The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) issued Recommendations for Transparent Governance in 2004 and Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures in 2006. Since these recommendations were made, many other parliamentary associations have adopted their own sets of benchmarks, drawing heavily on the CPA Benchmarks. These include the Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie, the Southern African Development Community – Parliamentary Forum and the Confederation of Parliaments of the Americas. Within the CPA, a series of seminars have been held to share regional perspectives on the Benchmarks. Several Parliaments have used the CPA Benchmarks to review their own institutional performance.

In addition, an increasing number of parliamentary monitoring organizations (PMOs) around the world are actively engaged in monitoring the work of Parliaments, using the Benchmarks and other tools. PMOs have also taken an active role in developing their own benchmarks and standards, most notably through the adoption of the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness. The Declaration drew on the CPA Benchmarks and on the recommendations of earlier CPA Study Groups, among other sources. The Declaration is currently supported by more than 120 PMOs from over 74 countries, as well as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe’s Parliamentary Assembly.

Further, citizens are increasingly using information and communications technologies (ICTs) – including mobile and social media – in their daily lives. Parliaments, Parliamentarians and PMOs are harnessing innovative ICTs to enhance the ability of citizens to provide input into parliamentary work. As the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness states, “The onset of the digital era has altered fundamentally the context for public usage of parliamentary information and the expectations of citizens for good governance....Emerging technology is empowering