliamentary privilege impacts, and learning resources. The Parliament is piloting Microsoft 365 Copilot with 267 participants and developing AI agents for specific functions, such as PeoplePoint for human-resources queries and PolicyHub for policy handbook searches. Mr. Hussey's key message was to "be brave, be bold [and] keep humans in the loop".

Chamber of Deputies of Brazil: An integrated strategy

Ms. Patricia Almeida (Coordinator of Innovation, IT Governance and Digital Strategy) explained that the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil had implemented the following strategic decisions for AI governance:

- **Data strategy:** A data governance framework, including norms for AI risk management and cloud services, has been established to minimize quality problems.
- **Adapted governance structure:** The corporate governance has been modified, with responsibilities being added to strategic boards and IT governance units, rather than new structures being created.
- **Agile methodology:** This approach is applied to all AI projects to enable frequent iterations, keep business units close to IT teams and collect user feedback immediately after deployment.
- **Literacy programmes:** Newly created data and AI literacy programmes combine e-learning with face-to-face classes, and include customized organizational transformation programmes.
- **Ulysses AI platform:** A comprehensive AI platform has been developed, with traditional algorithms, generative AI agents, and a corporate assistant (Ulysses Chat) available to all users, utilizing ChatGPT, Gemini and Claude.

Ms. Almeida emphasized that everything starts with a strategy that engages stakeholders and puts everyone on the same page towards common goals. The Chamber of Deputies maintains human oversight throughout the AI life cycle and has established partnerships with the federal government's private cloud for high-security cases.

Parliament of South Africa: Security first

The Parliament of South Africa has focused on a governance framework anchored in its constitutional mandate, with a particular emphasis on parliamentary oversight. Mr. Ravi Poliah (Acting Chief Information Officer) described the Parliament's framework, which is built on the following four pillars:

- **Data management:** Ensuring integrity, ownership and ethical use of data with strict security protocols
- **Enterprise architecture:** Defining how AI solutions are designed, integrated, and audited for compliance
- **Implementation decisions:** Making practical choices to operationalize policy, with measurable governance throughout the value chain
- **Human-resource enablement:** Providing training in the ethical and practical use of AI, recognizing that governance lives through skilled people

The Parliament has adopted a hybrid approach, using on-premise infrastructure for internal data and cloud technology for external data. Its design philosophy is “innovation with integrity”, with a security-first approach.

Data sovereignty and confidentiality are non-negotiables with direct impacts on the reputation of both the Parliament and the nation. The Parliament is focusing is on displacement rather than replacement, mindful of the fear that AI will take away jobs.

Setting out a recipe for success, Mr. Poliah emphasized the importance of managing change, dealing with fears that create resistance, and ensuring top-down adoption, inclusive design, and transparent communication about AI. The Parliament has identified four initial use cases: tracking parliamentary activities, processing public submissions (often hundreds of thousands), extracting precedents and rulings, and enabling public engagement.

Key principles for successful AI governance

The following success principles emerged from the collective experiences of these parliaments:

- **People and culture:** Representatives of all four parliaments emphasized that technology followed culture, not the other way around. Focus on employees, training and organizational culture before turning attention to technical solutions.
- **Human oversight:** AI supports human decision-making but does not replace people. Every system must maintain human-centred design with continuous oversight.
- **Security and ethics:** Build ethical measures, transparency and accountability from the beginning. Data sovereignty, confidentiality and security are fundamental requirements, not afterthoughts.
- **Strategic frameworks:** Establish clear governance structures, assessment processes and decision-making frameworks to prevent reactive, inconsistent implementation.
- **Training and capacity-building:** Foster AI literacy through comprehensive training programmes that help people use technology thoughtfully, critically and confidently, without unrealistic expectations.
- **Change management:** Address fears and resistance through proper change management strategies, inclusive design, top-down support and transparent communication.
- **Test, pilot and iterate:** Release AI solutions only after meticulous testing. Use agile methodologies with frequent iterations and continuous user feedback.
- **Start focused, then expand:** Begin with limited, focused use cases aligned with parliamentary mandates before expanding scope. Prioritize internal applications before external ones.

Ensuring democratic strengthening

AI governance in parliaments not only contributes to efficient resource management, but also enhances parliament’s capacity to serve citizens effectively. By strategically managing AI implementation, parliaments can allocate limited resources to initiatives that genuinely improve service delivery, access to information, and democratic participation.

The experiences of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy, the UK Parliament, the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil and the Parliament of South Africa demonstrate that successful AI implementation in parliamentary settings requires the balancing of technological possibilities with organizational realities, regulatory requirements and democratic values. Strategic governance frameworks ensure that complex decisions are made systematically rather than reactively.

As parliaments worldwide face similar challenges and opportunities, these strategic approaches to AI governance offer practical pathways forward.

The key insight across all four presentations was clear: technology serves democracy best when it is grounded in careful planning, human-centred design, ethical principles and organizational culture. As Mr. Peter Reichstädter of the Parliament of Austria summarized, the path to a fruitful and successful future lies in sticking to strategies for incorporating AI, and focusing on people rather than technology alone.

The future of AI in parliamentary settings lies not in implementing every possible technology, but in thoughtfully selecting and governing those applications that genuinely enhance the capacity of democratic institutions to serve their constituents effectively, transparently and ethically.

This document was prepared on the basis of the IPU webinar [Transforming Parliaments: Strategic actions towards AI governance](#), held on 8 October 2025. More information about the IPU's work on AI and about the Transforming Parliaments series can be found on the [IPU website](#).