



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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European
Parliament

World e-Parliament Conference 2026

Advancing democracy and strengthening parliaments through digital transformation

17–18 November 2026, Brussels, Belgium

Organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the European Parliament

Concept note

Theme

The theme of the Conference is ***Advancing democracy and strengthening parliaments through digital transformation*** and specifically how strategic digital transformation and new technologies can strengthen democratic resilience and parliamentary effectiveness.

Objectives

- **Knowledge exchange:** Create opportunities for parliaments at all digital maturity levels to foster inter-parliamentary cooperation, dialogue and knowledge exchange on digital issues, as well as to share experiences, challenges, and solutions in an interactive, conversational format.
- **Community building:** Strengthen global networks and communities of practice among legislators and practitioners of parliamentary digital transformation.
- **Strategic guidance:** Share strategic views on digital policies alongside practical frameworks and pathways for parliamentary progression across the digital transformation journey.
- **Parliamentary showcase:** Enable parliaments to highlight good practices, including accessibility tools, member support and artificial intelligence (AI) governance frameworks.

The Conference will focus on key guiding principles, such as grounding recommendations in human rights frameworks.

Outcomes

The Conference will strengthen capacity for parliamentary digital transformation through the sharing of practical frameworks and peer learning. Participants will gain actionable strategies for cybersecurity, digital governance, resilience, sound data management, sustainability and digital inclusion, while building international networks and empowering collaboration. These good practices will establish clear pathways for parliaments at all maturity levels, helping to bridge digital divides and increase democratic resilience.

The main conclusions of the Conference will be captured in an Outcome document, to be adopted at the final session.

Conference tracks

The Conference will be organized around an opening and closing plenary, and three complementary tracks, ensuring relevance for parliaments and parliamentarians across the digital maturity spectrum. The streams are structured to encourage cross-over for attendees.

1 – Parliamentarians in a digital society: Evolving roles and needs

Potential themes include:

- Addressing societal impact to foster democratic trust.

- Countering disinformation and deepfakes.
- Upholding democracy, human rights and the rule of law.
- Parliamentarians' public conduct and integrity in the digital space.
- The future of deliberation: IT innovations in lawmaking and oversight expertise, citizens engagement and collective intelligence.
- Improving client services and member support through digital tools.
- Global collaboration against fragmentation: The role of parliamentarians in multilateral organizations and forums, regional parliamentary organizations and inter-parliamentary networks.

2 – Strategic leadership for the digital transformation of parliaments

Potential themes include:

- Digital sovereignty: Parliamentary autonomy over data, infrastructure and technology.
- Digital humanities for digitalized societies: Education, digital literacy and capacity-building.
- Build vs buy vs adopt: Criteria for choosing proprietary SaaS vs open-source solutions, on-premise vs cloud solutions.
- Parliament-to-Parliament cooperation: The role of the IPU and parliaments in technological cooperation and policy capacity-building.

3 – Technology, implementation and innovation

Potential themes include:

- Simplify before you digitize: How to remove friction process first to avoid automating inefficiently.
- AI governance you can run tomorrow: Bias, transparency, cost, accountability and procurement guardrails.
- Data foundations that make AI safe and reliable: Quality, lineage, data shift and standards.
- Interoperability across parliamentary systems.
- AI & technology literacy for safe adoption: Role-based training and hands-on enablement to build confidence, ensure effective use and embed risk awareness (bias, privacy, security, intellectual property (IP) and misuse) into everyday workflows and decision-making.
- Cybersecurity governance tied to real decisions: Risk acceptance, minimum controls, incident readiness and third-party risk.
- From experiment to service (people + operating model): Shifting from experiment to product delivery, building the right capabilities (skills, training, support, change management), and using sandboxes/agile experimentation to turn pilots into reliable, supported services.

In addition, the Parliamentary showcase provides a platform for displays and mini-presentations of parliamentary innovations.

Format and approach

- Interactive sessions emphasizing dialogue over presentations.
- Breakout discussions and facilitated round tables.
- Peer learning sessions connecting parliaments across maturity levels.
- Multilingual interpretation into English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

Organizers

The Conference is jointly organized by the IPU and the European Parliament (DG ITEC and DG EXPO).

Participants

The primary participants are parliamentarians and staff of the IPU Member Parliaments and Associate Members, in agreement with the European Parliament.

Concept note

Unicameral parliaments may send a delegation of up to four persons. Bicameral parliaments may send a delegation of up to five persons. Delegations will typically be composed of both members and staff of parliaments. The invitation will strongly encourage parliaments to send mixed-gender delegations.

An invitation will also be extended to national and regional parliaments that are not IPU Member Parliaments, when jointly identified. The European Parliament will, if it wishes, extend an invitation to representatives and staff of EU institutions. By mutual agreement, the IPU and the European Parliament may invite other categories of participants, such as organizations that support parliamentary strengthening, civil society groups working on technology and democracy, staff of relevant international organizations, etc.

All participants will be required to comply with the security and access regulations of the European Parliament premises. Detailed access conditions will be communicated in advance to all invited participants.

For more information, please contact innovation@ipu.org.