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World e-Parliament Conference
Launch of the World e-Parliament Report 2026

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Good morning.

It is a great pleasure to launch the World e-Parliament Report 2026 here in Brussels, with so many of the people who made it possible in the room.

This is the ninth edition of the report. The first was published in 2008. Since then, the series has followed parliaments through the arrival of the internet, social media and open data, and through a pandemic that forced many to work remotely almost overnight. Each edition has captured a moment. This one captures a turning point.

Two years ago, the 2024 report described an encouraging picture. Parliaments were investing in digital transformation, more of their leaders were involved, and cloud adoption was accelerating.

What none of us fully anticipated was the speed at which artificial intelligence would move from a specialist tool into everyday working life. In parliaments, as everywhere else, people started using it before the rules were written. That has exposed a gap between adopting technology and being ready to govern it. Closing that gap is the central message of this report.

The report draws on data from 118 parliaments, and on years of experience shared through the IPU's Centre for Innovation in Parliament. It shows a sector moving forward, but at different speeds. The typical parliament has made real progress since 2024. Yet the distance between the most and least digitally advanced parliaments has grown. That should concern all of us. Parliaments that want to remain effective and responsive to their citizens need to act now.

Three findings stand out.

First, governance comes first. The parliaments that advance most successfully put clear structures, roles and decision-making in place before they deploy new technology. They do not buy first and govern later. And this choice is open to every parliament, whatever its wealth or technical capacity.

Second, technology works best when the way we work changes with it. Parliaments that simply add AI to existing processes find that it inherits, and amplifies, the weaknesses already there. Those that redesign their work first see far better results.

Third, data is the foundation. Parliaments that treat their data as strategic infrastructure, and govern it accordingly, use AI more safely and more effectively.

Behind all three lies leadership. Digital transformation is no longer a job for the IT department alone. It needs Speakers, members and Secretaries General to champion change and to shape the tools that support their work. Decisions about technology are decisions about how parliament works.

There is also good news, and I want to dwell on it.

Parliaments are learning from each other more than ever. More of them are taking part in the Centre for Innovation in Parliament. Leading parliaments are sharing what they have learned, and others are

drawing on frameworks and ideas that have already been tested elsewhere. This growing community of practice is one of the most effective routes to progress, and one of the most hopeful findings in the report.

The report is written for all of you: for members of parliament who want the strategic picture, for Speakers and Secretaries General preparing institutional decisions, and for ICT leaders and their teams doing the detailed work of transformation. Whether your parliament is exploring new frontiers or building its digital foundations, I hope you will find it a practical guide.

I would like to thank every parliament that responded to our survey, and the staff who gave their time to do so. I thank the members of the Centre for Innovation in Parliament's hubs, and the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments, for their support. And I thank the team who wrote the report.

In a moment, you will hear the main findings in more detail. My message is a simple one. Put governance first, treat data as a strategic asset, bring your leadership and your members with you, and keep learning from one another. If we do these things, parliaments will remain resilient, vibrant and responsive to the citizens they serve.

Thank you.