**III GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARIANS'
ASSOCIATION FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ("IPAIT")
From June 06 to 08, 2005
Chamber of Deputies
Brasilia, Brazil
Final Report
III IPAIT**

Brasilia, June 8, 2005

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**Final Report of the III General Assembly of IPAIT
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Attachments

1 - Introduction

1.1 - IPAIT's origin

The International Parliamentarians' Association for Information Technology ("IPAIT") arose from the initiative of parliamentarians from a number of countries gathered in Taiwan, in 2001, the common interest of whom was to develop Information and Communication Technologies ("ICTs").

1.2 - I IPAIT[1]

The First General Assembly of IPAIT occurred in July, 2002, in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The meeting was attended by parliamentarians from 35 countries, and its theme was "Bridging the Digital Divide in the Information Society".

The Assembly's main purpose was to allow the Association members to present and discuss manners of using the ICTs for enhancing parliaments' efficiency, improve population's quality of life, and reducing Digital divide.

During the event, participants present reports on ICTs stage of usage in their countries. Moreover, discussion panels on the following themes were organized: The electronic government and social unevenness; the electronic commerce and economic unevenness; and the digital education and the educational unevenness.

The main conclusions of the I IPAIT were:

- The development of Information Technologies ("ITs") is an important mechanism for accelerating knowledge dissemination in society;

- ITs are a development determining factor. So, the exchange of information on ITs is required for causing the best understanding among different culture nations;

- Qualified human resources are essential for the economic growth and ITs' development.

- The Digital divide among nations reduce the competitiveness of underdeveloped countries, and, for that reason, they should be reduced or even eliminated;

- Parliaments should set forth national policies for facing educational unevenness and create electronic education programs for reducing them; and

- The members of the Assembly should develop action plans for reducing the educational unevenness on a worldwide basis, for submission to the World Summit on the Information Society (Switzerland/2003 and Tunisia/2005).

1.3 - II IPAIT

The Second General Assembly of IPAIT was held in May, 2004, in Bangkok, Thailand, and was attended by 103 parliamentarians and members of the diplomatic corps. The axis theme addressed the improvement of digital opportunities to parliamentarians through the electronic Parliament (e-Parliament) and the development of the ICTs.

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[1] Extracted from the document "Final Report of the Second General Assembly of IPAIT".

During the meeting, IPAIT member countries decided, on a unanimously basis, to choose Brazil to be the seat for the third meeting of the institution. The conference was ruled by the Chairperson of the Thailand House of Representatives and Congress, Uthai Pinchaichon; and the Vice-Chairperson was Deputy Luiz Piauhylino, from Brazil.

The event main objectives were:

- To give opportunity for parliamentarians to share experiences in developing ICTs in electronic parliament, education, society, government, commerce and industry;

- To cause cooperation among parliamentarians for reducing the problem of unevenness in the access to information, specially in business, commerce, education, public health, social issues and environment areas;

- To encourage the multilateral cooperation between Parliaments;

- To present the succeeded programs for ICT usage, made by the Thai parliament and governmental agencies.

During the meeting, plenary sessions were held where the countries member of the IPAIT could present reports on the progresses obtained through the ICT use by governmental agencies and parliaments, as well as restrictions to the use of such tools. The delegations for the following countries exposed their reports: Angola, Brazil, Kazakhstan, China, Republic of Korea, Croatia, Finland, Poland, Kenya, Romania, and Thailand.

Four concurrent discussion panels have also occurred on the following matters: electronic parliament; electronic government; electronic commerce; and electronic industry. Each group discussed experiences, solutions, ideas, and problems related to the respective themes.

The Assembly reiterated the need of cooperation among nations for reducing the digital hiatus, pointing out the importance of collaboration among their member countries within the information and communication laws, guidelines, and infrastructures.

The capacitation need in electronic commerce as regards underdeveloped countries was also emphasized, so as they are able to compete in the international market and create new opportunities in all levels. Moreover, the importance of creating formal programs for electronic education was pointed out, especially in rural communities.

The main results of the event were the adoption of the Bangkok Declaration, which contained the general lines of the resolutions taken at the meeting, and the Joint Communiqué, where the conclusions of the meeting and the work program adopted for the future were explained.

The Assembly expressed, through the Bangkok Declaration, the goals to be adopted by the entity, namely: the creation of collaborating projects involving the research and development of language translation machines, the establishment of joint efforts for reducing computer program prices, the incentive to the use of the free software, the

development of ICT knowledge portals, and the furtherance of human resource programs directed to ICTs.

An Action Plan was set forth in the Joint Communiqué, where strategies for reducing Digital divide were submitted, including the share of experiences among member countries.

2 - Organization of the III General Assembly of IPAIT

2.1 - Objectives proposed

The following were the main objectives of the III IPAIT:

- To cause the exchange of parliamentarian experiences and the interchange of innovations in the IT area;
- To cause actions that incentive the use of ITs as an element for reducing social unevenness in countries member of IPAIT;
- To encourage parliamentarian cooperation between countries members of IPAIT in the ICT segment.

2.2 - Event axis-theme

At the moment human being has watched the deepening of technologic deficit increase among the nations, the responsibility of world parliaments in discussing multilateral actions in order to encourage the digital alphabetization process and the universal access to Internet is increased.

Due to the dimension given to the problem of opportunity unevenness in the access to ITs in a number of international forums, the thematic axis selected for the conference was *"Information Technologies in Service of the Social Inclusion"*.

From the axis theme, funding sources available for infoinclusion projects and public policies and legal instruments of incentive to the digital inclusion were discussed, as well as the success mechanisms for democratizing the ICTs already implemented in the world.

2.3 - Themes of discussion panels

The participants in the III IPAIT were divided into three groups in charge of the discussion of subjects related to the event axis theme. The discussion proposals for each of the panels are presented below:

2.3.1 Instruments of Digital Inclusion:

The purpose of the panel was to evidence the importance of digital inclusion as an element for reducing social unevenness in the planet. The proposal was to present initiatives for using computing tools for increasing State efficiency in the provision of services to the citizen, and to provide transparency instruments in public administration. The expectation was to address governmental and private successful infoinclusion experiences existing in their countries of origin, including solutions involving technology communitarian centers, electronic Government and Parliament, distance education systems, Internet-connected libraries and accessibility systems to handicapped people to telecommunications and information resources. The final

purpose of the panel was to cause the exchange of experiences among Parliamentarians, which experiences could be reverted to the improvement of the citizen's quality of life, and to the creation of new opportunities of social inclusion for populations, specially the most destitute one.

2.3.2 Funding of the Digital Inclusion:

Considering the bulky volume of funds that has been expended for funding infoinclusion projects through the public and private sectors, as well as through non-governmental organizations, the purpose of the panel was to address the potential instruments for funding infoinclusion initiatives, with an emphasis on the importance of partnerships among the Government Authorities, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and the institutions having a world nature. The proposal provided for the identification of sources available for funding the infoinclusion, the discussion on the transparence in the use of funds, and the discussion on the existence of mechanisms capable of certifying the effectiveness of use of such allowances for reducing existing unevenness among nations. The purpose was also to address the operation of national and international funds for the furtherance of such initiatives, as well as the destination of official budget apportionments for furthering the digital inclusion. The identification of mechanisms to be used by the organized society for assuring that the existing funds were actually used for the fight against social exclusion was also intended.

2.3.3 Digital Inclusion: The Role of the Politic Authorities and of the Parliament for the Infoinclusion:

In ascertaining that the acquaintance with the new technologies became imperative in nowadays society, the proposal of the panel was to address the importance of governments and Parliaments actions in formulating and adopting public policies of encouragement to digital inclusion. The purpose was to examine the legal instruments in force in the world for making the implementation of successful infoinclusion policies easier. The discussion of proposals for using free software as an element of social infoinclusion, differentiated tax and industrial policies for the ITs segment, and instruments for encouraging technologic research, development, and innovation for the sector was also desired. The discussion of challenges to be overcome for implementing digital inclusion projects in countries member of IPAIT was likewise intended.

2.4 - Event Scheduling

In the afternoon of 06/05/05, the meeting of the III IPAIT Preparatory Committee was held. At such a meeting, the pre-agendas for the three plenary sessions held from June 06 to 08, 2005, were approved.

In the morning of 05/06/04, the ceremony for inaugurating the Assembly was held. In the afternoon of the same day, the first plenary session was held. Among the matters addressed, there were the election of the Chairman to the III IPAIT, the approval for the creation of the Steering Committee, the definition of the Assembly activity program, the institution of discussion committees and panels, the adoption of the agenda for the first plenary meeting, the admittance of new member countries to the organization (Honduras and Mexico), and IPAIT observers and non-participant

countries admitted to the gathering (Bolivia and Peru). Moreover, it was resolved the definition of Morocco as seat to the IV IPAIT, and the designation of Finland as the host for the V IPAIT. Finally, Brazil and Thailand presentations on the themes related to ICTs in the respective countries were made.

In the morning of 06/07/05, the second plenary session was held, when the reports for the following countries were presented: Republic of Korea, Angola, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Finland, Honduras, and Romania. In the vespertine period, 3 discussion panels were held on a concurrent basis. Afterwards, the meetings of the Joint Communiqué Preparation Committees and the Brasilia Declaration. Promptly upon, the III IPAIT Steering Committee was gathered for appreciating the drafts of the Joint Communiqué and the Brasilia Declaration, as well as for addressing other subjects related to the Association works.

The matutinal period of the last day of the gathering was initiated by the third plenary session, where the Joint Communiqué and the Brasilia Declaration were signed. The General Assembly also decided to delegate to the members of the IPAIT Steering Committee the approval of the final texts for the documents prepared in the gathering. Promptly upon, the ceremony for the conclusion of the event was held, with the attendance of the Chairman to the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil, Deputy Severino Cavalcanti.

3 - The III IPAIT Deliberations

3.1 - Introduction

The Third General Assembly of IPAIT was held in the City of Brasilia, Brazil, from June 06 to 08, 2005. The Assembly was attended by 57 parliamentarians and members of diplomatic corps from different nations of the world. By that time, Honduras and Mexico were accepted as full members of the organization.

During the First Plenary Session of the Assembly, the attendants of the III IPAIT unanimously decided to choose Morocco for being the seat for the fourth gathering of the entity, to be held in April, 2006, and approved the choice of Finland as seat country to the V IPAIT, which shall be held in January, 2007. The gathering was ruled by Deputy Luiz Piauhylino, representative of the Brazilian delegation.

3.2 - Reports from member countries

The most important points addressed in the country reports presented during the first and second plenary sessions of the III IPAIT shall be shown below. For issues addressed as a whole see enclosures.

3.2.1 Brazil

The representative of the Brazilian delegation, Deputy Luiz Piauhylino, asseverated that Brazil's challenge consists in overcoming the abysm that separates the country from the most developed nations, and in eliminating unevenness existing between social classes and regions. Notwithstanding Brazil is the 7th most populous country, the 12th economic power, and the 7th software market in the world, only 11.5% of its population has access to Internet. As per the Readiness Ratio for Electronic Learning, Brazil occupies the 34th position in the world. Moreover, there is a heavy

geographic concentration of Internet users in the country, as 64% of them reside in the Southeastern region.

The Digital divide chart that can be currently observed reflects the historic social exclusion that is perpetuated in the country for centuries. However, improvements in the infoexclusion scenario as a result of efforts made by the society, Parliament, government, companies and NGO has been observed.

The main feature of the e-gov in the country is the decentralization, and the biggest matter to be faced is the difficulty of integration among the different actions. However, there are advances in the country as the percentage of taxpayers who filed their income tax returns through Internet, which is a 98% one, and the evolution of the electronic commerce, query in which Brazil is at the 18th place in the world.

Moreover, Brazil has a number of funding sources for digital inclusion programs, as Fundo de Universalização dos Serviços de Telecomunicações [Fund for Universalization of Telecommunication Services] ("FUST"), and Orçamento Geral da União [The General Federal Government Budget], which provide for funds for the two main government projects in the area: PC Conectado [The Connected PC] and Casa Brasil [House Brazil]. Among the official programs, there are also the state and municipal telecenters. On the other hand, government swollenness in applying FUST funds should be criticized, as such funds are currently used for causing a primary surplus to public accounts. The Fund, approved in 2000, provided for the inclusion of schools, libraries, and hospitals in information science world, but for legal hindrances, funds are in the cash of the Brazilian National Treasury. The adoption of the AICE (Special Class Individual Access) special telephone fee from the next year and the disseminated use of the free software as official policy strategies towards digital inclusion should be pointed out. The AICE program shall benefit lower purchase power classes in determining the charging of differentiated telephone fees for low income people.

An evaluation on the social liability of the private initiative and the third sector reveals that foundations and NGOs have using great efforts for causing infoinclusion in the country. Sectorial funds attached to ICTs, as CT-INFO, Funttel, CT-Infra, and CT-Verde Amarelo, also play an outstanding role. Such funds' resources come from contributions on the income of companies and/or the result of the exploitation of natural resources belonging to the Federal Government (such as, for instance, the frequency spectrum), and are used for financing research and development projects.

The Brazilian National Congress has operated through the approval of bills of interest for the ICT segment, and the action of parliamentary fronts, such as the Computing Parliamentary Front and the Parliamentary Front for Free Software and Digital Inclusion. There are a number of bills transiting in the Congress, which set forth restraining actions against Internet crimes and spams. On an electronic parliament level, the portal of the Chamber of Deputies is a noteworthy one, which provides services such as the "Talk to the Deputy" and the "Plenary Session for Kids".

3.2.2 Thailand

In his exposition, Senator Pridi Hiranpruek, representative of Thailand, mentioned that there were big progresses in digital inclusion in his country since 2004, when the country was a seat to the III General Assembly of IPAIT. As an example, there was the dissemination of the use of smart cards, a joint effort of the Communication, Home Affairs, and Information Technology Departments. All Thai citizens shall have a smart card, which shall operate as an identity card and shall also have the function of giving access to the health insurance, social security, electronic vote and digital translation tool services.

Another Thai project of great importance is the cyber inspector, used for monitoring and preventing abuses in Internet, which is focused on crimes perpetrated via network, such as the copy of pornographic material. In its turn, the ICT city project shall allow the access to electronic education programs in broad band in the country, with reduced costs.

In the Bangkok Declaration, Thailand committed to encourage the production of software at reasonable prices, and to incentive the use of the free software, and, for that, a national committee was created on the matter. As per the e-gov, ITs are improving the government and Parliament operation, where the headlight is the project that allows the use of wireless computers by members of the Parliament.

The Thai delegation recommended a greater cooperation among the secretariats of the Assembly for making information exchange easier. For such, it suggested that the Steering Committee should be used for providing assistance to the host country in the organization of an annual meeting. In addition to that, it recommended that each Parliament should appoint a member for proceeding with the Association activities. However, he pointed out that sources of funds should be determined for making such initiative feasible. Thailand has also made itself available for permanently contribute with the coordination of the event in the search of the best concrete results. It also recommended that, at the next IPAIT meetings, countries expositions would be focused on parliamentarians' actions and the sharing of legislative points of view, and not on the achievements of the Executive Branches of countries member of the Association.

3.2.3 Republic of Korea

The representative of the Korean Parliament, Honorable Kim Duk Kyu, emphasized that the Information Society excludes from some of the population layers the opportunity of social and political participation in his country. For that reason, the development of a social view for using the ICTs so as that they act as a vehicle for improving people quality of life is required. Moreover, the ITs should serve as a new locomotive to democratization.

As an evidence of the effort used by the Republic of Korea for causing the social welfare, by the end of the 90s the country set forth the Law of IT Promotion and launched national campaigns as the Cyber Korea, further to give rise to the training of ten million citizens for the use of computing facilities. In 2001, another approved law gave rise to the inclusion of all social classes in the country computerization process, including a policy of access to computers by the low income population.

Currently, the Republic of Korea is engaged in sharing knowledge, making technologies available to other nations, further to expand the high speed Internet for the student public and distant communities, as fishermen. Moreover, Internet was also used as a tool in Korean election. The program of the Republic of Korea for transferring IT and know-how to developing countries received the name of "Internet volunteers".

The Internet scale dissemination is transforming people's life and giving opportunity for income creation in a pro-active manner. For instance, there are, in the Republic of Korea, places that were considered as "islands on earth", and nowadays, further to be connected with the rest of the country, have technological resources such as telemedicine and online sales, becoming cyber villages with a worldwide reputation. However, the exclusion of certain groups from society, such as the elderly ones, is a threat to democracy. To such an effect, the current challenge is create programs for the digital inclusion of elderly people.

3.2.4 Angola

Representing the delegation of Angola, Deputy Cândida Maria Narciso provided information on the stage of computerization in her country. Africa is a continent needy of resources, including ICT ones, which are deemed material for the continental development. Angola, in particular, up to three years ago, lived thirty years of civil war. However, scarcity does not prevent the carrying out of strategic and political programs for developing the ITs, with the support of a number of bodies, such as the United Nation Council.

The technologic progress cannot be considered as a simple piece of clothing acquired through a pact entered into by and between underdeveloped countries. A knowledge creation process is required, taking into account the needs and realities of each country and region. As strategies for a policy to the sector, the creation of a communication system; the support to the technological research; the encouragement to education programs, and the assurance of source of funds for providing sustainability to actions are required, further to an efficient regulatory landmark.

The program supported by the United Nations for the reinforcement to Parliament computing systems should be highlighted. Implemented in the last year, the program is funded by the government of Italy. The purpose is to integrate seven more parliaments from African countries, among which Cameron, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda, and Tanzania are included. The purposes of the project are to increase efficiency, facilitate the access to legislative information, and create new manners for the civil society to take part in the democratic system. The first phase was completed with the preparation of a study of the needs and settlement of computing training centers to Parliamentarians and Parliament employees.

Despite of the advances, the efforts for reaching the international interoperability standards; providing citizens with the access to ICTs, and the regulation of the sector should continue, with the consequent need of creating laws that assure the access to

public information. Moreover, with the multilateral and bilateral cooperation, the digital ditch existing among the different countries can be reduced, whether with legal measures, or through the technological innovation. In the special case of the Angolan Parliament, the country is taking the first steps for computerizing it; besides, some time shall be also required for massing ICT dissemination actions.

3.2.5 Saudi Arabia

The representative of Saudi Arabia, Parliamentarian Fahad Al Aboud, emphasized that its country Computerization Plan provides for actions for supporting the development of telecommunications; the creation of projects turned to the creation of employments to young people and information dissemination, preserving the Arabian and Islamic culture. In an economical aspect, one concern is the increase of productivity, and the reduction of ICT costs, further to the incentive to commerce and technology, with actions such as the Easy Net Plan. The program, which has a five-year time period, involves three committees: the supervision, management, and implementation ones. The supervision group is liable for the approval of government strategies and balances, and for providing support to the e-gov implementation. The purpose is to make actions sustainable, self-profitable, and cost-reduced. The second purpose is to prepare special regulations, and the third is that of expanding the program to nationwide projects, through the computerization of schools, libraries, and bookstores. The construction of a public infrastructure allowing Internet users to carry out business transactions in a secure manner is likewise important. As per e-gov, the electronic government portal was launched six months ago.

3.2.6 Algeria

The representative of the Algeria delegation, Parliamentarian Mossa Hamad, observed that ICTs are giving form to new types of communitarian life and evolution processes in nations. The dissemination of ICT use is introducing a new concept of Information Society, but with a scope, in some countries, quite limited to certain sectors, such as education, research, air carriage and finance. The government is taking some actions for reverting such scenario. One of them consists in liberalizing the communication sector, in order to supply the national demand for fixed and mobile telephone lines, and satellite networks. In May, 2001, the creation of independent regulatory bodies intending market competition to the benefit of society was approved. Besides that, an action plan prepared by the United Nations, which is being conducted by a high level commission also formed by the Minister of Education, is in process of implementation. A special committee for discussing and recommending, actions, proposing a national policy on ICTs, and implementing projects was created.

A national agency for the technologic development and a new Communication department were recently settled, showing a concrete disposal for working with ITs and human potentialities. Nation development implies the increase of human capacity for solving national problems, which took Algeria to review contents and curricula in all school levels, in order to suit them to the new technologic reality.

Moreover, the Algerian Parliament created an Institute of Legislative Studies, with the task of accompanying and developing Parliament capacity to use the ICTs.

Other governmental programs intend to enhance the academic research by causing interconnectivity among universities and research institutes, further to an infrastructure for high level applications, such as virtual bookstores and teleconference. In the For All Internet program, a 1999 initiative, the government installed 100 cyber cafes for popularizing Internet, inhibited for the high cost of personal computers. Another initiative is the creation of a Cybernetic Park - an IT module within the capital.

In the Public Health area, Algeria is creating National Health Networks connecting the main hospitals of the country, and providing medical services. At the Algerian Justice, ICTs have become a powerful tool for criminal records, further to make the obtainment of copies of criminal records by citizens quicker.

In the scope of the electronic government, Internet is being implemented for modernizing the state administration, and including the Public Administration in the Information Society, further to facilitate citizens' access to the government.

The Assembly of Algeria created a work group for evaluating the IT infrastructure; proposing new services; improving its site; facilitating communication with citizens; and defining new procedures for making available legislative documents at Internet.

The political and technical challenge of Algeria is to universalize the access to the world computer network, retake the economic growth, introduce Algeria into the Information Society, and reduce the digital divide, which purposes are a part of the Presidential Action Program. In education, Algeria is taking actions for the excellence and qualification in engineering and other national competences.

3.2.7 Honduras

Deputy Roberto Contreras, representative of Honduras, asseverated that the nation is politically divided into 18 departments and 298 municipalities, and that the geography of the country is a mountainous one, which causes ICTs dissemination to be fundamental for national integration. The municipal information integrated system, structured at a three million Euro cost, has been a great importance one for Honduras. The use of computing on behalf of the citizen is deemed IT major purpose; so, the Honduran system allows the unification of the central government and municipalities, bringing benefits to the local population. The computerized control of the central government investments in municipalities is made by the Finance Department, which has a digital control in the country. There are electronic modernization risks with many adverse aspects. However, good and effective laws and governmental regulations can considerably reduce those risks, further to the possibility of learning with other countries that had already passed through such a process. In addition to that, the Honduran delegation deems people's intelligence the most important instrument for developing a country.

3.2.8 Finland

The representative of Finland, Parliamentarian Jyrki Kasvi, asseverated that, with respect to the ITs, notwithstanding his country is advanced in some aspects, it still needs to be developed in some areas, such as Internet security and telephone mobile systems.

The Parliament is carrying out a computerization program up to 2007; in its turn, the national plan for inclusion in the Information Society benefits companies that were encouraged to use the ICTs as tool for reducing the costs, and nowadays they are, to a greater extent, Internet users, and the very citizens, among which 76% are connected to the web. However, while 98% of the companies count on broad band services, only one third of the families have the same facility. One of the causes is the high cost of that technology due to the lack of competition.

Further to incentive the use of broad band services, the country is also investing in Internet at public access places, such as libraries and schools. Internet is present even at kindergartens, being an important learning tool for children, in order to stimulate reading and the mathematic thought, among other purposes. In Finland, women use Internet as much as men do, and the use of the worldwide web is also massed at academic institutions.

As to the laws, Parliament's biggest concern was to approve a privacy law for Internet, so as to assure the confidentiality of communications made by Finland citizens at the worldwide web. Currently, the law is an instrument for assuring some citizen rights, among which, the freedom of expression. The need of regulate the matter arose when it became public that telecommunication operators were making available private user data to other companies and authorities. The law, however, impairs the fight against spams and the dissemination of virus, for prioritizing the right to privacy. Other discussions taking place at the country are the prohibition of the TV closed circuit at the work place, and copyright laws regulating the copy of books by Internet.

3.2.9 Romania

The representative of Romania, Senator Angel Tilvar, pointed out as potential benefits of the dissemination of ICTs the fight against the social exclusion, the strengthening of democracy, and the management of a good administration. The global trend is to construct a participative and equalitarian Information Society, which is a challenge for many countries. To such an effect, the Assembly is important for creating conditions for the interchange of practices and policies.

On a socioeconomic basis, Romania is a country that is inserted in an intermediary stage of evolution, placed between the emerging and developed nations. It is a member of NATO, and shall integrate the European Union as from 2007. One of the country advancements occurred with the privatization of the telecommunication sector, which gave rise to a 100% growth in the number of ICT companies. Another step was to set forth centers of collective access to Internet for population.

The estimate is an optimist one in relation to the development of ICTs in the country. In the industry, a 10% year growth impact is expected, with the presence of more than 1,450 companies, and the creation of more than 30,000 employments, most of

them software-related ones. Thanks to such efforts, Romania advanced eight positions in the world rank of developed countries, prepared by the World Economic Forum. And its seeks are based on principles such as democracy, free market, and European values, adapted to the new technologic reality, by offering new types of services.

In an electronic inclusion and fight against unevenness approach, the country tries to service the less-favored groups, by exploiting ICT potential of generating information and creating new and best employment opportunities. A nationwide electronic system is being implemented, obliging public institutions to provide all services to Internet citizens. A single portal makes available more than 160 standardized forms, which allow, for instance, the payment of taxes, and the request of pension or social security.

Supported by the World Bank, in the next years, 300 local communication networks shall be created at urban and rural areas. As per electronic education, Romania implemented, by adopting the guidelines of the European Community, the broad band access at schools, and it encourages citizens to work at the digital economy. The project, budgeted in 200 million Dollars, provided for the installation of no less than one computer with access to Internet at each school up to 2004. Another project, named City Net, 2005 - 2008, intends the development of digital cities. On the other hand, the Cyberstands project provides for the implementation of 4,000 information centers in the country. Among the problems to be faced there are the reduced number of portable computers and the insufficiency of digital network infrastructure.

3.3 - Discussion panels

Find below an exposition of the summary of subjects addressed at the 3 discussion panels held at the event. The matters addressed at the panels are attached.

3.3.1 Instruments of Digital Inclusion

3.3.1.1 Parliamentarian Kim Suk Joon (Republic of Korea)

There are big differences in computerization: among the countries, among the regions of each country, and also among people, considering their social class and age.

The population not connected to Internet has its participation limited to the political life, as Internet has become a center of political activities.

There are 3 stages for eliminating digital exclusion:

1 - To universalize the access to Internet. Republic of Korea, in 2002 and 2003, took the access to Internet to more than 1,400 locations;

2 - To promote IT education and construct the required infrastructure;

3 - To produce and distribute quality information at Internet, in different areas.

For reaching the 3 stages, the establishment of proper laws, the definition of the required plans, and the creation of an agency for implementing the digital inclusion are required.

The Republic of Korea is internationally engaged in promoting the digital inclusion. It has already trained more than 1,500 IT technicians in other countries, and it has programs with a number of nations.

The universalization of the digital activities is centered in the man, and intends to eliminate differences among the age of people, social classes, and the countries.

3.3.1.2 Mr. Rogério Santana, of the Federal Planning, Budget, and Management Ministry (Brazil)

The Brazilian government guidelines, as regards the electronic government, are: to provide more and more services to population; to make possible the access to electronic services by all social classes; to use the free software as a strategic resource; to rationally use public funds; and to make available at Internet the new systems that shall be created.

Brazil has the National Program for Electronic Government and the Brazilian Program for Digital Inclusion. The electronic government has thousands of systems, and an interoperability standard was established among them. As regards digital inclusion in Brazil, classes A and B, which answer for only 10% of population, practically monopolize the access to Internet. The purpose of the government is to amplify such access to classes C, D, and E.

The main purposes of the Brazilian Government for Digital Inclusion are:

1 - The Connected PC: it intends to eliminate the taxes levied on microcomputers for people to be able to acquire them at R$ 50.00 monthly installments, including the access to 15 hours per month to Internet;

2 - The *Casa Brasil* (House Brazil) Project: it intends to install telecenters spread throughout the country, where population shall have access to Internet and other services;

3 - Connected Schools: it intends to take Internet to all 232,000 Brazilian public schools;

4 - Infrastructure: it intends to take Information Technology infrastructure to the whole country.

The 3 electronic services of greatest success of the Brazilian government are:

1 - Electronic shopping: ComprasNet: the Government purchases the greatest portion of materials electronically;

2 - Electronic vote: the computerization of elections in Brazil;

3 - Income Tax: 97% of income tax returns are filed by Internet.

3.3.1.3 Deputy Vanderlei Assis (Brazil)

The digital inclusion is one of the main forms for promoting the end of misery and the economic growth. The free software, adopted as a government policy in Brazil, is indispensable to the digital inclusion. The country remits abroad more than 1 billion Dollars per year, only for paying for licenses for using computer programs. Moreover,

the use of the free software shall allow population to actually appropriate of IT knowledge.

In Brazil, there are tens of successful experiences of digital inclusion in a number of states. Among them, we point out the Internet portal of the Chamber of Deputies.

The Brazilian representative also mentioned the need of creating a National Agency for Computing and Information Technology, in order to encourage IT diffusion.

Some lessons than can be learned from the Brazilian experience are: the digital inclusion is not a quick action, but a fruit of cumulative experiences; there is not a single model, but many interlinked initiatives; ITs are instruments for poor fight; free software reduces the cost of the digital inclusion, increases projects' sustainability, and promotes income distribution.

3.3.2 Funding of the Digital Inclusion:

3.3.2.1 Dr. Mohamed Muhsin (Vice-president of the World Bank)

There is a plurality of meanings and imports for the term "digital inclusion". So, effort is required by national states for preparing their own concepts, in accordance with each reality particularity. However, despite of that plural nature, there are "basic laws" for digital inclusion, namely:

- Every digital inclusion policy should have, as a primary purpose, the reduction of unevenness. And in all reality that there is no access to information there is a big unevenness;

- There are two pillars that guide the construction of digital inclusion programs. The first of them is the creation of an environment favorable to the private investment in the ICT area, so as to construct the infrastructure required for universalizing information. The second pillar is up to the government, which, subsidiarily to the market and only at the niches not serviced thereby, should provide an infrastructure of access to knowledge and information, turned to low income populations;

- Governments should, at all costs, reduce the legal and/or bureaucratic barriers interposing among those who intend to construct business turned to ICTs, and the actual realization of their projects. So, the deregulation of economies, to be initiated exactly at the communication and information sectors, should be a number one point in the agendas of countries intending to further digital inclusion.

Such rules may be of significant importance not only for furthering digital inclusion, but also for reducing economic unevenness in the world. Statistics point that more than 50% of world population lives with an income lower than US$ 2.00 per day. In Brazil, despite of the big advances in social indicators as regards the last decade, 1/4 of population lives with low than US$ 2.00 per day, and income distribution is the second worst of the planet: the 20% poorest population share an income slightly above 2% of the total. Thus, the greatest challenge of the digital inclusion programs is to act also as a catalyzer for reducing income distribution unevenness, both on a world and regional basis. And it is known that investments in technology development and digital inclusion have a considerable wealth generating power, naturally implying the reduction of economic unevenness. The digital inclusion is a collective work,

which should unite the government, the non-government organizations, the private sector and society, in order to construct a more equalitarian reality.

3.3.2.2 Mr. Maurício Neves, of the National Bank for Economic and Social Development ("BNDES") (Brazil)

As per the use of ICTs for the economic and social development, the encouragement to technologic innovation is essential, so that Brazil can hold the whole production and holding processes for technologies required to its development. In such a context, investments in the ICT area are strategic to the extent they encourage the technologic development in the whole production chain of the sector. The big changes the productive chain has suffered due to the new production technologies should be pointed out, with an emphasis to the new ways of corporate organization and new social relationships - which was covenanted to call "Information Society". At a government level, ITs have also caused deep alterations, generating a demand for greater transparency in government actions, as well as its actuation as a service provider in an electronic environment. The primordial result is the creation of a new management modality called "electronic government", which should be much more dynamic and transparent than its traditional congener.

With respect to the recent evolution of ITs in Brazil, the digital inclusion - especially the access to Internet - is still to be constructed in the country. There are big advances as to voice services, primarily in mobile telephony, which caused more than 50% of Brazilian population to have access to telephone in 2002. Another example of success in the universalization of telecommunications is the big supply today existing of public use telephones, today Brazil is the second in number of public telephones in the world, losing only for the United States. All those data, both as regards individual and public accesses, makes Brazil to be above the world average when the numbers of access are considered for each one hundred inhabitants. However, also pursuant to data of 2002, only 10.3% of the population had access to Internet. Both in number of computers and points of access to Internet, Brazil has a service average, in groups of one hundred inhabitants, lower than the world average, which shows the need of big investments, both from the private and public sectors, for universalizing the access to ICTs.

The National Bank for Economic and Social Development ("BNDES"), as per the funding of projects turned to digital inclusion, has acted in two distinct fronts. The first is the leverage of regulation - which implies the funding of implementation plans for telephone incumbments' universalization goals, as well as the capital contribution from BNDES in operators' projects having as purpose the enlargement of the coverage network. The second one is the inducement of public political decisions, which occurs through the elaboration of differentiated credit lines with special conditions, destined to any and all economic agent intending to implement a project that is considered of interest for the governmental policy in force, such as the development of the Brazilian national technology in the ICT sector.

The big challenge in the construction of a future agenda to the sector consists in implementing new universalization goals for telecommunication incumbments, which

shall be effective from 2006. The new goals include a number of provisions for digital inclusion furtherance, and BNDES is ending the studies for offering special facilities for reaching such new goals. The bank participation in new infoinclusion programs being implemented by the federal government deserves attention, with an emphasis for the Connected PC. Moreover, the use of the allowances from the Fund for Universalization of Telecommunication Services ("FUST") is an urgent one, which were not employed up to now. As per the fund, BNDES shall act as an "ancillary agent", including as to the contribution of capitals that shall be required for complementing allowances arising out of FUST in projects funded thereby.

3.3.2.3 Deputy Julio Semeghini (Brazil)

The income of the ICT sector in Brazil is to the order of 40 billion Dollars per year. However, the country occupying the 72nd position in the Human Development Index of United Nations has only 12% inhabitants with access to Internet. The Brazilian Informatics Act gave a big impulsion to the segment, increasing sector participation in country's Gross Domestic Product ("GDP") from 1.7% to 3.5% in 2002, upon a tax waiver of approximately US$ 1.7 billion in historic values.

Despite digital inclusion initiatives count on more than US$ 180 millions per year for public and private services, Brazil has enormous needs, as it is a continental country with 180 million inhabitants and 150 million of infoexcluded people. The amount of funds required for eliminating the digital divide in the country is estimated in US$ 2.8 billions. As Brazil has no such funds, a project consisting in the funding, supported by the technological development of the country, grounded on the research and development of new technologies turned to the local problems is an imperious need.

The Innovation Act - recently approved by the Brazilian National Congress - is an extremely important instrument for the sustainable development of the digital inclusion. The law assures scientists belonging to education and research institutions the profit share on inventions, and shall leverage the technological development applied in the country.

There are a number of parliamentary initiatives transiting in the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies, addressing the following themes: i) digital certification, ii) financing funds and social benefits to the benefit of digital inclusion, iii) computing crimes, iv) access to Internet, v) extinguishment of the telephone monthly subscription fee, vi) free software, vii) spam regulation, viii) prohibition of OEM software commercialization.

3.3.2.4 Parliamentarian Kim Nak Soon (Republic of Korea)

The government of Republic of Korea has taken part in the World Summit of the Information Society ("WSIS") and in the debates for establishing a digital solidarity fund. The country has worked on a worldwide basis for creating a bridge that can unite developed countries to underdeveloped nations, so as to end with the digital divide today existing. Therefore, the Korean government prepared an international cooperation project that has as main purpose the creation of an "ICT environment", primarily based on the development of human resources in developing countries. Thus, Korean specialists are acting in a number of countries training professionals that shall reply the knowledge acquired through such a partnership in their countries

of origin. Besides that, Korean young students are taking part in voluntary interchange programs and spend from 1 to 3 months in developing countries working on children's education projects turned to the use of computers and access to Internet. Finally, the Korean government is destining funds for constructing centers of access to Internet in developing countries, for encouraging the infrastructure shared access at their places.

3.3.3 Digital Inclusion: the Role of the Public Authorithies and of the Parliament for the Infoinclusion:

3.3.1 Mr. Rodrigo Rollemberg, of the Federal Science and Technologic Ministry (Brazil)

Brazil faces an accentuated process of digital exclusion. Approximately 79% of Brazilian citizens do not use computers. Only 14% have access to Internet. A big portion of such excluded people resides in urban areas. The digital inclusion is a factor of improvement in citizen's quality of life, access to information, and reduction of regional and social unevenness. There are a number of digital inclusion projects conducted by the government, with an emphasis for: The Connected PC Program, which intends to provide computers and access to Internet at low cost, upon making available tax exemption to suppliers; the *Casa Brasil* (House Brazil) Project, which shall implement, on a trial basis, 90 centers with 20 computers of free access, educational and cultural activities, auditorium, communitarian radio studio and public mail services, and popular bank; and the Giga Network, which interconnects universities and research institutes in an extremely high speed. The resources allocated to such projects arise from individual and bench parliamentary amendments. The Federal Science and Technology Ministry has negotiated with Parliamentarians the best manner for carrying out projects, and making covenants with states for incorporating funds to State Science and Technology Secretaries.

3.3.3.2 Mr. Marcelo Lopes, of the Federal Science and Technology Ministry (Brazil)

The project Brazil Technology Network, administered by the Federal Science and Technology Ministry, is formed by a network which research companies and institutions are associated to. The network is used for disclosing business opportunities among participants, and for making partnerships between companies and the academy. The projects formed as such may be financed by public funds arising from sectorial funds.

3.3.3.3 Ives Gandra Martins, Esq., tax and constitution specialist (Brazil)

Brazil has a complex tax structure, which includes a big diversity of taxes and contributions. The tax system should be simplified as regards the circulation and consumption of goods and services. As per the taxes levied on software, the brazilian Federal Supreme Court established a distinction between the shelf software, supplied to the general public, and the customized software, with the state tax to be levied in the first case, and the municipal tax to be levied in the second one. The problem become more complex after the pronouncement of the Federal Supreme Court to the effect that the copyright assignment features the rental of an asset, and not the provision of a service, with the tax corresponding to the latter taxable event becoming

inapplicable, which should lead the software, which has its copyrights protected by the Brazilian law, to become exempt from indirect taxes. The so called Goodness Provisional Measure being discussed at the Executive Branch, which intends to reduce the tax burden applicable to technology companies deserves attention, so as to use the tax disburden as an important instrument for leveraging social inclusion.

3.3.4 Parliamentarian Kim Hyo Seuk (Republic of Korea)

The strategy adopted by the Republic of Korea for furthering ITs involves a combination of actions related to communication, telematics and contents services, communication infrastructure and strategic products. A big importance is being given in the country to broad band mobile Internet and digital mobile television. As per the digital exclusion, this is a persisting phenomenon, and which is demanding special efforts from the government, upon the expansion of access networks, wide education in ITs, and a proper organizational and legal landmark. The country intends to comprehend rural population as a whole, and to implement a "digital life" project for citizens' access to education, work, health, and security. The Republic of Korea has also used efforts in the support to other countries, by structuring access centers, training people, and sending volunteer teams.

3.3.3.5 Deputy Walter Pinheiro (Brazil)

The digital inclusion is an important overcoming mechanism both as regards social unevenness and technologic gap among countries, which is deepened since the industrial revolution. Information is a domination instrument, through the control on the production and distribution of the contents circulating in the world communication infrastructure. Developed countries applied public investments in R&D, as it is the case of USA and Japan. As per Brazil's track in the 70s, the country availed of a local market protection policy, which resulted in the appearing of an industrial park and qualified professionals. As such a model failed in the 90s, the commercial opening caused the closing of many of such companies. Today, Brazil counts on an open and wide market for servicing consumers, but it has a deficit in the trade balance to the order of US$ 6 billions for telecommunications and US$ 1 billion for software. Therefore, the option for the free software, further to serve for professionals' formation, creation of employments, and digital inclusion, shall promote a reduction of such a deficit.

3.3.3.6 Senator Angel Tilvar (Romania)

The Parliament has commitments with the civil society to the effect of elevating the potential of popular participation and operating as a control body. Among the legislative acts effectuated in his country, he reported the establishment of laws on the freedom of access to public information, the transparency of public functions, the corruption fight, the integration of the electronic government in a national system, and the availability of public services through Internet. He observed that the Parliament consolidated the press and public relations services, and updated its website, allowing a broad disclosure of legislative information and interaction between the citizen and the representatives thereof, who can, on an easier basis, supervise the local implementation of government projects. The legislator's two guidelines, in his

view, would be of ensuring that ICT leads to an inclusive and equalitarian society, and avoids the use of Internet for activities associated to radicalism, terrorism, or any form of prejudice.

3.3.3.7 Parliamentarian Saeed Tarad Jrman (Saudi Arabia)

In Saudi Arabia, a reference landmark is being adopted in the ICT segment, on a three-dimension basis: environment, which includes the market regulation and communication infrastructure; availability, whether on an individual, corporate or government basis; and use, with the same unfoldments. Today, approximately 6% of population has access to Internet, and the country intends to increase such a number to 30%. Two key challenges for such shall be the inclusion of all social groups and the increase of contents in the native Internet language, currently with less than 1% of the total web contents, in complete disagreement with the portion of people in the world speaking such a language.

4 - Results of the III IPAIT

4.1 - Adoption of the Joint Communiqué of the III General Assembly of IPAIT

The Joint Communiqué signed by the representatives of the member countries attending the III IPAIT addresses the following matters: presentation of the axis theme of the III IPAIT; brief history of Association former Assemblies; structuring and thematics of plenary sessions and discussion panels occurred at the III IPAIT; main conclusions of the debates held in the event; and recommendations for future gatherings of the entity.

Conclusions pointed to the need of using ICTs as a manner for promoting the reduction of social unevenness in the planet, and reiterated the importance of sharing and disclosing succeeded national infoinclusion experiences for eliminating the digital divide.

Moreover, Parliaments should play the role of proposing, discussing, and approving modern and suitable laws, which enable governments to adopt public policies turned to infoinclusion. For facilitating the interparlamentarian collaboration of countries member of IPAIT, the importance of maintaining a permanent and rotating site for the Association, to make communication among entity members easier, was pointed out.

The importance of actions by governments, private initiative, the third sector and international organisms for the funding and carrying out of programs for disseminating ICTs was outstood. In particular, delegations supported the need of creating an International Fund for Financing the Digital Inclusion as a manner to face the problem of the digital divide.

Moreover, a number of points contained in the action plans outlined in Association former meetings as an encouragement to the use of the free software, incentive to the development of language conversion tools, development of means that enable the cost reduction of ICTs, and the support to legislative initiatives intended to the fight against computing crimes and spam were ratified.

As recommendations to the next assemblies, we would number the following: forwarding of invitations to delegations of member countries with no less than three

months in advance; permanent maintenance and updating of IPAIT's website; encouragement to the continued communication between member countries; and reinforcement of the need of creating national entity sections with the purpose of facilitating the continuance of organization works.

4.2 - <u>Signature of the Brasilia Declaration</u>

The Brasilia Declaration, also executed by the representatives of delegations present at the III IPAIT, contains the general lines of resolutions taken during the meeting. Considering that the Association's purpose is to further the multilateral parliamentary cooperation in the ITs area, through the Brasilia Declaration, the countries member of the entity acknowledged the importance of intensifying the collaboration among nations - and, particularly, the parliaments - in overcoming social and Digital divide in the planet.

To such an effect, they point out the importance of discussing the thematics addressed in the III IPAIT - "Information Technologies in Service of the Social Inclusion" -, mainly for countries that not succeeded in democratizing the digital knowledge. For that reason, the member countries were favorable to the initiative internationally adopted for eliminating the digital divide, especially the creation of multilateral funds intended to promote the electronic alphabetization.

Moreover, they reiterated the need of incentivizing the development of technologic tools of language conversion, and undertook to use efforts for disseminating the free software at parliaments and governments. They have also expressed the intention of incentivizing the promotion of public policies for reducing the costs of access to ICT resources, mainly for low income people.

In their primary role of elaborating laws, parliamentary representatives reaffirm the importance of approving laws for the fight against digital crimes and spam, as well as legislative instruments intended for technologic universalization.