



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# 140<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly

## Doha (Qatar), 6 – 10 April 2019



### Innovation in parliament: getting ready for the future

*Interactive session jointly organized by the IPU and the ASGP*

*Wednesday, 10 April 2019, 2 – 4 p.m.  
Salwa 3, Sheraton Convention Center*

#### **Concept note**

Parliaments today are challenged by their citizens to be more transparent, accountable and effective. In response, parliaments are increasingly experimenting with innovative ways of working that create new possibilities for building links with citizens. In this way, they help to secure a future where parliaments continue to be an essential institution for democracy.

Here are some of the questions to be focused on during the joint IPU-ASGP session. In an open discussion, parliamentarians and Secretaries General will exchange views and share experiences and good practice examples for introducing, managing and sharing innovation in their parliaments.

#### **Part 1: Good practice examples in parliament today**

- What are the types of challenge facing parliaments that require innovative solutions?
- What are some of the examples of successful innovations in parliaments? What have been the benefits for parliaments, parliamentarians and citizens?

#### **Part 2: Organizing for the future**

- Are parliaments preparing for the future? How could they do so?
- How do parliaments become innovative organizations?
- How can parliaments with limited resources innovate?
- What role does digital technology play in innovation?
- How can the Centre for Innovation in Parliament help to stimulate and share parliamentary innovations?

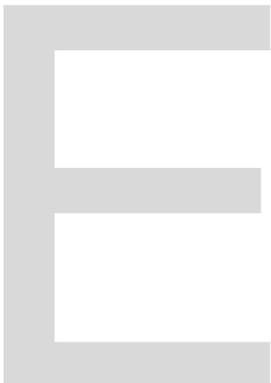
IPU Members are invited to complete a short online [Pre-session survey of participants' needs and interests](#) so that the session best fits their expectations. Members are kindly requested to provide input by 22 March 2019.

#### **What is innovation?**

In the parliamentary context, innovation can be defined as the **adoption of new practices, products or services that change one or more aspects of parliament's operations or culture**. In this sense, every parliament and every parliamentarian can innovate, and find new ways to be more effective, more transparent and more connected to people. Innovation is not necessarily related to digital technologies, although it is often driven, facilitated or supported by them.

#### **Why do parliaments innovate?**

Parliaments and parliamentarians need to be innovative to earn and keep the trust of the people, by addressing today's challenges and getting ready for the future.



#IPU140

The ultimate objective of innovation in the parliamentary context is to introduce new and more effective means of performing the parliamentary role for the wellbeing of citizens. Innovative approaches are applicable in all areas of parliamentary work, from its legislative function to transparency and public participation, from digitizing parliamentary processes to enabling citizens to become partners and co-creators in law-making and oversight.

Parliaments need to demonstrate that they are listening and responding to citizens' concerns. Social networks, as a new way of communicating, amplify citizen's demands, particularly those of young people. They want their voice to be heard and respected, and they demand to participate fully in decision-making processes.

### **How to organize, motivate and manage innovation?**

Innovation requires a cultural shift that involves rethinking and modernizing organizational and management processes. It is more about creating a cultural environment that is open to change than inventing high-tech breakthroughs.

The joint session will be an opportunity to present, learn and compare different models and organizational approaches that exist in parliaments, ranging from establishing a parliamentary committee for the future to establishing a separate innovation unit.

### **Creating and sharing innovations through the Centre for Innovation in Parliament**

The Centre for Innovation in Parliament was launched in December 2018 as a partnership between the IPU and parliaments to support parliamentary innovation through improved use of digital tools. It is a decentralized network functioning as a platform for collecting and sharing knowledge and good practices, and developing practical guides for parliaments.

Key activities of the Centre are distributed to regional and thematic hubs located within host parliaments. Regional and thematic hubs bring together parliaments to work on issues of common interest, such as Information and Communication Technology (ICT) governance or open data. The first hubs, established in partnership with the parliaments of Brazil, Chile, Zambia and the European Parliament, are now open for other parliaments to participate. Parliaments with scarce resources can particularly benefit from hubs, through gaining knowledge and ideas from parliaments with an advanced innovative record.

The Centre will publish a quarterly bulletin, the Innovation Tracker, to record and share a selection of the latest examples of innovation in parliaments.

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### **Further reading:**

[2018 World e-Parliament Report](#)

[2018 World e-Parliament Conference](#)

[Centre for Innovation in Parliament](#)