



JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ (DRAFT) OF THE III GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF IPAIT

June 6 to 8, 2005

Chamber of Deputies, Brasilia, Brazil

The parliamentary members of the International Parliamentarians' Association for Information Technology, gathered in the City of Brasilia, from June 6 to 8, 2005, upon the 3rd General Assembly of IPAIT (III IPAIT) issue the following communication:

1. The Brasilia meeting was attended by 51 parliamentarians of 17 countries, further to members of diplomatic corps and other national and international governmental authorities, and discussed the theme "The Information Technologies in Service of the Social Inclusion".
2. In the former Assemblies, the issued addressed were: "Enhancement of Digital Opportunities through e-Parliament and ICT Development" (II IPAIT held in Bangkok, Thailand, in May, 2004) and "The Digital Divide" (I IPAIT, held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in July, 2002).

3. The works of this Assembly were divided into two sections: the country reports and discussion panels. In the first section, Brazil, Thailand, Republic of Korea, Angola, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Finland, Honduras, and Romania produced presentations of ICT-related matters in their countries. Three panels took place in the second section. The first addressed the theme "Instruments of



Digital Inclusion”, and was attended by Mr. Rogério Santana, Secretary of Logistics and Information Technology for the Federal Planning, Budget, and Management Department, from Brazil, and Parliamentarian Kim Suk Joon, from Republic of Korea. The second addressed the issue of “Funding of the Digital Inclusion”, and counted with the expositions of Mr. Mohamed Muhsin, Vice-Chairman of the World Bank, and Mr. Maurício Neves, Manager of the Electronic Industry Department of the Industrial Area of the National Bank for Economic and Social Development (“BNDES”), from Brazil. Finally, Mr. Rodrigo Rollemberg, secretary of Social Inclusion for the Federal Science and Technology Secretary, Mr. Marcelo Lopes, Secretary of Information Policy for the Federal Science and Technology Ministry, Ives Gandra Martins Filho, Esq., tax expert, and Deputy Kim Hyo Seuk, from Republic of Korea, discussed the theme “Digital Inclusion: the role of the Government Authorities and of the Parliament for the Inclusion”. Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Republic of Korea, Romania, and Thailand also contributed to the panels with expositions that enhanced the debate. In all panels, the big number of interventions by Parliamentarians showed the importance of the matters addressed.

4. Discussions reinforced the perception towards the need of reducing the digital divide as a manner for reaching a fairer society.

5. For reducing the digital divide, each Government commitment with the development and actual implementation of programs having such a purpose is required. The Parliament is understood as a fundamental piece for focusing the actions of the Government Authorities conducting to the concrete inclusion of all society layers.



6. The differences existing among nations in the intensity of ICT use should be mitigated with the assistance of international bodies, through the systematic use of programs having such a purpose. For actions to be effective and lasting ones, entities should formalize the existence of a functional group for the body concerning its furtherance and funding.

7. As the use of the ICTs is a strongly capital-dependent one, funding is fundamental for implementing initiatives seeking digital inclusion. There are a number of public, private and third sector organizations, further to multilateral credit organisms available for such initiatives. Special attention should be paid as regards programs funded by the World Bank and multilateral institutions.

8. It is acknowledged that there are a number of successful projects of social inclusion in the world, and that their disclosure is fundamental for leveraging them and for creating favorable conditions to the flourishing of new initiatives. To such an effect, the preparation of a portal for IPAIT with proper contents, with the disclosure of cases and the special knowledge for developing other actions, should be encouraged.

9. In Geneva, Switzerland, in 2003, the World Summit on the Information Society, which addressed the theme of reducing the digital divide among countries. The Summit detailed a work plan in which the procedures to be initiated in this year of 2005 were already provided for. The Parliamentarians acknowledged their importance and showed total commitment not only with that outlined in that summit, but also with the expectations of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, such as the eradication of poorness and hunger, and they shall actively work for projects intended to ICT development in the world, and mainly to digital inclusion.



10. The Parliamentarians attending the event understood that the creation of an International Fund for Financing Digital Inclusion would be a priority one.

11. The Parliamentarians approved the Brasilia Declaration, which sets out the actions to be taken by the members of the Association, as a manner of keeping active ICT furthering efforts not only upon the Assembly.

12. The action plan outlined in the gathering ratifies a number of points suggested in former meetings, and enlarge the initiatives to be pursued, which are enumerated below: a) to adopt an action plan for overcoming the digital divide among countries; b) to request the continuance of efforts and summits sponsored by UN for discussing the digital divide theme; c) to incentive the development of language conversion tools; d) to insist with international furtherance organisms not having special policies for furthering ICTs to create funds for financing digital inclusion initiatives; e) to create conditions for concretizing international funds for overcoming the digital divide among countries; f) to encourage the use of the free software in Parliaments integrating the Association, and work for its use in other government spheres; g) act, as legislators, in harmony with the local industry on behalf of industrial policies for furthering ICTs; h) to develop solutions for continuing and developing IPAIT itself; i) to find means for reducing acquisition costs and using ICT resources; and j) to use efforts with Parliamentarians for approving laws intended to reduce the perpetration and increasing proliferation of computing crimes and spams.

13. A site in the web should be maintained on a permanently and rotating basis among host countries, with information on the Assemblies already



held with the purpose of creating conditions for the interchange of information among members of the Association.

14. In order to collaborate with the Steering Committees in the organization of future events, and in a manner to encourage a more advantageous participation of delegations, it was set forth that invitations for the next Assemblies shall be obligatorily forwarded no less than three months in advance.

15. The members agree that more efforts should be used in order to implement the decisions made during the II IPAIT, when Article 3, of the IPAIT Charter, was altered for including that "... Each Parliament shall designate an official to bring more participation and continuity to the activities of IPAIT".

16. Parliamentarians congratulate each other for the event and consider its periodical and rotating realization a material one as among the continents, as a manner for contributing to the continued growth. To such a context, the choice of Morocco as seat country for the IV IPAIT, in 2006, is in perfect harmony with Association longings.

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Republic of Albania

Signed by: [blank]

Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria

Signed by: [blank]

Republic of Angola

Signed by: [blank]

Commonwealth of Australia

Signed by: [blank]

Popular Republic of Bangladesh



Signed by: [blank]

Kingdom of Belgium

Signed by: [blank]

Federative Republic of Brazil

Signed by: [blank]

Canada

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Popular Republic of China

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Republic of Costa Rica

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Republic of Croatia

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Republic of El Salvador

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Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

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Republic of Finland

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Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

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Bolivar Republic of Venezuela

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Socialist Republic of Vietnam

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Republic of Yemen

Signed by: [blank]

Federal Republic of Niger

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United Nations of Mexico

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Republic of Honduras

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Name: Deputy Luiz Piauhyllino

Title: President of the III IPAIT