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INTER PARES | Parliaments in Partnership
EU Global Project to Strengthen the Capacity of Parliaments



25th ANNIVERSARY
Implemented by
International IDEA

INTER PARES Webinar
**Parliaments’ responses to the pandemic:
are virtual parliaments here to stay?**

AGENDA

The coronavirus pandemic continues to have a profound impact on both governance priorities and democratic processes. Parliaments around the world are looking at if and how innovations they have adopted to continue functioning during the pandemic will be integrated into the ‘new normal’ of parliamentary work. Can innovations such as virtual parliaments strengthen engagement with citizens? Can governments be effectively held to account through online questioning? What are the overall impacts of COVID-19 on democratic governance, and how can parliaments address emerging threats?

As part of the International Democracy Week webinar series, the session casts a lens on whether and how the innovation process parliaments experience can be shaped to transform into structural change that reinforces democratic governance in a tangible way. The webinar aims to:

- Examine the future of **virtual parliaments** – challenges and opportunities
- Explore parliaments’ responses to the pandemic highlighted in the INTER PARES Primer “**Parliaments and crisis: Challenges and Innovations**” and “**Parliamentary responses during the COVID-19 Pandemic – Data Tracker**”
- Address the overall impact of the pandemic on democratic governance and share current findings of the **Global Monitor of COVID-19’s Impact on Democracy and Human Rights**, implemented by International IDEA

Date	Thursday, 17 September	Time	14:30 – 16:15 CEST
High-Level Closing Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora, <i>Secretary-General, International IDEA</i> ▪ Henriette Geiger, <i>Director, Directorate for People and Peace, Directorate General for Development and Cooperation (DEVCO), European Commission</i> ▪ Fabio Castaldo, <i>Vice-President, European Parliament</i> ▪ Mohamed Nasheed, <i>Speaker of the People’s Majlis, The Republic of The Maldives</i> ▪ Tomas Tobé, <i>Chair of the Development Committee, European Parliament</i> 		
Practitioner Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Jonathan Murphy, <i>Head of Programme, INTER PARES Parliaments in Partnership, International IDEA</i> ▪ Dr Piedad García-Escudero Márquez, <i>Clerk and former Secretary-General of the Spanish Cortes Generales; Professor of Constitutional Law, Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM)</i> ▪ Keiba Jacob, <i>Procedural Clerk and Head of the Financial Scrutiny Unit, Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago</i> ▪ Brian Caesar, <i>Clerk of the Senate, Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago</i> 		
Moderator	Marilyn Neven , <i>Programme Manager, International IDEA</i>		

14:30 – 14:55	International Democracy Week High-Level Closing Session
14:30 – 14:35	Welcoming remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora, <i>Secretary-General, International IDEA</i>
14:35 – 14:40	Impact of COVID-19 on democratic governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Henriette Geiger, <i>Director, Directorate for People and Peace, Directorate General for Development and Cooperation (DEVCO), European Commission</i>
14:40 – 14:45	The European Parliament's response to COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fabio Castaldo, <i>Vice-President, European Parliament</i>
14:45 – 14:50	Setting the scene: The People's Majlis virtual parliament <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mohamed Nasheed, <i>Speaker of the People's Majlis, The Republic of The Maldives</i>
14:50 – 14:55	Inside the Parliament during the Pandemic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tomas Tobé, <i>Chair of the Development Committee, European Parliament</i>
15:00 – 16:15	Practitioner session: Parliaments' responses to the pandemic
15:00 – 15:10	Parliaments in crisis – Parliaments' responses to the pandemic & INTER PARES Data Tracker <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Jonathan Murphy, <i>Head of Programme, INTER PARES Parliaments in Partnership, International IDEA</i>
15:10 – 15:20	The functioning of parliament in times of COVID-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr Piedad García-Escudero Márquez, <i>Clerk and former Secretary-General of the Spanish Cortes Generales; Professor of Constitutional Law, Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM)</i>
15:25 – 15:40	Lessons from INTER PARES partner parliaments: The Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago's response to the COVID-19 global pandemic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Keiba Jacob, <i>Procedural Clerk and Head of the Financial Scrutiny Unit, Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago</i> ▪ Brian Caesar, <i>Clerk of the Senate, Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago</i>
15:40 – 16:10	Q&A: Are virtual parliaments here to stay?
16:10 – 16:15	Closing Remarks

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