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*ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARIES  
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**COMMUNICATION**

by

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on

**“Innovative IT solutions in the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan”**

**Geneva Session**  
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**Distinguished colleagues!****Ladies and gentlemen!**

First of all, allow me to extend, on behalf of the Parliament of Azerbaijan, my heartfelt greetings to each of you participating in the meeting of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments and to wish success to the work of our gathering. I believe that the topic chosen for discussion is highly relevant and falls within the sphere of interest of many professionals. This is because the subject concerns not only technological progress, but also new approaches to state activity and to the interaction between the state and society.

Today, information and communication technologies have become an integral part of the political, economic, and social life of humanity. Digital technologies influence people's livelihoods, public administration, international relations, in short, every sphere of life. Information that previously took weeks or months to transmit is now accessible in an instant. Modern digital tools create conditions for public institutions to operate with greater transparency and to engage more closely with citizens.

All of this holds particular significance for parliaments, as the parliament is the representative authority that forms the legislative framework of the state and determines the directions of societal development.

**Dear colleagues!**

Azerbaijan is among the countries that consistently and systematically develop the scope of digital activity. Large-scale state programs are being implemented in our country aimed at building a digital economy and an information society. The electronic government is being expanded, and within the framework of the "smart state" concept, services are being broadened and the accessibility of digital services for citizens is being increased.

The development of national ICT platforms and the extensive growth of internet services create favourable conditions for the application of innovations in the field of legislation and law-making.

### **Distinguished colleagues!**

With your permission, I would like to highlight some of the information and communication technologies and information solutions implemented in the Parliament of Azerbaijan.

First of all, I would like to note that an electronic document circulation system has been established in the Parliament. This system ensures prompt and secure exchange of information between committees, Members of Parliament, and the Administration. As a result, the process of reviewing draft laws has become faster, the handling of documents has been organized more efficiently, and the use of paper has been reduced to a minimum.

Modern electronic equipment has been installed in the plenary session hall for the registration of members and for voting. In addition, a software called the “OCS” (Online Conference System) has been developed in the Parliament to facilitate online meetings. During the COVID pandemic, several committee meetings were held using this system.

An electronic database of draft laws and normative acts has been established in the Milli Majlis. This database includes both legislative acts currently in force and draft laws under debates. Members of Parliament and staff of the Administration have real-time access to the database, which facilitates the preparation of analytical materials and ensures a systematic approach to legislative activity.

The webpage we have named “E-Stenogram” provides an accurate and prompt delivery of the speeches of MPs in indexed audio, audiovisual, and text formats. The page presents a list of draft laws and resolutions under discussion, along with the names of the MPs who have spoken on each item

and the participants invited to the session. As soon as an MP's speech in a plenary session concludes, it automatically becomes available in audio format within the system, while the audiovisual format of the speech is uploaded to the system one hour after the session ends.

The system offers a quick search function by the name of the Member of Parliament or by the matter under discussion. When searched by name, all speeches delivered by the MP are presented to the user in audio, audiovisual, and text formats. It is worth noting that the system has been operating since 2007.

A second solution, called "E-protocol," presents the minutes of sessions in the form of a web page. The minutes reflect the meeting agenda, the name and surname of the presiding person, the starting time of the session, the titles of the drafts under discussion, the list of MPs who spoke on each item, the results of votes on those drafts, and other related information.

A mobile application meeting modern requirements has been developed in the Milli Majlis for iOS and Android operating systems, successfully passed security testing, and is now available for use by MPs and staff of the Administration. Through this application, they can view and study draft laws and their attached documents online. As a result of its integration with the electronic document circulation system, MPs are also able to familiarize themselves electronically with incoming requests.

### **Distinguished colleagues!**

To conclude my speech, I would like to touch upon two issues that are relevant for all of us. The first issue is security, and the second is the continuous adaptation of MPs to innovations.

Of course, with certain exceptions taken into account, cooperation on general security matters can be effective. For example, the parliament faces challenges such as the need to replace rapidly evolving technologies and

equipment. Retaining specialists in every field incurs significant costs. I believe that all parliaments encounter such and similar problems and seek solutions. This, indeed, has a considerable impact on security.

Moreover, as in many countries, parliamentary elections are held in our country every five years, and it takes time for newly elected MPs to adapt to and assimilate innovations. There are many issues involved here, and I am sure you are familiar with them as well.

**Dear colleagues!**

I do not wish to take much of your time. Here, I have tried to briefly present the experience of my country. The innovations, challenges, and objectives are the same, but the experiences differ. Therefore, I believe there is great value in sharing the advanced practices of countries and parliaments.

I am confident that the digital transformation of parliaments not only enhances the efficiency of their work but also increases society's trust in the institutions of authority and elevates the interaction between the state and its citizens to a new level.

Thank you for your attention.