



**COMMUNICATION BY
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STRENGTHENING LEGISLATIVE CAPACITY THROUGH CONNECTED PARLIAMENTARY KNOWLEDGE

*Mr. President,
Dear Colleagues, Secretaries-General of Parliaments,
Distinguished Delegates,*

In a world where data is connecting markets, supply chains, and technological ecosystems across the globe, an increasingly pressing question arises for the parliamentary community: **why does legislative knowledge remain largely confined within national boundaries?**

Today, parliaments operate in a policy environment that is rapidly changing and increasingly complex. The pace of change in technology, the economy, and society is placing new demands not only on elected representatives, but also on **parliamentary administrations** - the institutions directly responsible for ensuring the quality of information, institutional knowledge, and legislative processes.

For parliamentary advisory and support bodies, the challenge is no longer simply one of managing ever-growing workloads. The greater challenge is how to preserve **legislative quality, transparency, and institutional adaptability** in a context where digital transformation and artificial intelligence are profoundly reshaping the way policies are formulated and implemented.

Experience from many parliaments shows that digital transformation is not merely about introducing new technologies. **It is about transforming the way legislative knowledge is organised, information flows are managed, and Members are supported in making data-informed decisions.** This becomes even more important as policy issues are increasingly cross-sectoral and transnational, requiring stronger capacity for comparative reference and international learning.

At the National Assembly of Viet Nam, we have undertaken reforms in this direction, focusing on the digitalisation of legislative procedures, the development of integrated parliamentary data platforms, and the gradual application of policy analysis tools — including tools that support the review of legal consistency and legislative impact assessment. These efforts have contributed to improving coordination within parliamentary work, enhancing Members' access to information, and promoting a gradual shift from **experience-based law-making to evidence and data-based law-making.**

From this experience, we have come to recognise that **strengthening data capacity and the governance of legislative knowledge within each parliament is a prerequisite for institutional innovation.** However, in a world where policy challenges are increasingly global in nature, the full value of parliamentary digital transformation will only be realised when **efforts at the national level are connected through international cooperation.**

In other words, legislative digital transformation should be **approached at two levels**: strengthening data capacity and knowledge governance within each parliament, while progressively establishing mechanisms through which parliaments can share and reference legislative knowledge across borders. Such a combination would not only enhance the quality of comparative policy research, but also **provide a reliable and verifiable information environment** for the use of advanced analytical tools.

At the same time, practice also reveals **a structural gap**. While policy challenges are increasingly global, legislative knowledge and data remain fragmented and lack effective mechanisms for connectivity among parliaments. This gap not only constrains comparative policy research, but also reduces the effectiveness of modern analytical tools. In the age of artificial intelligence, access to **authoritative, reliable, and verifiable legal data** is becoming a foundational condition for improving the quality of parliamentary advisory work.

Legislative sovereignty does not mean the isolation of legislative knowledge. On the contrary, legislative capacity increasingly depends on the ability to connect knowledge, learn from international experience, and make responsible use of data.

Based on this understanding, we believe that the ASGP community may wish to **advance a new cooperative approach** aimed at strengthening connectivity and the use of legislative data among parliaments.

Such an initiative would not seek to standardise the substance of national laws. Rather, it would create conditions for comparative research, strengthen parliamentary advisory capacity, support the development of policy analysis tools, and gradually contribute to the emergence of **a globally connected legislative knowledge community**.

Nor would such an initiative necessarily need to begin with large-scale centralised databases. A more feasible approach would be to progressively develop **a network of connected legislative knowledge**, through which parliaments could access and reference one another's information systems on the basis of appropriate data-sharing standards, professional consensus, and full respect for the diversity of legal systems.

This approach would make it possible to build on existing data platforms, reduce major investment requirements, and, more importantly, strengthen the role of **parliamentary advisory bodies as stewards of legislative knowledge in the digital age**.

We believe that ASGP, as a forum of parliamentary Secretaries-General, is particularly well placed to coordinate and advance this process - **not as a provider of technical infrastructure, but as a conductor connecting legislative knowledge globally**.

In the digital age, legislative capacity can no longer be measured solely by the number of laws adopted, but also by **the ability of parliaments to access knowledge, use data, anticipate policy risks, and adapt flexibly to change**. Cooperation on legislative data is therefore not merely a technical option; it is **a strategic requirement** for reinforcing the role of parliaments in modern democratic governance.

If pursued through an appropriate and gradual roadmap, this initiative could become **a meaningful and lasting contribution of ASGP to the future of parliamentary institutions**. The future of law-making in the digital age will not be determined by the isolated efforts of individual parliaments, but by our shared ability **to exchange knowledge, connect data, and innovate the way legislative institutions operate**.

Viet Nam stands ready to share its experience and to participate actively in this cooperative process.

Thank you for your attention.