



TEMPLATE FOR ACTION REFLECTION NOTE (ARN)

GLOBAL E-GOVERNANCE SUB-PRACTICE EVENT

1-3 SEPTEMBER, 2005

DAKAR, SENEGAL

Guidelines for drafting an Action Reflection Note (ARN).

An Action Reflection Note (ARN) consists of a one-pager that explains, in a concise manner, the overall impact and lessons learned of the project, programme or activity at hand. In general, some guidelines for assessing the project should include the following answers to:

- Did the project achieve what it set out to achieve, and how did it do so?
- What were the challenges and obstacles?
- Did the project have positive outcomes which were not mentioned as goals in the action plan?
- What is the most positive impact you think the project has had on the stakeholders/beneficiaries in terms of human development (also, emphasize {if applicable}, ownership, capacity building, gender and partnership building)?
- What stage is the project at? Very briefly, what is the exit strategy? (If it has not been formally established, what are your thoughts on how the project may become sustainable)
- If you had to recommend someone on the lessons learned (LL) of the project, what would the LLs be?

ARN Template

Programme Officer (if different from author of ARN):	Oswaldo Castilho and Claudia Valenzuela
Author of ARN:	Claudia Valenzuela
Title of Project:	Virtual Community to the Legislative Power in Brazil
Total budget for project::	USD 50 million (IDB loan) USD 32 million (UNDP Project)
UNDP contribution:	None
Timeframe of initiative Start date: End date:	1998 to date
Introduction (One paragraph)	Interlegis Programme has been indicated as a model to the modernization process of Legislative Power. This is the first initiative known that aims at creating a virtual community of Legislative Power.

<p>Objectives (One paragraph)</p>	<p>Create a virtual community to the Legislative Power through the use of new information technologies (internet, videoconference, etc.), providing the integration of more than 2.500 municipal legislative chambers, 27 State legislative Chambers and the civil society.</p>
<p>Analysis (One paragraph)</p>	<p>Were the objectives met? How?</p> <p>Interlegis Programme has consolidated its objectives and is present now in almost 3.000 legislative houses throughout Brazilian territory. Some software programmes were developed to improve Legislative bodies' capacity to legislate by the use of collaborative networks. The project is in its final phase and it is expected to be continued through the signature of a new Loan Agreement.</p> <p>Challenges and obstacles?</p> <p>Difficulties in Integrating Legislative Houses: Brazilian Legislative Power institutions are characterized by a low level of integration among federal, state and municipal spheres which brings difficulties to the articulation among those. This situation has been generated not only by the heterogenic composition of Legislative Chambers but also by the incipient level of information technology availability and use.</p> <p>Interlegis Programme intended to provide IT structure as well as IT systems development for the creation of a real, integrated and articulated Virtual Community of Legislative Power. This main objective is partially achieved since the established situation (lack of IT structure and knowledge, low level of integration) had to be reversed in the first place in order to launch Programme products and services.</p> <p>Political Interventions: since the project is launched by the Federal Senate – “the major political House”, political intervention have interfered in project activities and management. During the execution of Interlegis Programme, there were subsequent changes of Project Managers, which led to serious delay in project work plan.</p> <p>Sustainability: this is an important point that is being discussed at this moment. It is fundamental to plan the sustainability strategy since there were huge IT investments as well as services/ systems development that must be continued.</p> <p>Any additional positive objectives that were not outlined in the action plan? Explain impact on beneficiaries towards achieving human development (if appropriate, emphasizing ownership, partnership building, gender and capacity building). What is the exit strategy, also, your thoughts and reflections on the project's sustainability? Lastly, please provide recommendations on the potential of replicating the project.</p>

<p>Lessons Learned (One paragraph)</p>	<p>What are the lessons that can be taken from the above analysis?</p> <p>Lessons learned are reflections on past experience that can improve future activities. A lesson learned statement can be made of a one-sentence summary of what happened, followed by a one-sentence recommendation.</p> <p>Please make one short bulleted statement for each lesson.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Maybe the most important lesson is that the Programme was too dense to be implemented in 5 years only. The experience led us to verify that it takes a long time to create a Community around a theme or a cause and then to consolidate this Community as a sustainable, live and motivated institution.- Complementary management bodies should be thought for the next experience, so that political issues could not interfere so severely in project decisions.
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