



Resolution

adopted by the Plenary Assembly of the Section of Archives and Archivists of Parliaments and Political Parties in the International Council on Archives (SPP/ICA) at its annual meeting in Dakar on 22 October 2010

(Dakar Declaration of SPP/ICA)

Considering

- the global mission of the ICA and its sub-organizations, as being recently expressed in the Universal Declaration on Archives adopted at the annual general meeting of ICA in Oslo on 17 September 2010,
- the proceedings of the conference on the subject of "Modernization and Sustainability: Law-making Support in the 21st Century" held in Dakar on 21-22 October 2010,
- the impact of technological change on the professional challenges archivists have to face, and
- the responsibility of the present generation to preserve its memory for future generations,

SPP/ICA holds:

1. Long-term preservation of information in general, and digital information in particular, already needs to receive attention in the process of its production.
2. Legislative and legal information being of essential importance to the democratic political system governed by the principle of the rule of law, keeping such information accessible and interpretable in the long run is required to guarantee transparently an unbroken chain of legitimization of the legal system, and in the end is a core democratic function, too,
3. Sustainable records managements and efficient management of archives, thus, is a prerequisite for ensuring a stable development of democratic governance and societal integration.
4. The information produced by the key actors in the democratic legislative process, in particular by the parliaments as the legislative bodies as well as by the political

parties as mediating bodies between civil society and parliaments, therefore deserves current attention as to its long-term preservation.

5. Along with the ongoing technology changes, this attention should also be given to legal and legislative information produced and kept in electronic form.
6. In order to ensure interoperability in the process of producing, processing, exchanging, and storing electronic information, as well as its long-term accessibility and interpretability, the use of open standards is to be promoted.
7. Once extensible standard solutions are made available, for example within the framework of the "Africa i-Parliament Initiative", sharing, adapting, and using such solutions is an appropriate way not only to save money, but also to improve the exchange of information and the deepening of mutual understanding within regional and global communities, and at the same time to support the long-term preservation of the information in question.
8. The major responsibility for safeguarding democratic memory is incumbent on archivists. The task of archivists, within the given framework, is not only to receive, assess, and preserve information produced by the actors in the political system, but also to give advice to the producers of information, in order to avoid breaches in the chain of its preservation, and even to produce actively new kinds of records, like oral history records, in order to also preserve the unwritten memory.
9. To support each other mutually in performing their professional duties, archivists have developed a wide scope of concepts of networking, reaching from the bilateral "twinning" concept and multilateral regional cooperation to global interaction within the ICA. Such networking will play an even more important role in the future, with the challenges becoming more and more global ones, too.
10. From the particular point of view of SPP/ICA, the Dakar conference is to be seen as a decisive step towards opening up its own scope of networking to the African continent. That is why from Dakar we are sending out a warm invitation to African parliamentary and political party archives to join our professional program, and work together in coping with the challenges archives and archivists are facing today.

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