



Access to information and ICTs regulatory framework: The role of parliaments

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*Parliaments' Information Management in Africa:
Strengthening Parliaments' Information Systems in Africa,
Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya 9 – 11 February 2005*





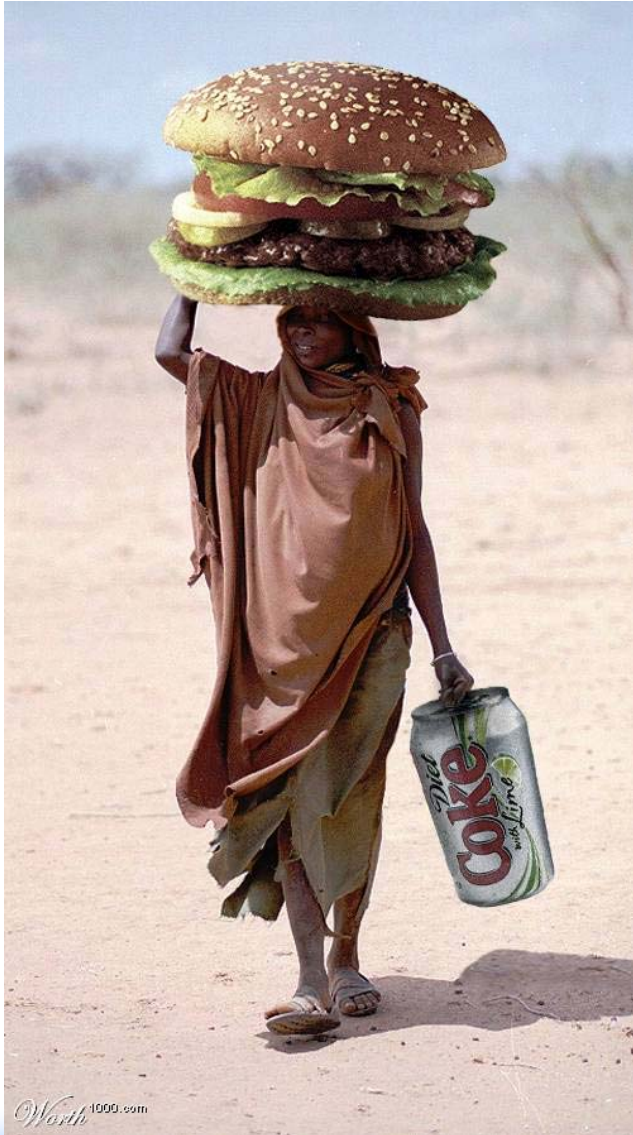
On the menu...

1. The context in which parliaments (MPs) operate
2. Knowledge management in the Uganda parliament
3. The role of parliaments and governments in ICT4D issues
4. Access to information legislation
5. E-governance, the missed opportunity
6. ICT regulatory framework: policy formulation
7. Lessons from Uganda
8. Africa ICT4D MPs Network ("AIMNet" or "AIM" Network")



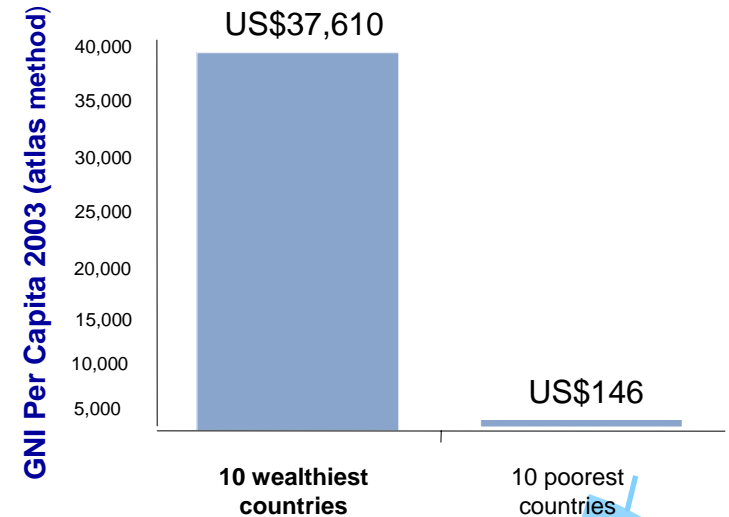
Partnership? North-South exchange?
Appropriate technology transfer?

Diet Coke, please!

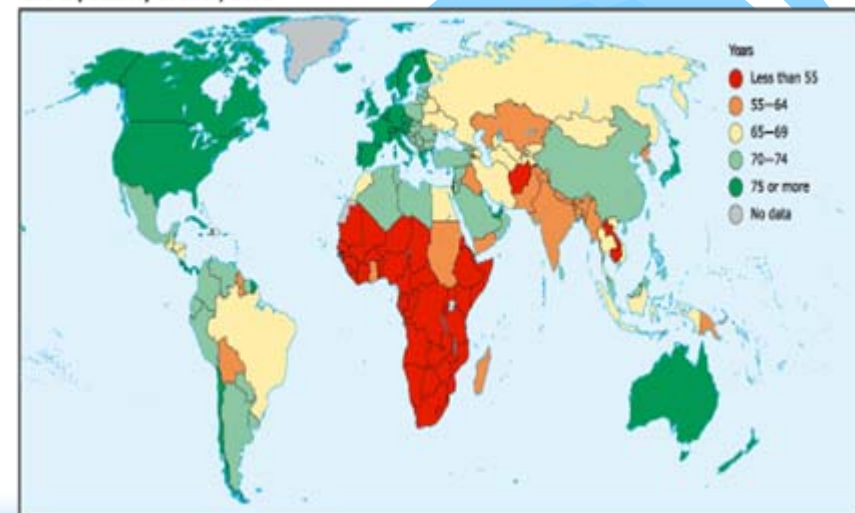


The Crisis - MPs cannot afford to fail

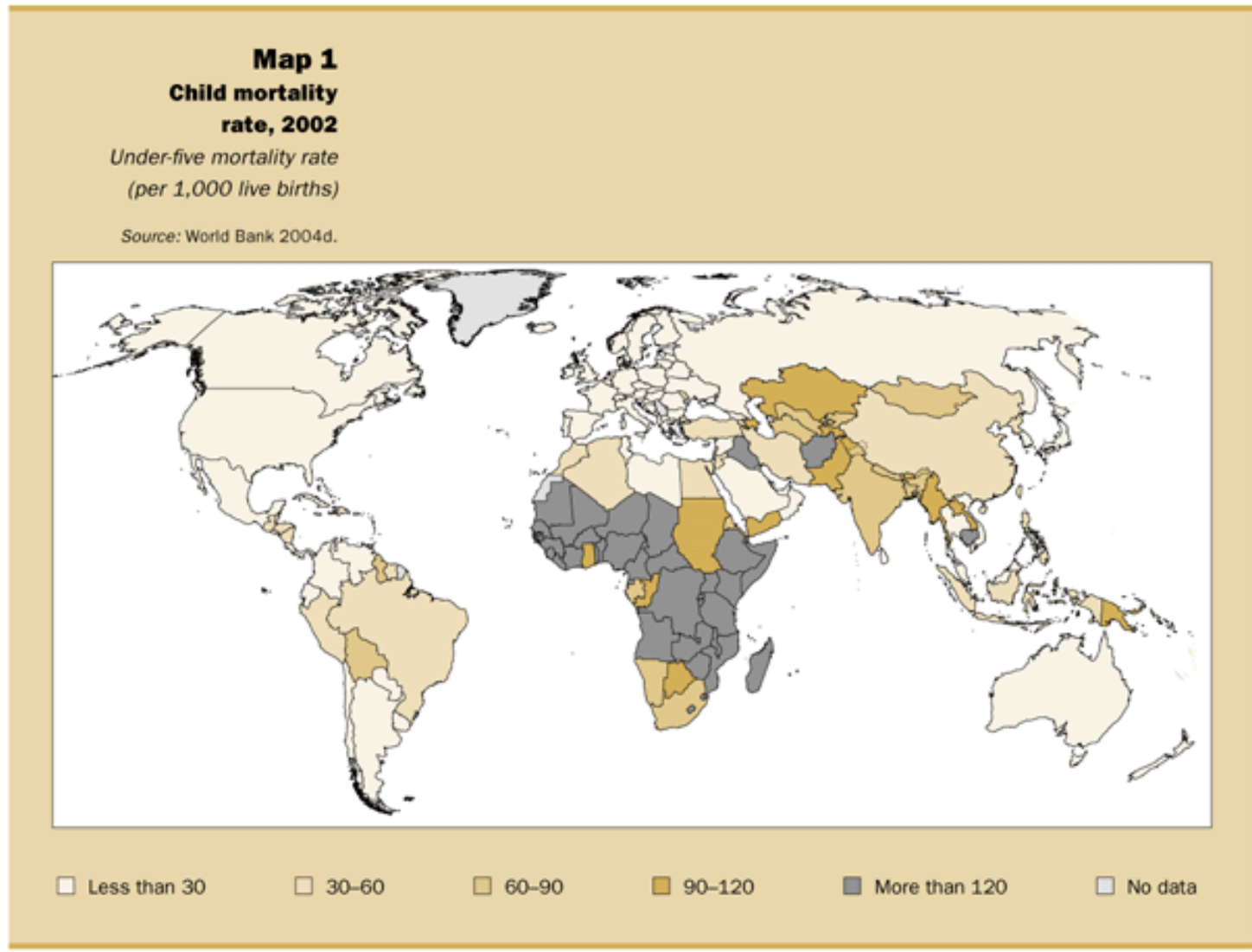
- ❖ **POVERTY:** More than **one billion people** globally live on less than a dollar a day. Another 1.8 billion struggle to survive on less than \$2 per day.
- ❖ **ILLITERACY:** Around the world, a total of **114 million children** do not get even a basic education and 584 million women are illiterate.
- ❖ **PRE-MATURE DEATH:** Life expectancy in sub-Saharan Africa is **less than 55 years** – and dropping.
- ❖ **WATER AND SANITATION:** Four out of every ten people in the world don't have access even to a simple latrine; and **two in ten** have no source of safe drinking water.



Life expectancy at birth, 2001



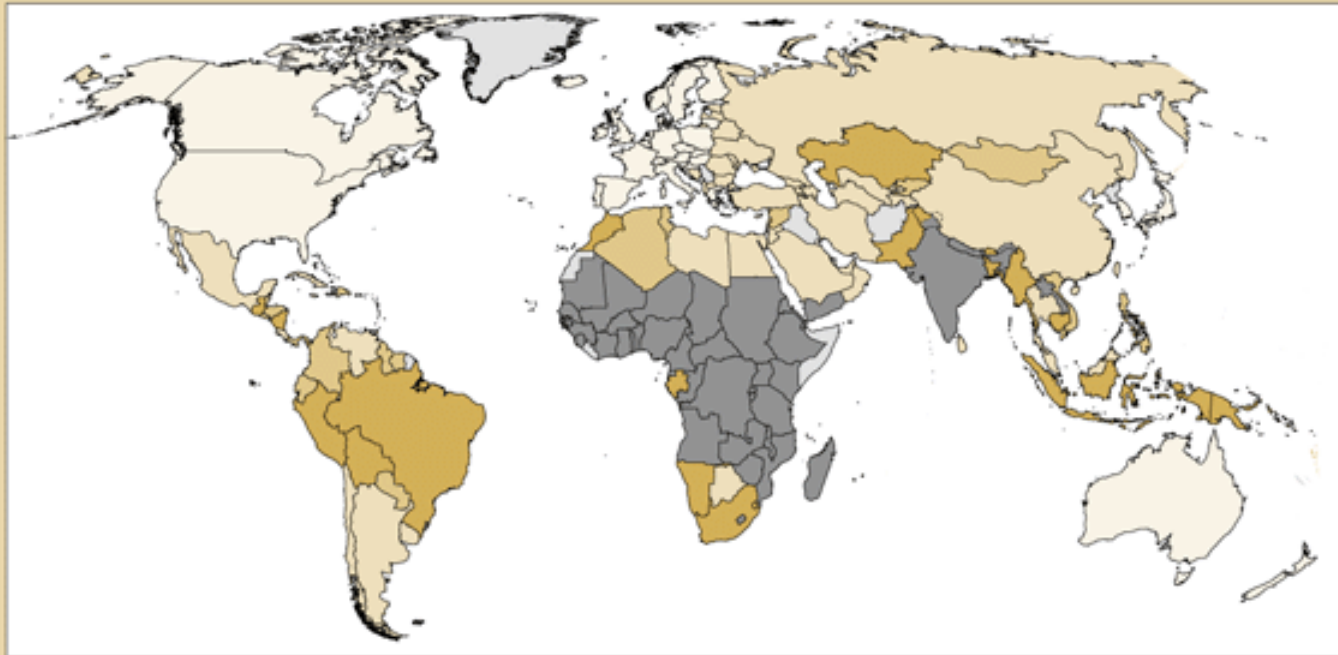
Child mortality - under 5 mortality over 120 per 1000 live births in many countries



Maternal mortality over 500 per 100,000 live births in most of SSA

Map 2
Maternal mortality ratio, 2000
Per 100,000 live births (adjusted)

Source: UNDP 2004b.

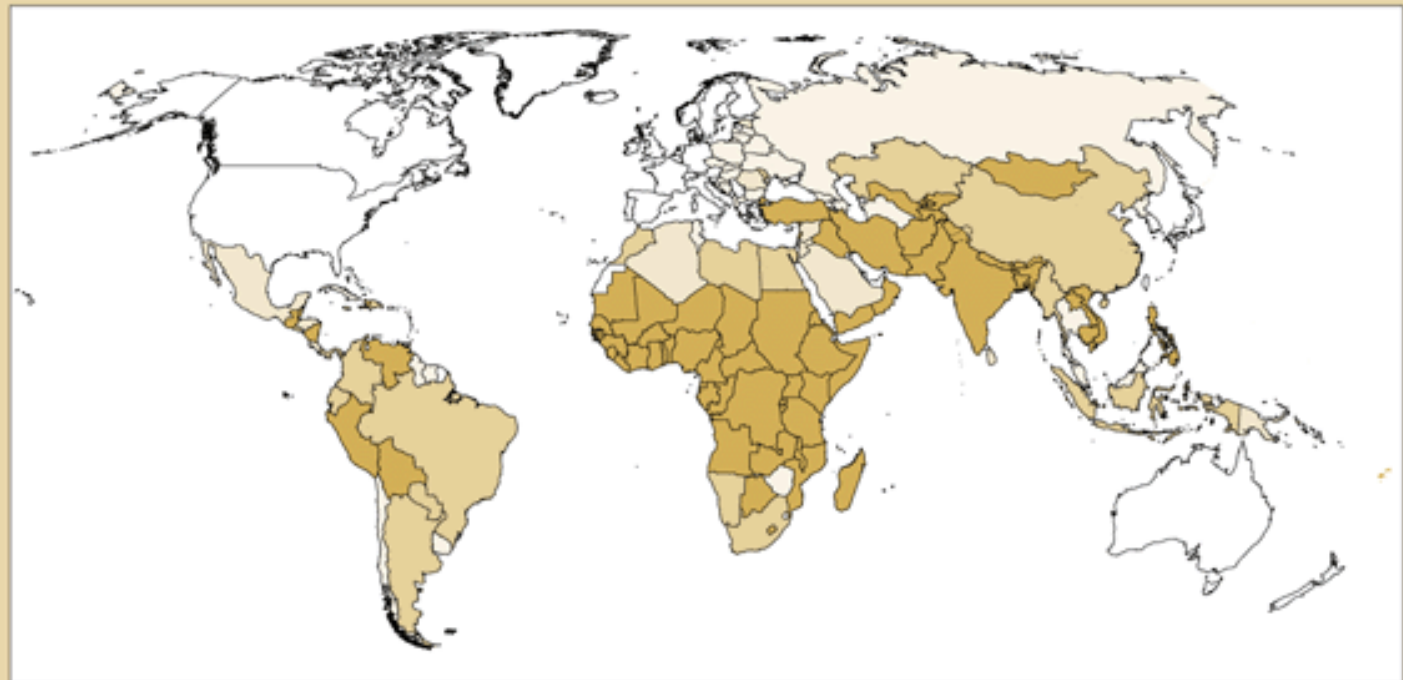


□ Less than 20 □ 20-100 □ 100-200 □ 200-500 □ More than 500 □ No data

Slums: More than 50% of urban dwellers live in slums in SSA

Map 3
Share of urban population living in slums
in slums
Percent

Source: UN-HABITAT 2003.



Less than 10% 10%–20% 20%–40% more than 40% High-income countries

Challenges of modern MPs/policy makers

❖ Global pressures

- ✓ donors, multinationals, civil society
- ✓ Other non-state players

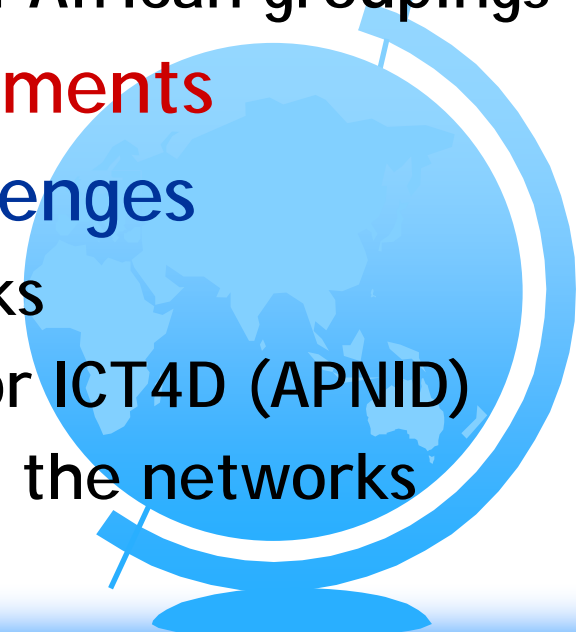
❖ Local pressures

- ✓ Need to decentralise
- ✓ Need for national, regional and pan-African groupings

❖ Result of pressures - weak governments

❖ Appropriate response to the challenges

- ✓ Form national and regional networks
- ✓ African Parliamentarian Network for ICT4D (APNID)
- ✓ Share knowledge, experience using the networks



Knowledge management in Uganda Parliament

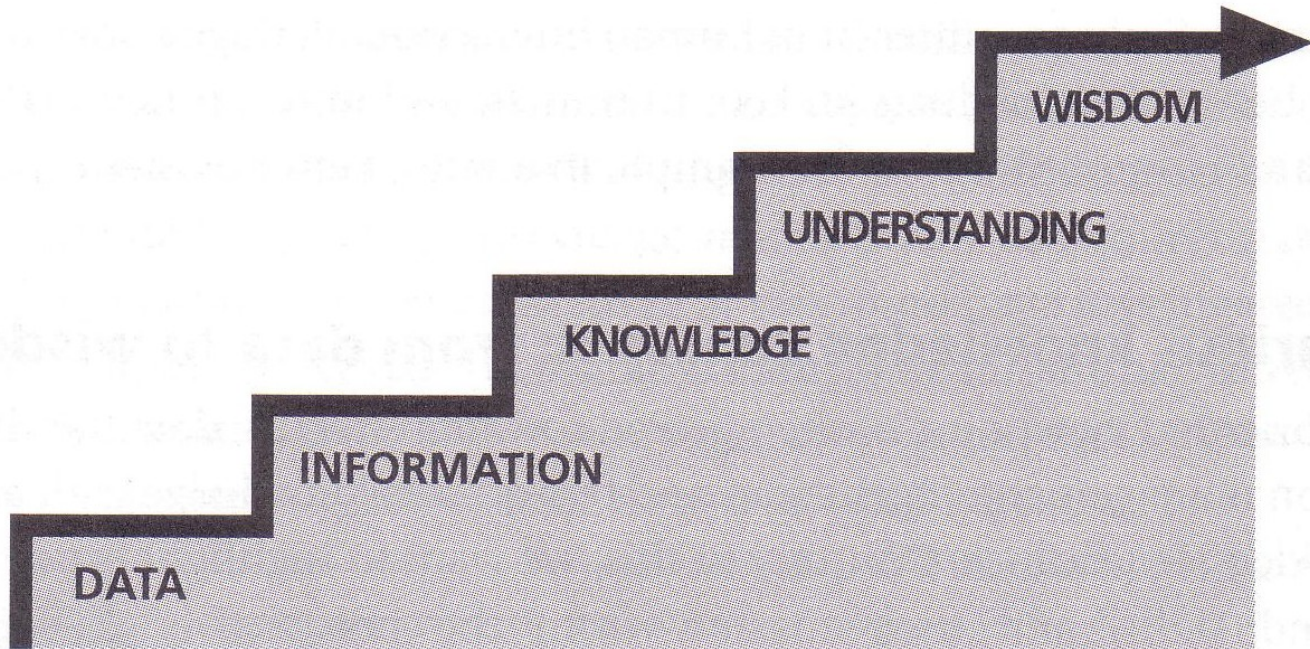


Parliament of Uganda.htm



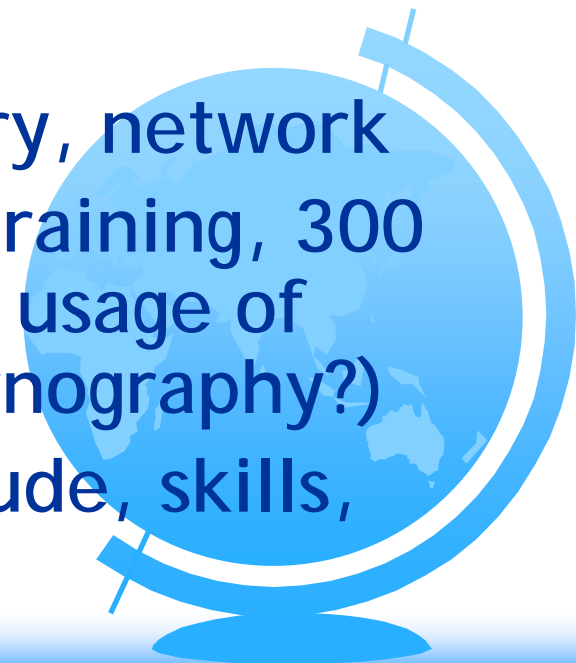
*ICT is not only computers,
knowledge (content) is critical
The higher up the ladder the more value*

STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS OF KNOWLEDGE



Knowledge management in Uganda Parliament

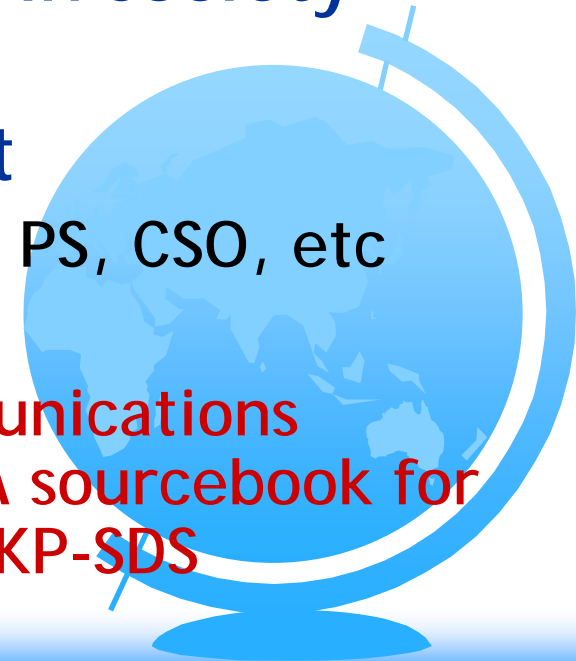
- ❖ 1996 - Elections, 6th parliament
- ❖ 1997 -98 - Informal seminars by ICT enthusiasts (MPs, Internet enthusiasts)
- ❖ 98/99 - American librarian (Kim)
- ❖ **Kim and Johnson link to USAID**
- ❖ USAID-GOU-SUNY project, library, network
- ❖ Now: 150 pc network, library, training, 300 MPs with e-mail addresses, 67% usage of Internet (e-mail, research, ?pornography?)
- ❖ **Challenges** - Management, attitude, skills, technology, finance



Role of parliamentarians

- as a group, but also as individuals

1. Legislate laws and policies
2. Monitor the implementation of laws/policies
3. Represent the interest of the masses in development
4. Work towards minimizing gaps in society (digital unite, not divide)
5. Use ICTs for local development
 - Local development projects with PS, CSO, etc
 - *Source* - Informationa and Communications Technologies for Development: A sourcebook for Parliamentarians (UNDP-ADPIP-GKP-SDS)



Role of Government ... in the ICT arena

BOX 9.1 - WHAT SHOULD GOVERNMENTS DO?

Government action is necessary:

As a policy-maker

As a major user of information technology

To compensate for market failures

Governments can:

Improve their own efficiency

Set fair rules of the game

Catalyse infrastructure projects

Push the education agenda

Jump-start the private sector



Skeptics say the role of government is often this ↓



Access to information law

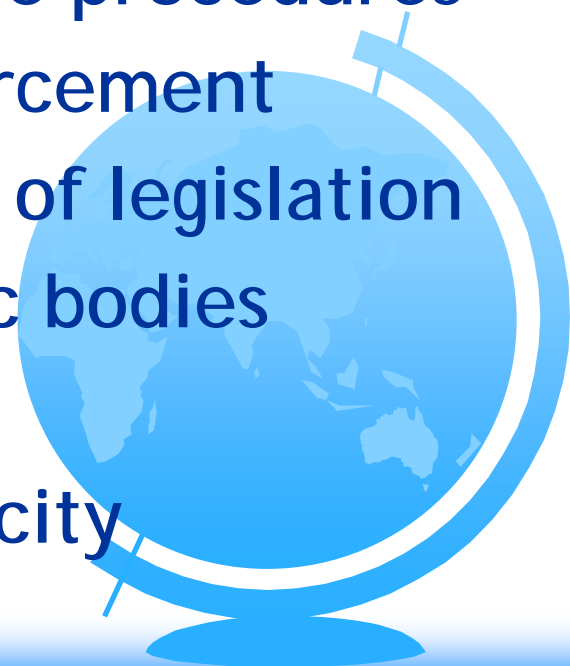
- ❖ Required by 1995 Uganda constitution
- ❖ International mandate to provide info
- ❖ Tool for anticorruption
- ❖ Bill gazetted on 2 April 2004, not law yet
- ❖ Private member's bill "woke up" government
- ❖ Traditional bill, 60% access, 40% restriction
- ❖ Extensive consultation between MPs, private sector (esp media), civil society, academia
- ❖ Missed opportunity to link bill to ICT policy and e-governance



Guiding principles for access law

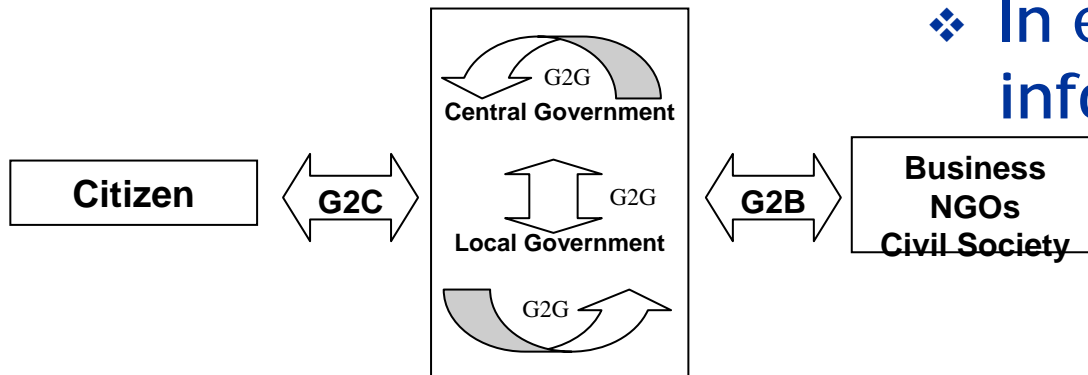
Developed by Uganda Coalition for Freedom of Information

1. Maximum disclosure of all govt information
2. Proactive disclosure, obligation to publish
3. Minimum exceptions and exemptions
4. Inexpensive, prompt and simple procedures
5. Independent appeals and enforcement
6. Facilitation of implementation of legislation
7. Openness of meetings of public bodies
8. Protection of whistle-blowers
9. Consistency, clarity and simplicity



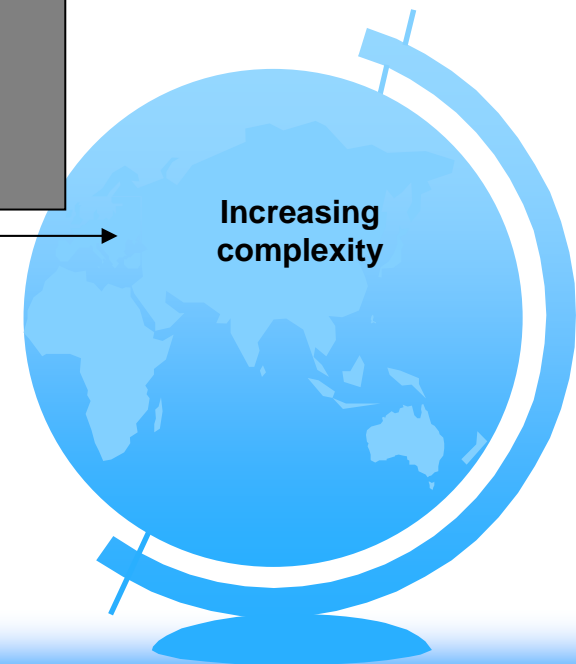
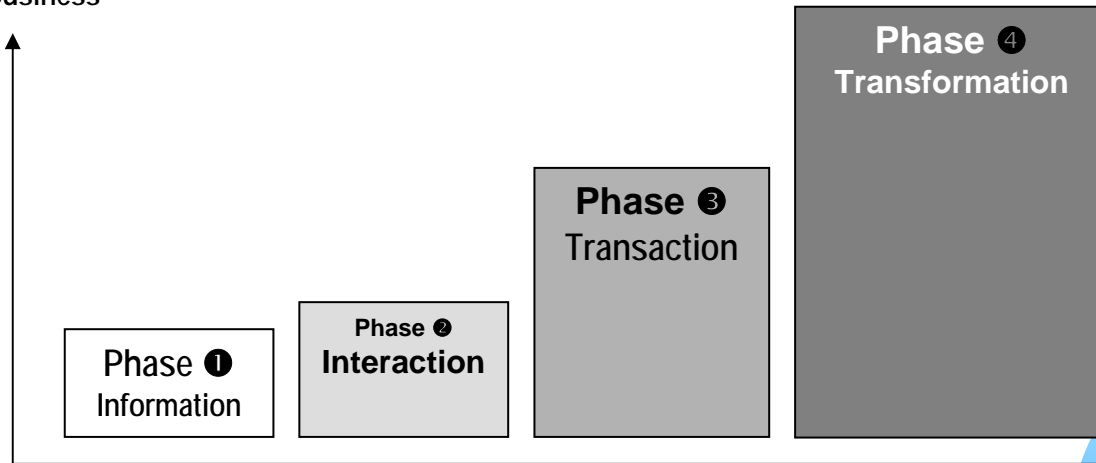
E-governance = government giving info to government agencies, citizens, business, civil society

- ❖ G2C = Govt 2 citizen
- ❖ G2G = Govt to central or local govt ministry or agency
- ❖ G2B = Govt to business, NGOs, others
- ❖ In each case govt gives information



The 4 phases of e-governance: Information, Interaction, Transaction, Transformation

Increasing value to
Citizen / Business



To embrace e-governance, ensure these are ready (a process called e-readiness)

1. Data systems infrastructure

Info gathering processing storage, dissemination, archiving

2. Legal infrastructure

Access to info is one, many more laws needed

3. Institutional infrastructure

4. Human infrastructure

Trained, in public, private, civil society

5. Technological infrastructure

6. Leadership infrastructure

In public, private, civil society, credible and serious.

... *Richard Heeks, Univ of Manchester*



Why Uganda needs an ICT policy

- ❖ International and constitutional obligations
- ❖ Coordinate info flow so no duplication & waste (central and local government)
- ❖ **Decision support (for informed decisions)**
- ❖ **Legal framework against piracy, theft, info-ethics**
- ❖ Take advantage of globalisation and knowledge (k-) economy
- ❖ Redefine policy boundaries – industry, telecoms, science & technology and ICT



Uganda's ICT policy environment

- ❖ New constitution - 1995, gender, individual merit.
- ❖ Trade liberalisation, privatisation, civil service reform, decentralisation
- ❖ **Vision 2025**
- ❖ **Poverty Reduction Strategy Plan/Paper, PRSP)**
- ❖ **Plan for the Modernisation of Agriculture (PMA)**
- ❖ **Universal Primary Education (UPE)**
- ❖ **Health and water for all; fight against HIV/AIDS**
- ❖ ***Most of these policy initiatives have been successful***



Focus areas of Uganda's ICT policy

- ❖ **Information as a resource for development**
 - ✓ ICT as **tool** in health, agriculture, education, business, environment, science and technology etc
- ❖ **Mechanisms for accessing information**
 - ✓ Mostly infrastructure (Min of Housing, Works, Com)
- ❖ **ICT as an industry**
 - ✓ E-business, e-commerce, software development, hardware manufacturing and sale (MTTI)
- ❖ **The 3 areas not mutually exclusive, but recognise the differences and formulate policy accordingly.**



Uganda's ICT policy design process

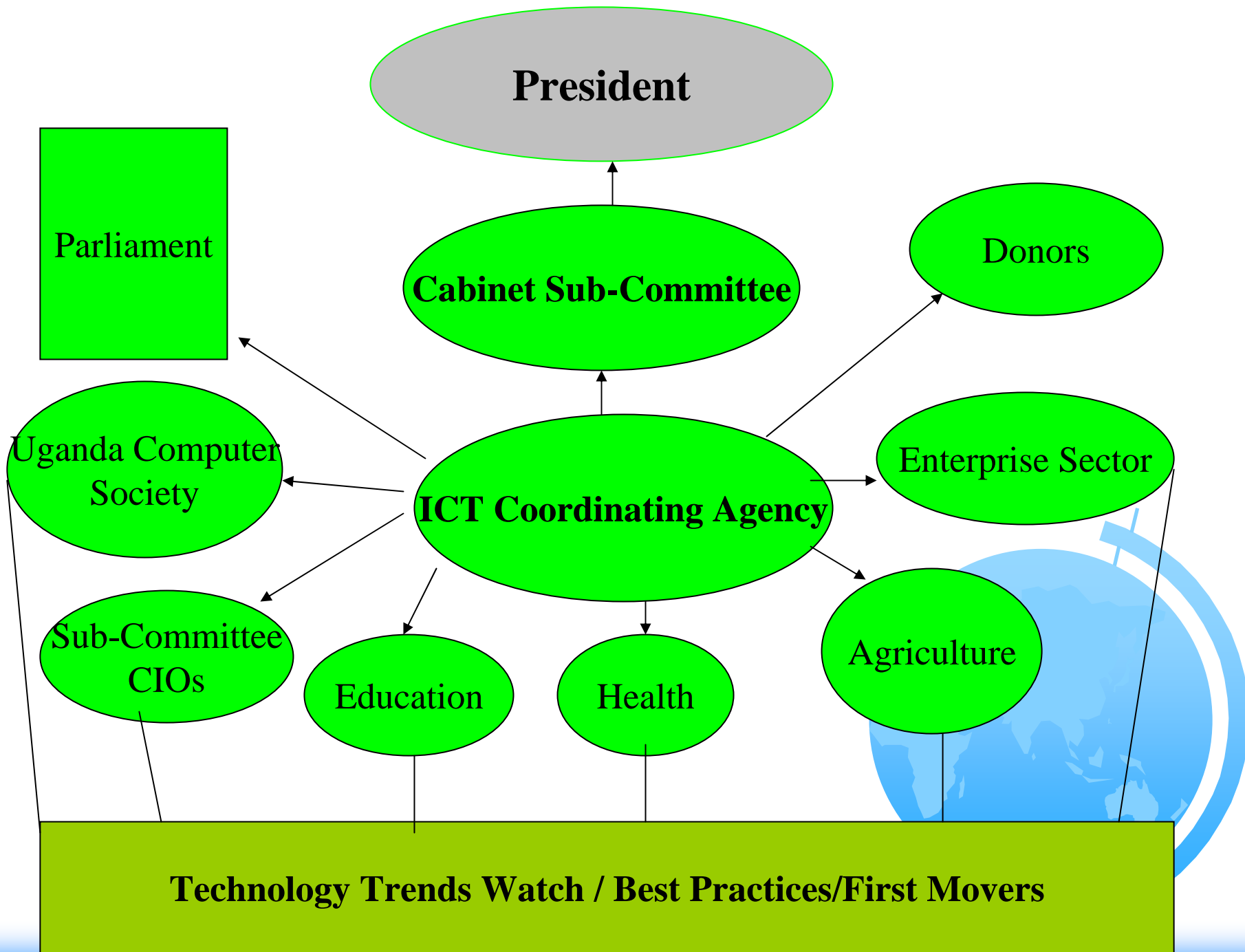
- ❖ **Key players – Council for S & T; Ministries responsible for Communication, Information; UNESCO; Makerere University, Parliament, ICT champions, ICT businesspeople, Diaspora Ugandans**
- ❖ **1998 – Field survey by Min of Information. Two stakeholder workshops, draft white paper written.**
- ❖ **1999 – Multidisciplinary National ICT Policy Task Force set up. Consulted, held 2 stakeholder workshops, produced draft document.**
- ❖ **2000-2001 - Other studies and reports by Makerere (World Bank); Uganda Communication Commission; Perwit International (private Canadian company)**
- ❖ **May 2002 – Council for S &T submitted Draft National ICT Policy Framework to Cabinet**
- ❖ **Dec 2003 – Cabinet approved draft policy framework**
- ❖ **Since 2004 – e-strategy: e-education, e-commerce, e-government**



Uganda's ICT policy vision, goals & objectives

1. Awareness raising
2. ICT functional literacy
3. Infrastructure to promote universal access
4. Promote competition and private sector investment
5. Identify financing for ICT
6. Content production
7. Access to public information
8. Promote multilingualism and national cultural identity
9. Mainstream gender in ICT programs and development
10. Encourage and promote R & D
11. Intellectual property rights protection
12. Enhance collaboration – local, regional, international





Policy Management

National ICT Coordinating Agency proposed

Semi-autonomous, self accounting

- ❖ Set up new body or transform existing one?
- ❖ **Turf wars as to location and control of agency:**
 - ✓ Ministry of Finance?
 - ✓ Ministry of Information/President's office?
 - ✓ Prime Minister's office?
 - ✓ Ministry of Communication (Uganda Comm Commission)?
 - ✓ Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST)?

Referee needed!



Some lessons from Uganda

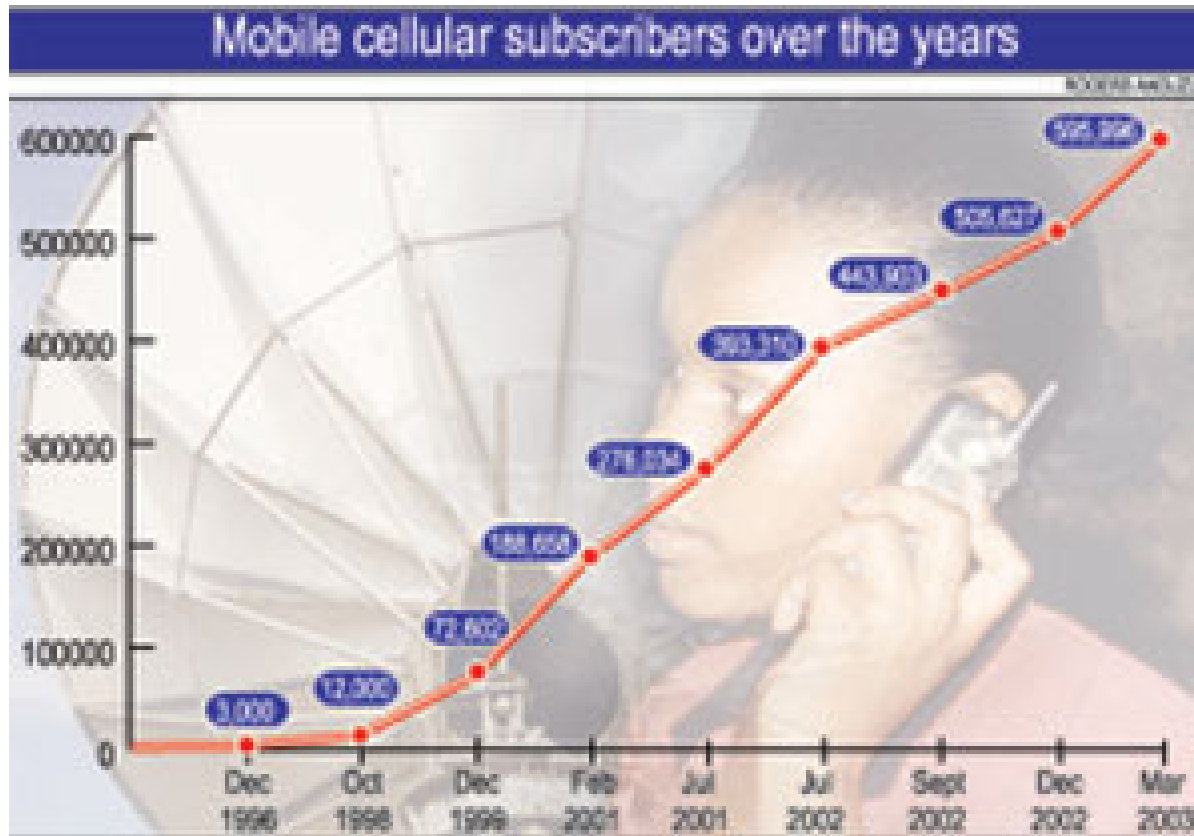


1. Good policies yield good results

Service	Before Liberalisation	After	% change
Fixed lines	46,000	61,000	25
Mobiles	3,500	1,000,000	< 99
ISPs	2	9	78
Internet users	500	11,000	95
FM stations	14	150	91
TV stations	4	20	80



Mobile phones in Uganda - age, gender and beauty do not matter



2. Partnerships common in ICT efforts - policy, strategy, implementation

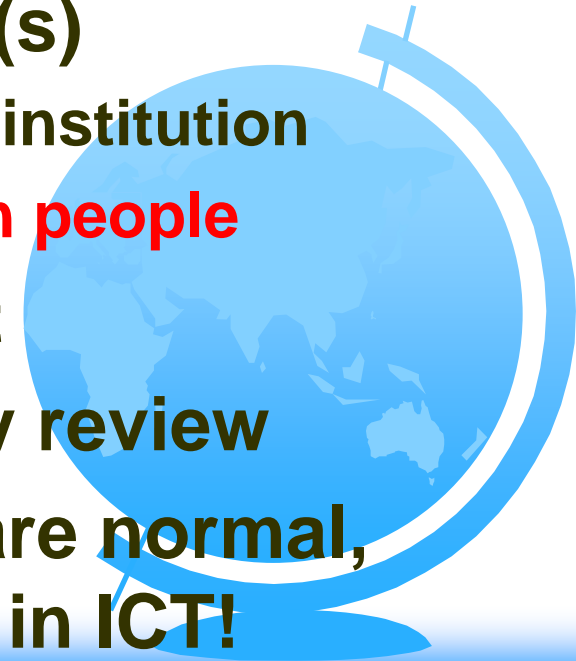
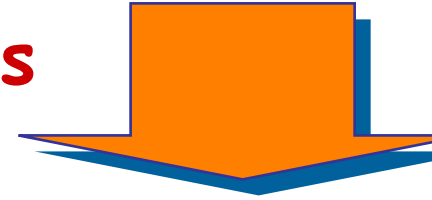
- ❖ Partnership objectives
- ❖ Partnership needs equity, transparency and mutual benefit
- ❖ Often Government tells partners (stakeholders) what to do.
This results in disaster!



3. Policy reform needs clear vision, objectives and strategies



- ❖ **Develop vision**
 - ✓ Shared, realistic
- ❖ **Advocacy – market it**
- ❖ **Institution(s)**
 - ✓ Fund the institution
 - ✓ **Focus on people**
- ❖ **Implement**
- ❖ **Constantly review**
- ❖ **Changes are normal, especially in ICT!**



4. ICT efforts need champions, disciples



- ❖ Best if champions are influential or rich
- ❖ Most ICT champions intimidate novices
- ❖ Many champions promote hype and not reality
- ❖ Technology leapfrogs, sociology does not.



5. Expect resistance



- ❖ Humans by nature resist new things
- ❖ Experts (young), intimidate old colleagues
- ❖ Introduce change gradually, involve all
- ❖ **Hire change management experts to help**
- ❖ Explain the benefits of change to all.



6. Financing, monitoring and evaluation often neglected

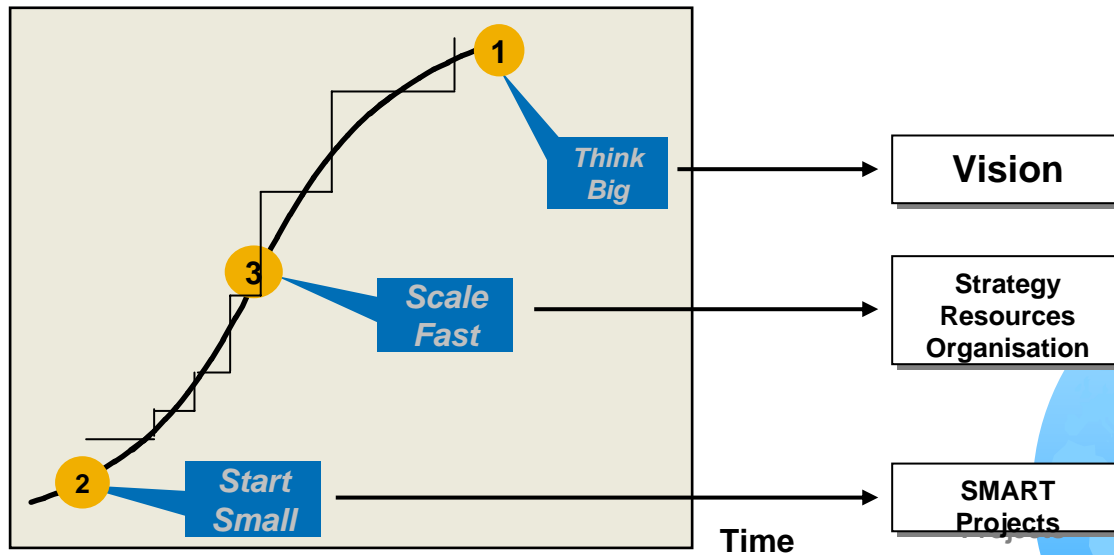


- ❖ Policy reforms have financial implications – beware
- ❖ Develop smart monitorable indicators
- ❖ Constantly monitor and review regularly
- ❖ Involve stakeholders in these processes



7. When implementing e-everything: Think big, start small, scale fast

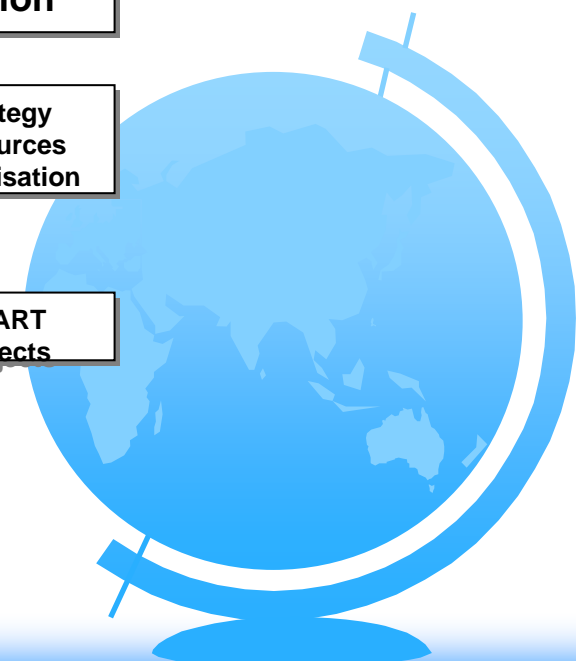
e-governance
Deployment



Vision

Strategy
Resources
Organisation

SMART
Projects



8. Avoid on your marks, get set, stop!



- ❖ False starts do occur
- ❖ Usually result of bad policy analysis or design
- ❖ In Uganda death of one minister delayed a law he had initiated for 10 years.



Back home ...

I love Uganda, at times it amazes me!

Parliament is ICT-policy compliant, ministries are not!

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MP-x-y-z-etc@parliament.go.ug but...

Minister@hotmail.com, Minister-of-State@yahoo.co.uk;
PermSec@netzero.com; Commissioner@mtn.co.ug;
Director@ugandaonline.co.ug

And this is one ministry of one country!

Ministry mandate – with others to implement the ICT policy!



Long-term goal:

Africa ICT4D MPs Network (AIMNET?)

Recommended by MPs at WSIS Prepcon,
Accra 3 Feb 2005

❖ Offices of the Network

- ✓ Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary General, sub-regional representatives. National chapters

❖ Constitution and by-laws

- ✓ Methodology to draft these

❖ Action plan

- ✓ Realistic, prepared through group action

❖ Launch of the Network

- ✓ At Addis in April 2005
- ✓ Support from national parliaments UNECA & others



BAU (business as usual) will not do.

Be determined in achieving your goals ...





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Asanteni sana!

