

UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

ASSOCIATION DES SECRETAIRES
GENERAUX DES PARLEMENTS



*ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARIES
GENERAL OF PARLIAMENTS*

COMMUNICATION

by

**Mr Pedro Agostinho DE NERI
Secretary General of the National Assembly of Angola**

on

“In the news and innovations at parliament”

**Geneva Session
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**STATEMENT OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE SECRETARY GENERAL
OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ANGOLA, PEDRO AGOSTINHO
DE NERI, AT THE MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
SECRETARIES GENERAL OF PARLIAMENTS**

YOUR EXCELLENCE PRESIDENT OF ASGP,

ESTEEMED SECRETARIES GENERAL OF PARLIAMENTS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

FIRST OF ALL, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR BEING PRESENT AT THE LAST ASGP MEETING HELD IN THE CITY OF LUANDA, ANGOLA, IN OCTOBER 2023. WE RECOGNIZE THE WIDE SUPPORT THAT, AS HOSTS, WE RECEIVED FROM ESTEEMED COLLEAGUES.

THE TOPIC WE PROPOSED TO ADDRESS DEALS WITH THE IMPACT OF MODERNITY ON THE ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONING OF PARLIAMENTS IN GENERAL, AND THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ANGOLA, IN PARTICULAR. WE WILL TRY TO SHOW HOW OUR PARLIAMENT HAS REINVENTED ITSELF USING TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION, IN ORDER TO POSITIVELY SATISFY THE DEMAND FOR THE ACTIVITY OF THE DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE.

THE DYNAMICS THAT OCCUR TODAY, AT THE LEVEL OF PARLIAMENTS, OBLIGE US TO RESORT TO PROCESSES OF MODERNIZATION OF PARLIAMENTARY ADMINISTRATION SERVICES, WHICH REQUIRES SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENTS, EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY, IN NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES, PERMANENT TRAINING AND OVERCOMING BY MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNITY.

THIS DESIDERATION WILL HELP US ACHIEVE A SEVERE REDUCTION IN THE USE OF PAPER AND OTHER MATERIALS OF CHEMICAL COMPOSITION THAT POLLUTE WORK SPACES. WE WILL, ON THE OTHER HAND, REDUCE OPERATING COSTS.

THEREFORE, OUR COMMUNICATION WILL BE ABOUT THE REFERENCED INNOVATIONS IN THE LEGISLATIVE-PARLIAMENTARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE-PARLIAMENTARY DOMAINS.

REGARDING THE LEGISLATIVE-PARLIAMENTARY DOMAIN, IT HAS BEEN OUR CONCERN TO ENSURE THAT THE EXERCISE OF THE LEGISLATIVE FUNCTION PROCEEDS WITH NORMALITY AND, ABOVE ALL, SPEED. FOR THIS REASON, SINCE 2015, WE EMBARKED ON A LARGE PROJECT TO SIMPLIFY PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES, WHICH HAS LEAD US TO A STRICT REDUCTION IN THE USE OF PAPER WITH ALL THE RESULTING ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES.

THE PLENARY ROOM WAS FULLY EQUIPPED WITH VARIOUS COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INCLUDING THE ALLOCATION OF A

DESKTOP COMPUTER FOR EACH MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (MPS). THIS ALLOWED THE MPS TO CONSULT ON THE CREATED IT PLATFORM, ALL THE DOCUMENTATION RELATING TO THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS AND ACCESS THE VIRTUAL LIBRARY.

IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING, ALL TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY MPS BENEFIT FROM A LAPTOP COMPUTER WITH ALL THE IT APPLICATIONS USED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, WHICH ALLOWS THEM TO INTERACT WITH THE HEADQUARTERS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR LOCATION. THIS HAS ALLOWED PARTICIPATION, REMOTELY, IN PLENARY MEETINGS AND MEETINGS OF SPECIALIZED WORK COMMITTEES.

IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT, REGARDING THE WORK IN THE COMMITTEES, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL CONDITIONS WERE ALSO CREATED, WITH AN EMPHASIZATION ON THE INSTALLATION OF A SYSTEM OF ROBOTIC CAMERA, AUDIO AND VIDEO CONFERENCE THAT ALLOWS THE IMAGE OF THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT TO BE CAPTURED. IN TOTAL, 64 "AUTOTRACKING" ROBOTIC CAMERAS WERE INSTALLED, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE PLENARY ROOM.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE TRANSCRIPTION OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES IN THE PLENARY IS MADE USING THE AUDIMUS APPLICATION, WHICH ALLOWED TO SHORT THE TIME FOR MAKING THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DIARY FROM 15 TO 3 DAYS. OUR AMBITION IS TO BE ABLE TO PRODUCE THE DIARY THE SAME DAY IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PLENARY MEETING. TO

THIS END WE ARE CARRYING OUT STUDIES AND TESTS WITH THE NCH SUITE AND WHISPER APPLICATIONS.

WHEN IT COMES TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE-PARLIMENTARY AREA, INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES ALSO ALLOWED THE DEMATERIALIZATION OF A SET OF PROCESSES RELATING TO THE MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN CAPITAL.

JUST TO GIVE A FEW EXAMPLES, THE PROCESSES FOR JUSTIFYING ABSENCE, REQUESTING AND CHANGING VACATIONS DATES AND TIME MANAGEMENT HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY DIGITALIZED SINCE 2016.

WITH THE AIM OF STRENGTHENING THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THEIR PRESENCE WAS ENSURED ON THE SOCIAL MEDIA. IN DOING SO WE WERE FULLY AWARE THAT THE YOUTH, PREDOMINANT AUDIENCE IN SUCH NETWORKS, CONSTITUTES THE MAJOR PART OF THE ANGOLAN POPULATION.

WITH THE GROWING PHENOMENON OF THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, WE HOPE THAT IT CAN BE A USEFUL TOOL IN ANALYZING THE COMMENTS THAT CITIZENS MAKE ON THE PAGES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON VARIOUS ELECTRONIC PLATFORMS, WITH AN EMPHASIZATION ON YOUTUBE AND FACEBOOK.

THE PROJECT TO INSTALL THE PARLAMENTO TV CHANNEL IS UNDERWAY, WHICH WILL ALLOW ALL PLENARY SESSIONS AND

OTHER PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITIES TO BE TRANSMITTED LIVE. PLEASE NOTE THAT, CURRENTLY, THE TRANSMISSIONS OF PLENARY SESSIONS ARE MADE LIVE ON ANGOLA PUBLIC TELEVISION, LEAVING ASIDE OTHER IMPORTANT PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS.

HOWEVER, THERE IS A CORPORATE CHANNEL AT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THAT ALLOWS PLENARY SESSIONS TO BE FOLLOWED FROM THE OFFICES. THIS CHANNEL IS ALSO USED DAILY TO TRANSMIT MESSAGES, INFORMATION AND VARIOUS CONTENT DESTINED FOR MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNITY.

TO PRESERVE THE PARLIAMENTARY HISTORICAL COLLECTION, THE PROCESS OF ITS DIGITALIZATION BEGAN IN 2015, AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. THE SECOND PHASE OF THIS PROCESS IS ITS EXTENSION TO THE OFFICES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN THE PROVINCES.

WE CANNOT FORGET TO MENTION THAT WE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING, WITH HUGE EXPECTATION, THE POSSIBILITY OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE HELPING THE WORK OF OUR PARLIAMENTARY ADMINISTRATION. WE REFER, ESPECIALLY, TO THE AREAS OF PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES, LEGAL ADVICE AND PRODUCTION OF STATISTICAL DATA.

WE THEREFORE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO HEAR FROM THE ESTEEMED COLLEAGUES ABOUT THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE IN THE SECTOR OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE,

THOUGH, STILL LACKING ADEQUATE REGULATION. WE ARE, THEREFORE, OPEN TO LISTEN AND LEARN FROM YOUR GOOD PRACTICES.

FINALLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME PERSPECTIVES OF WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE DURING THE CURRENT LEGISLATURE. I WOULD BEGIN BY MENTIONING THE NEED WE HAVE TO CREATE A WIDE ELECTRONIC PLATFORM FOR THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS THAT COVERS ALL ITS PHASES, INCLUDING THOSE THAT TAKE PLACE OUTSIDE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. WE REFER TO THE PHASE OF PRESENTATION OF THE LAW PROPOSAL, BY THE EXECUTIVE, AS WELL AS THE PHASE OF PUBLICATION, BY THE NATIONAL PRESS, OF THE APPROVED LAW.

WE HOPE TO IMPLEMENT THE ALREADY MENTIONED PARLIAMENT TV, AS WELL AS CONTINUING THE TRAINING ACTIONS DESIGNED FOR MPS AND PARLIAMENTARY STAFF WITH THE PURPOSE OF EXTRACTING THE BEST PERFORMANCE AND MAXIMUM USEFULNESS FROM THE EXISTING EQUIPMENT.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO DRAW EVERYONE'S ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT, IN ADDITION TO THE BENEFITS THAT THE USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES PROVIDES US, WE ARE ALSO IMPELLED TO DEAL WITH A CHALLENGE THAT IS NO LESS IMPORTANT, THE DATA PRESERVATION. THEREFORE, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT PARLIAMENTS ADOPT CYBER SECURITY POLICIES AND MEASURES WITH THE PURPOSE OF PREVENTING AND REPRESSING CYBERCRIMINALITY.

IT IS TRUE THAT THERE IS NOT ALWAYS FINANCIAL AVAILABILITY TO CARRY OUT, TO THE DESIRED EXTENT, OUR INTENTIONS AND PROJECTS. IT IS PRECISELY FOR THIS REASON THAT ASGP ENABLES US TO SHARE EXPERIENCES AND, PERHAPS, FOSTER MULTIPLE AIDS SO THAT, AT THE LEVEL OF OUR PARLIAMENTS, THE GAP IN MODERNIZATION IS SMALLER.

THUS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SHORTAGE OF FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL RESOURCES THAT MANY PARLIAMENTS STILL EXPERIENCE, THE ASGP IS, WITHOUT A DOUBT, A PRIVILEGED PLATFORM FOR CREATING SYNERGIES WITH THE INTENT OF ENSURING, PERMANENT INTER-AID BETWEEN OUR PARLIAMENTARY ADMINISTRATIONS.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.