

Abstract geometric lines in the top left corner of the slide, consisting of several white lines of varying lengths and angles that intersect to form a series of overlapping triangles and polygons.

**THE APPLICATION OF ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE IN LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS
(INCLUDING LEGISLATIVE DRAFTING,
PETITIONS, RESEARCH, COMMITTEE
BUSINESS)**

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PARLIAMENTS

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The usage of artificial intelligence in parliaments should focus on increasing the effectiveness of legislative services in ways that do not disrupt institutional traditions and the reliability of information generated by parliament. AI shouldn't make parliament faster, but they should provide better understanding of the existing parliamentary information - Bússola Tech Report 2024



AI in African Parliaments

- AI adoption in parliamentary systems across Africa is still in its early stages, with varying levels of implementation across countries.
- No widespread, full-scale AI adoption in most African parliaments
 - South Africa has been implementing AI-powered Hansard transcription system as well as the use of chatbots
 - Kenya adopted use of AI in Hansard reporting
 - Rwanda launched AI Centre to boost technological advances for all aspects of development and sectors
- The African Union's adoption of the Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy and African Digital Compact



How can AI be leveraged to improve legislative business?

- AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants can provide free legal advice and information,
 - helping individuals who cannot afford access to legal services e.g interpretation of the law – Esheria vs ChatGPT
- Bridge various divides
 - geographical divide as it will facilitate remote access to better serve people in rural or underserved areas.
 - lingual – ability to programme multiple languages to suit country demographics as well as outside (allows for better civic and general engagement)
- Help streamline legislative business and document processing
 - Mobile applications for remote use e.g. receiving petitions
 - AI to ease communication and parliament processes e.g. Zoom etc
 - assist in handling high volume of documentation
- Translation tools to bridge language barriers in parliament business and legislative processes
- Predictive models to identify and prioritize issues especially for drafting legislation

- **AI in Legislative Drafting**

- Aim at ensuring consistency and comprehensiveness
 - undertaking comparative analysis of existing laws as well as other jurisdictions
 - review and investigate legal gaps or conflicts or ambiguities
 - assist in reviewing e.g. proofing, grammar, language and context
 - assist in developing regulatory impact assessments





• Research and AI

- Digital library - laws and materials-hansards in multiple languages
 - advantageous especially for real-time issues for instance
- Rapid analysis of large document collections
- Cross-jurisdictional legislative analysis
- Historical precedent identification
 - critical for areas of legislative business with loaded history and priority for the country
- Regulatory impact assessment of previous legislation
 - post promulgation assessment of law is critical
- Real-time policy research and fact-checking with the Hansards
 - speed in reviewing large volumes of information compared to humans

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- Use of chatbots and supporting users – multi-lingual so can help parliamentarians
 - Better understanding of parliamentary processes as well as information e.g. data, reports, etc
 - provides plain language understanding of laws and policies
- Enhanced evidence-based decision making
 - easy access to budget impact analysis, economic forecasting or social impact prediction
- Better organization of committee business
 - Transcription and summarization
 - Coordination and collaboration among parliamentarians including work with stakeholders
- Increased public engagement
 - access to parliament and parliamentarians by citizenry
 - support analysis of large volumes of public submissions.
 - Stakeholder input into parliamentary business as well as government business
- Monitoring and evaluation of own work as well as government



What are the main challenges in integrating AI into existing parliaments in Africa?

- Shortage of AI expertise and training for legal professionals and more so parliamentarians
- Funding constraints for digitization more so AI implementation and maintenance
- Cultural resistance to technological change in traditional legal systems
- Concerns about job displacement for staff
- Limited adaptability to local legal contexts and languages
- Digital divide hinders equal access to ICT
 - Lack of necessary digital infrastructure to support AI technologies.
- AI systems require large amounts of data to function effectively, but access to high-quality, representative data is often limited in African countries.
- The high cost of implementing and maintaining AI systems can be a barrier, especially in countries with limited financial resources.



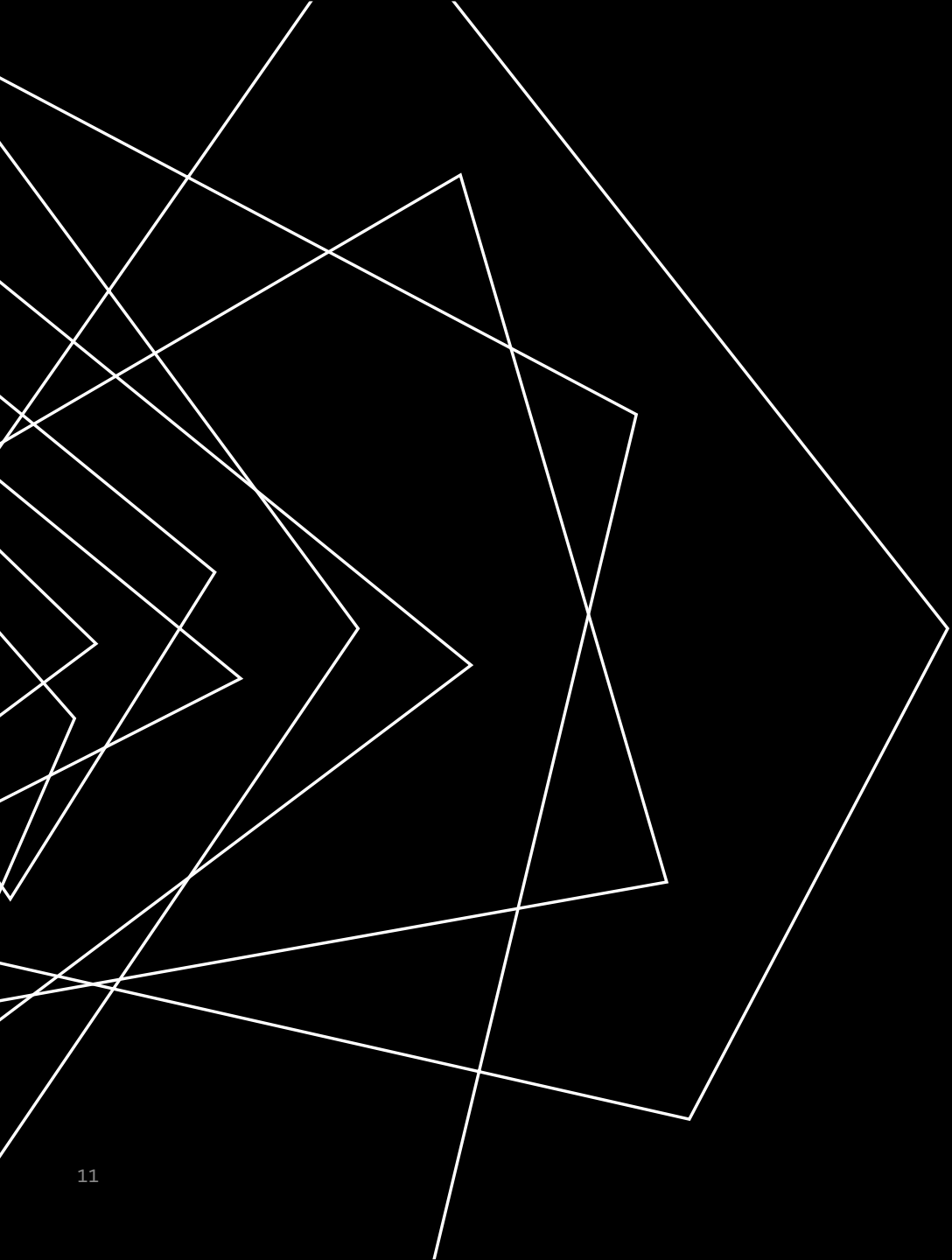
What specific guidelines or policy frameworks should be developed to govern the ethical use of AI in Africa's Parliament? How can these frameworks be harmonized across different countries

- Data Privacy and Security: Robust data protection laws to ensure that sensitive legal information is safeguarded - Malawi passed its Data Protection this year
- Bias Mitigation: measures to reduce biases in AI algorithms, such as using diverse datasets and conducting regular audits of AI systems.
- Transparency and Accountability: put in place mechanisms if AI is used for decision-making to be transparent as possible.
- Pan-African Collaboration: Harmonizing AI policies are consistent and adherence to ethical standards - African Union work on the strategy to ensure this.
 - Alignment with global best practices, such as the EU AI Act but ensure the African context and nuances
- Human oversight
 - develop ethical guidelines for its use
- Ongoing monitoring and auditing of AI systems
 - conduct frequent audits of AI systems to detect and correct biases

FINAL WORDS

- It's important to note that while AI holds promise for parliaments, implementation would need to be carefully planned and executed, taking into account the country's specific needs like efficiencies and governance, challenges, and cultural context.
- Any AI solutions would need to be developed or adapted specifically for a country's legal system and societal norm
- AI highly needs targeted investment in digital infrastructure, capacity-building initiatives, and the development of policies that promote the ethical and equitable use of AI
- What needs to be underscored from a parliamentary perspective is the need to always ensure compliance to the law and ethics
 - Windhoek Statement on Artificial Intelligence in Southern Africa (7 countries and Malawi is a signatory)
- AI shall assist with ensuring Parliaments have evidence-based legislative processes
- AI's use can be best leveraged to ensure better citizen engagement and service delivery





THANK YOU

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