Pan-African Parliaments

An analysis of

Common grounds

&

Differences

Parliaments differ….

- Organization structure
- Terminology / Nomenclature
- Workflow, processes & Decision chains
- Layout of Legislative documents
- Schedules & Durations
- Information creation & dissemination

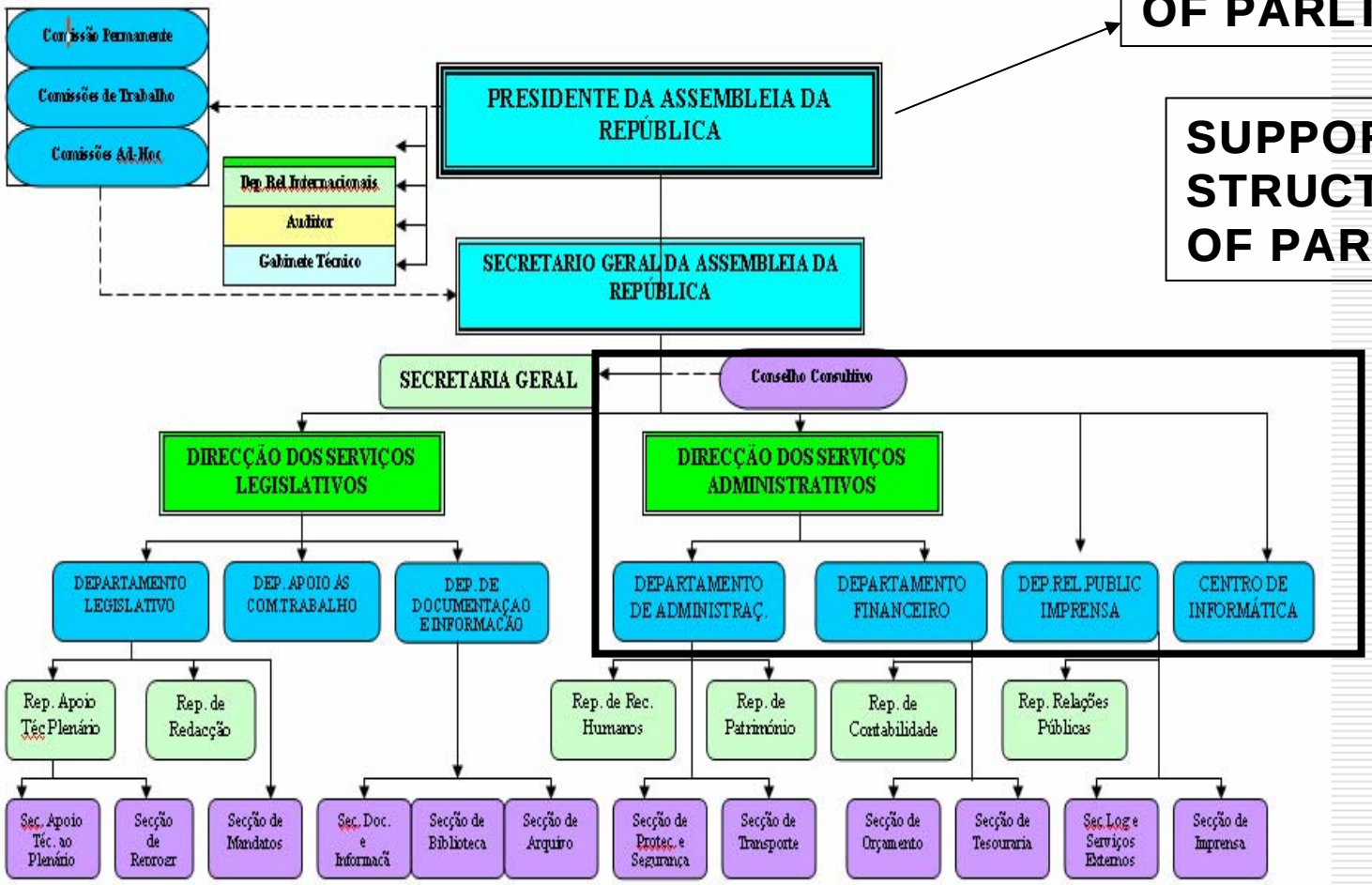
Organization structure

- Differences due to variations in role & nature of parliament
- Two levels of organization structure
  - Structure that determines core activities of parliament
  - Structure that supports parliamentary activity

Organization structure - Mozambique

OVERALL STRUCTURE OF PARLIAMENT

SUPPORT STRUCTURE OF PARLIAMENT



Organization structure -Ghana

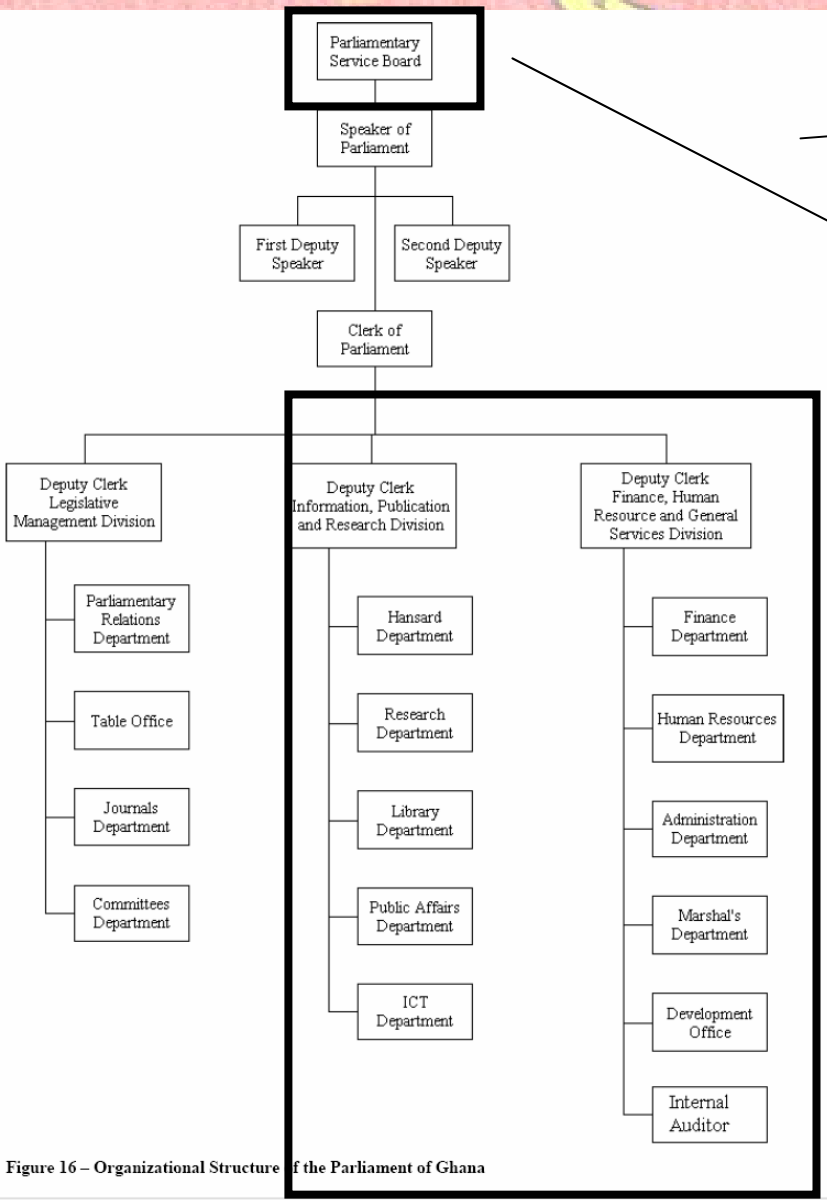


Figure 16 – Organizational Structure of the Parliament of Ghana

OVERALL STRUCTURE OF PARLIAMENT

SUPPORT STRUCTURE OF PARLIAMENT

Onwards from structural differences....

- **The flow of information & processes down a hierarchy are similar**
- **Differences are structural for e.g. roles with the same name can have different objectives across parliaments.**

Which leads us to .....-→

Nomenclature / Terminology

- Differences in human roles
  - A “clerk” can have different ????objectives across parliaments
  - Certain groups/ / / / / / might play a role in parliamentary activities that role may not exist in another country – for e.g. public involvement in legislation
- Differences in document related terminology
  - for e.g. a “section” in a bill in a parliament may not correspond to the meaning that a “section” has in a bill of another parliament

From structure & nomenclature on to information flows….

- **Parliaments have clearly defined information flows with approvals at various stages**

- **Do subtle differences in both the structure of parliament and nomenclature, lead to differences in the way information flows?**

This leads us to…..

- **Parliaments have clearly defined information flows with approvals at various stages**

- **Do subtle differences in both the structure of parliament and nomenclature, lead to differences in the way information flows?**

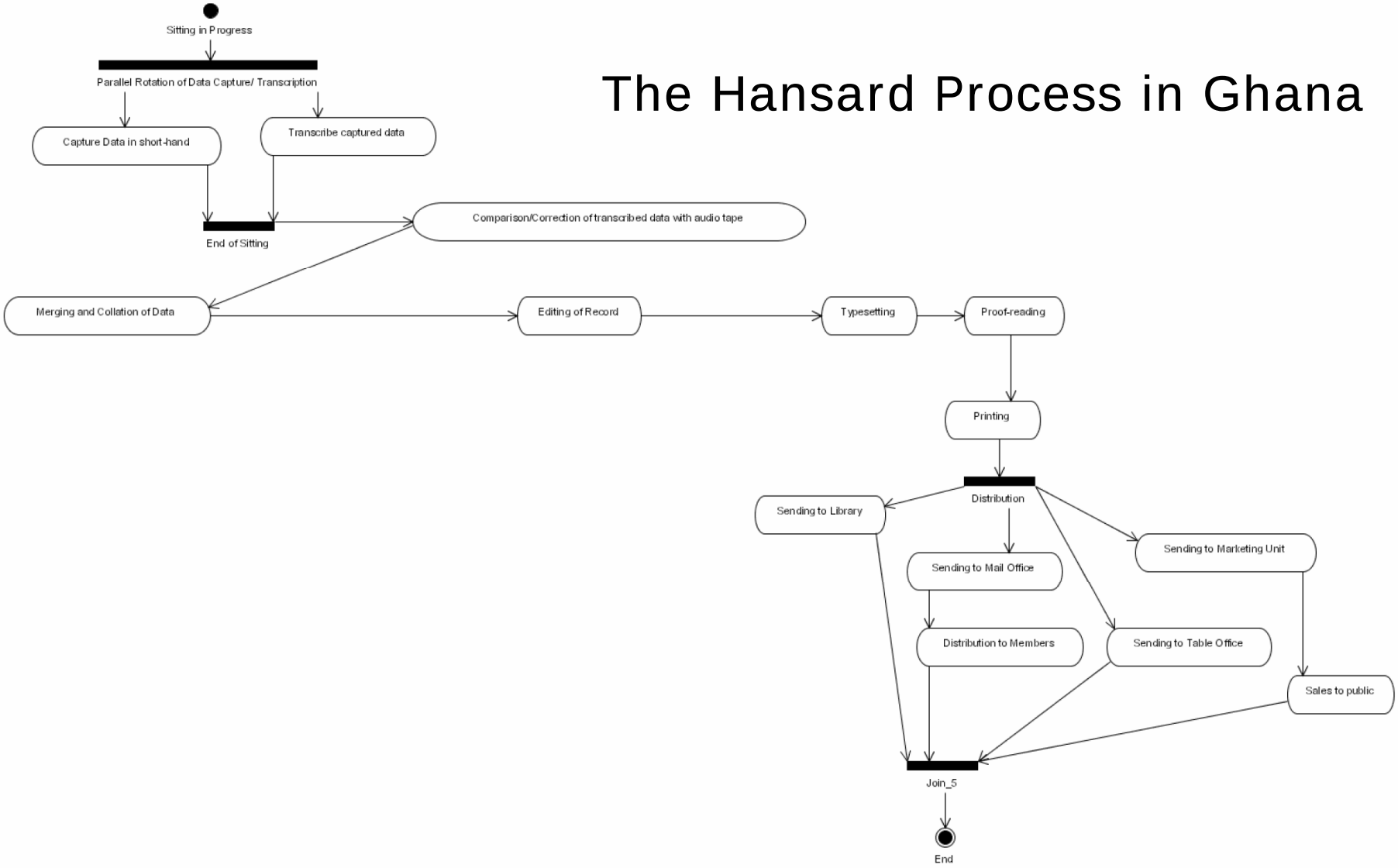
Information flows

- Let us examine common information flows found in different parliaments
  - The Hansard
  - The legislative process
- The question being asked : **Are they dramatically different?**

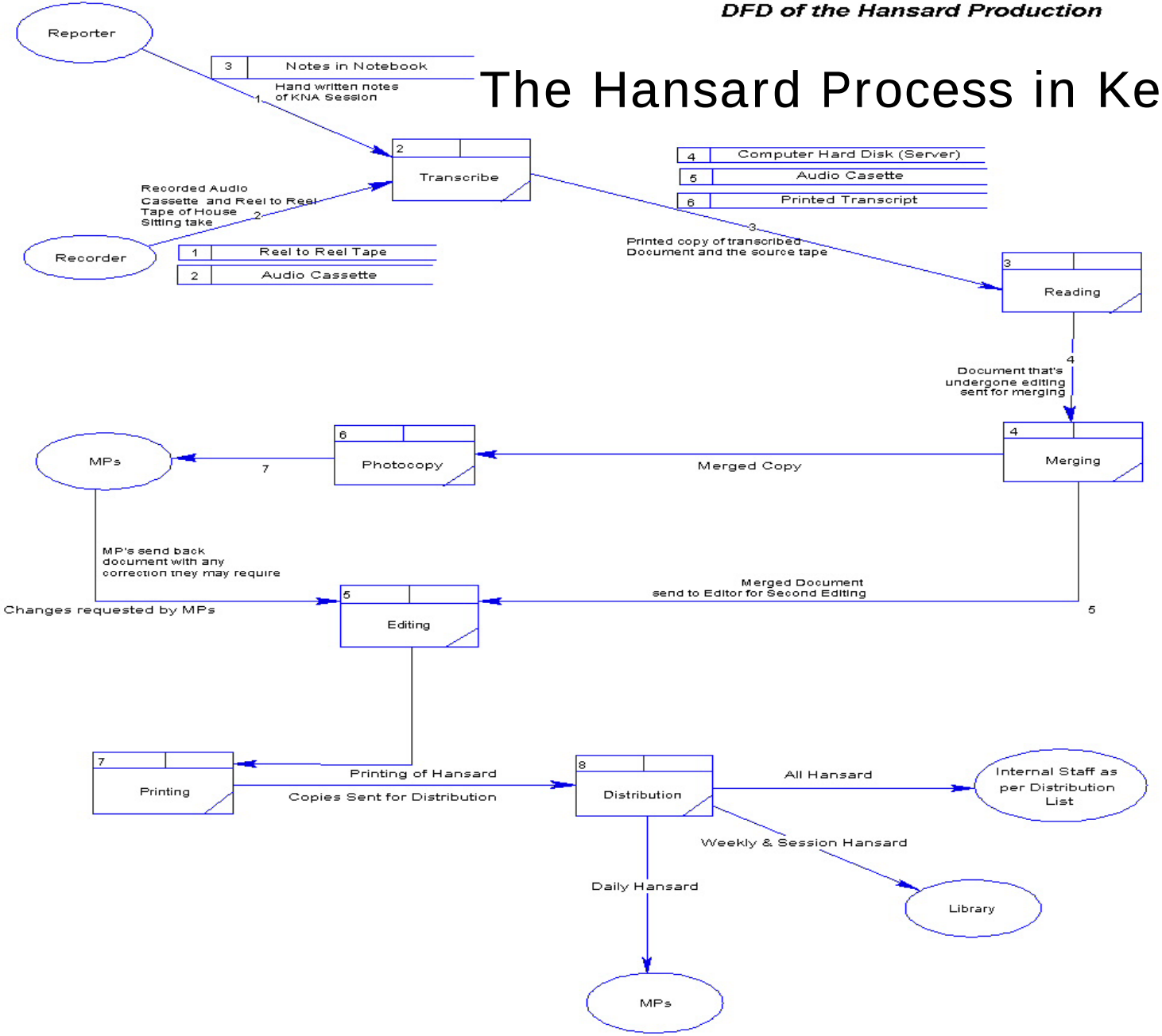
Information flows – The Hansard

The goal of the "Hansard" is common –"*The Hansard is a verbatim record of all speeches made in the House*"

The Hansard Process in Ghana



The Hansard Process in Kenya



Hansard production in Ghana & Kenya

- **The flow and process of information is the same albeit a few variations**
  - **Similar Information moves from stage A to stage B and is similarly transformed at various stages**
- **Procedural differences for e.g. mode of recording speeches – these don't really affect the "macro process" of Hansard production**
- **Additional Approval stages for e.g. Kenya has an additional approval stage involving MPs. – simply an additional "OK"-ing stage in the "macro process"**

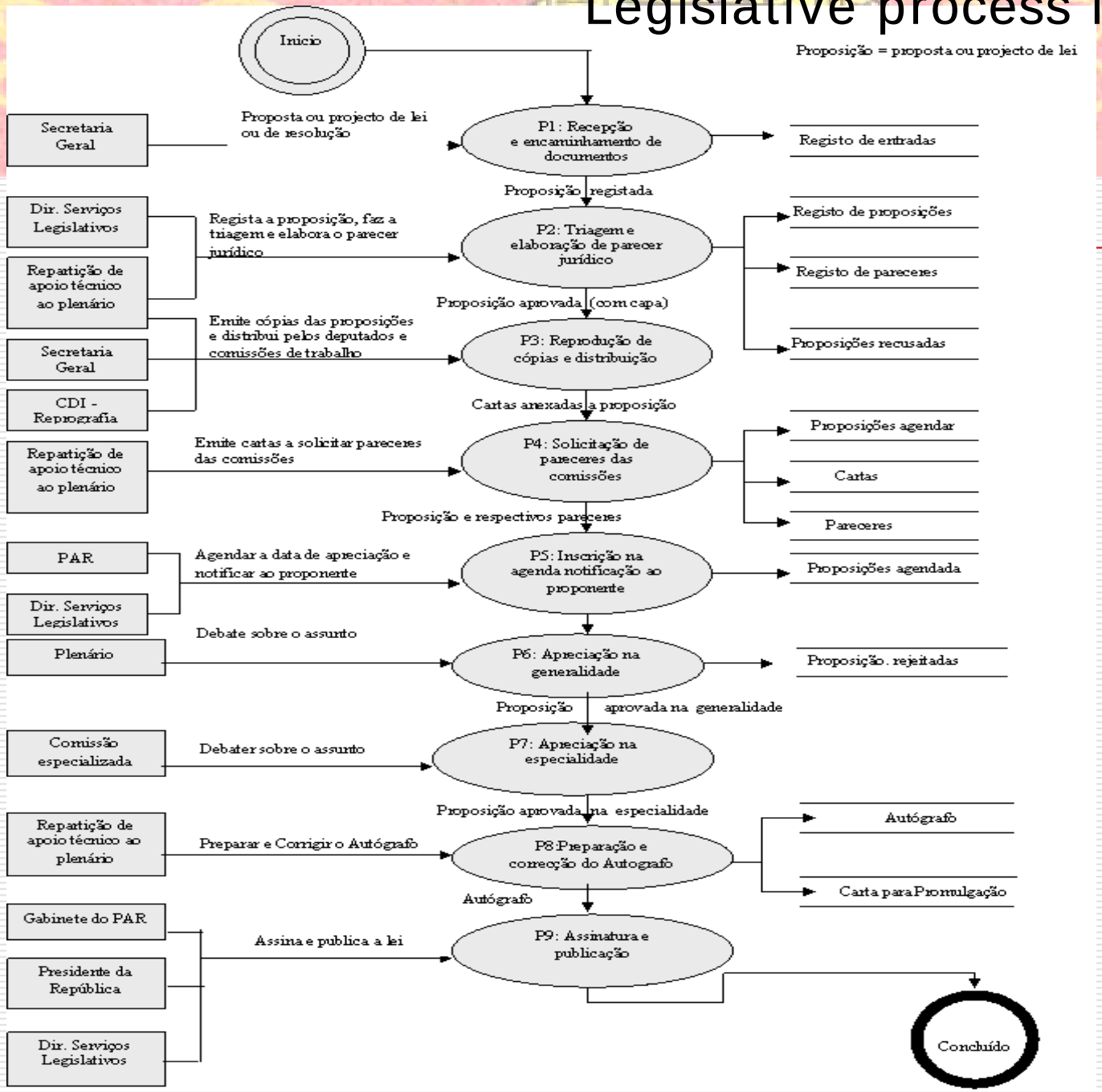
Most Importantly….

“The flow and process of information is the same”

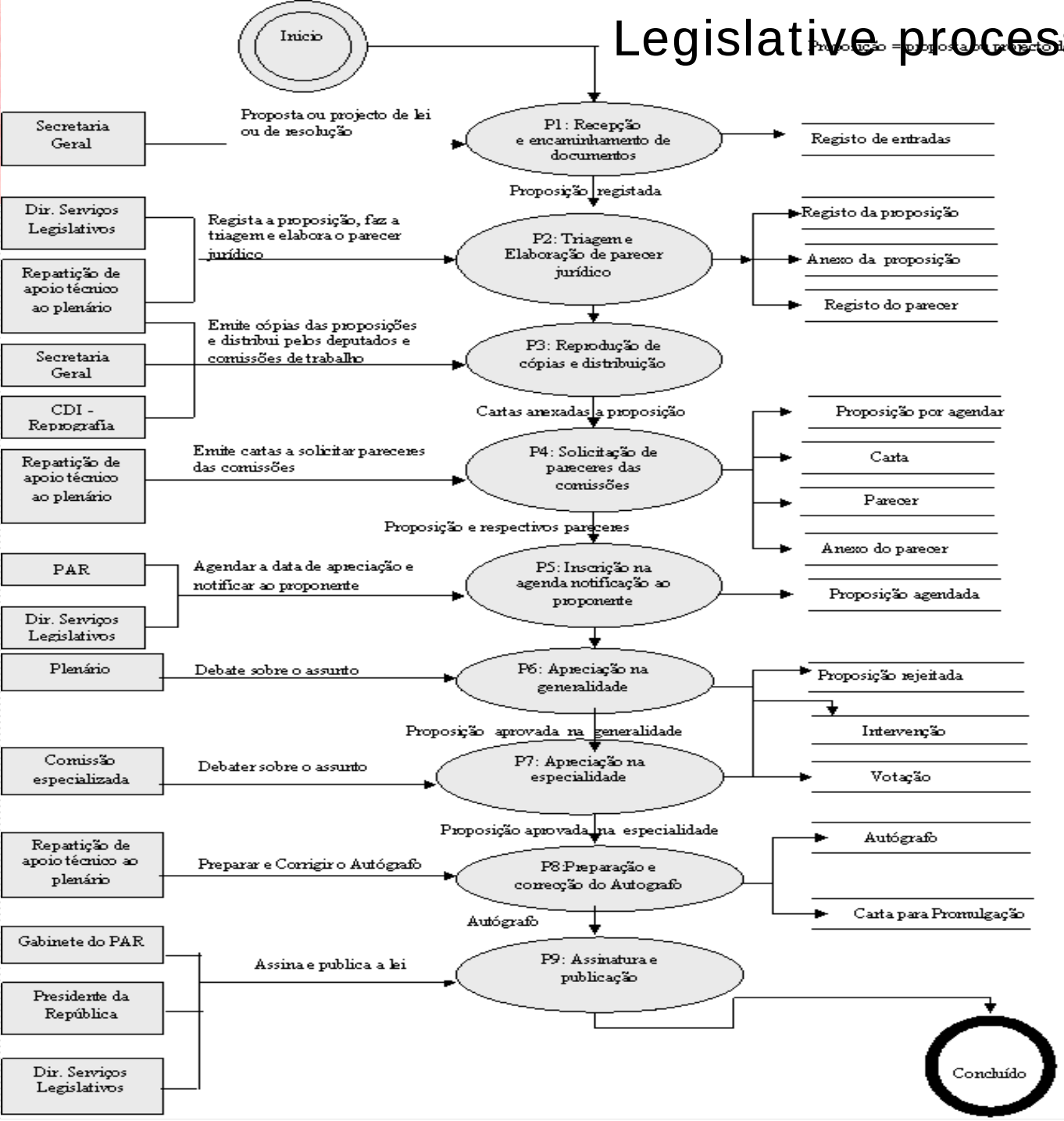
Information flows – The Legislative process

The "heart & soul" of any legislature – the procedures involved in initiating and making bills into public law

Legislative process in Mozambique



Legislative process in Angola



Legislative process in Mozambique & Angola

- **The flow and process of information is the same albeit a few variations**
- **Procedural differences for e.g. schedules of meetings are different**
- **Minor differences in who authorizes what? ➔ for e.g. the authorities preparing the dossiers for submission are different in the two parliament**

Most Importantly….

“The flow and process of information is the same”

What about the variations…?

Handled by:

- **Local customization and modification**
- **Streamlining and re-engineering of workflows in parliaments**

However….

Parliaments at the end of all the information flows & processes → Produce Documents

Appearance, Look & feel of documents

- **These documents are produced in different languages**

- **These documents (bills, laws, hansard reports etc.) *look different in different parliaments***

- **Documents can be structured differently in different parliaments**

Appearance, Look & feel of documents – Is it really a problem?

- **Technology based solution**
- **Parliamentary Data is stored uniformly – a higher layer – “a template” determines how it looks**
- **Interoperability – The PAPI framework**

This leaves us with….

- **Differences in schedules, durations, and session sittings**
  - **No. of members of parliament**
  - **How long is each session?**
- **Information creation & dissemination**
  - **Who is the final audience?**
  - **What information is meant for public consumption and what is not?**

Schedules & info. dissemination

- **Differences in schedules, durations, and session sittings**
  - **Controlled by parameters & settings**
- **Information creation & dissemination**
  - **Determined & Controlled with "Access-Control" mechanisms & Approval cycles**

Schedules & info. dissemination

- **Differences in schedules, durations,**
- **Information creation & dissemination**

At a “macro level” these do not affect the information flow within the parliament

Schedules & info. dissemination

- **Differences in schedules, durations,**
- **Information creation & dissemination**

At a “macro level” these do not affect the information flow within the parliament

In conclusion

“Still working on this ……..”