INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP
THE WAY AHEAD: OWNERSHIP, SUPPORT AND SUSTAINABILITY
SUZANNE VOS MP – PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

Open discussion on the establishment of an African Parliamentary Knowledge Network on ICT, legislation and documentation. Chair: Suzanne Vos MP

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION:

- We all know that everything which has been said here today will come to nothing unless decisions are made as to who is going to drive this process throughout Africa, where possible;
- We all know that this Network is precisely what Government's and Parliament's and all the citizens of Africa require for all the reasons which have been articulated;
- What more we do need?: We have the UNDESA Africa i-Parliament's Action Plan – enthusiastically endorsed by the Pan African Parliament; we have the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament assisting us to promote networking among staff of parliaments as a way to improve their capacities; we have tools and services like Akoma Ntoso and Bungeni and the SADAC Parliamentary Forum, for instance, has established a parliamentary ICT managers' forum for the SADC region;
- Is it not now time for us to be honest and to grapple with the big question: how do we make this a reality? How should this Network be structured? If there are problems, let us talk about them;
- *How do we ensure that we here, and those to whom we report, are party to the solutions required? That ICT is delivered as a tool for socio-economic development and transparent democratic and good governance throughout the Continent of Africa?*
- Do we now need to ask and discuss how we can ensure that *African political and institutional leaders -- who do have the strategic managerial capacity to make this work – can be made to realise the centrality of this new revolution of ICT which must be harnessed for the greater good of Africa and its people?*
- *Is it not these leaders who we need to get to understand that permanent mechanisms must be set up and supported to promote the dialogue and cooperation required to establish such a continental network? That we must identify those leaders who can and will step forward to get this ball rolling?;*

- Parliaments which have the capacity now or others who are prepared to commit themselves to immediately building the required capacity are, surely, needed to show that African Parliaments are prepared to help themselves and each other.
- Is it not time that we all showed that in the true spirit of Pan Africanism we will no longer live and work in isolation but that, indeed, self-help and self-reliance stands at the heart of African humanism and in all that we do as we work to build and unite Africa;
- How do we develop a harmonious and solid political and institutional dynamic to take this forward?
- Who is willing to take charge of the promotion and creation of the Network? How do we ensure political support and sustainability? Which technologies (e-modality) should be used to promote the sharing of excellence we require?

LET THE DEBATE BEGIN!

-- 0 --