

## JOINING THE INITIATIVES AND EXPERIENCES OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS FOR AN EFFECTIVE CAMPAIGN AGAINST CHILD TRAFFICKING AND LABOUR



Regional seminar jointly organized by the ECOWAS Parliament, the Sahel and West Africa Club/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (SWAC-OECD) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

ECOWAS Parliament, Abuja, **12-14 June 2012**

Geneva, May 2012

Dear Mr. Speaker,  
Dear Madam Speaker

The joint project of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Sahel and West Africa Club/Organisation of economic cooperation and development (SWAC/OECD) with respect to the contribution of Parliament to the fight against child trafficking and labour will soon enter its third and final phase which is a regional seminar to be held soon.

We are pleased to invite you to this event jointly organized by the parliament of the Economic community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Sahel and West Africa Club/Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (SWAC OECD) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) on the theme of **“Joining the initiatives and experiences of national parliaments for an effective campaign against child trafficking and labour”** at Abuja, from **12 to 14 June 2012**.

Concrete measures taken during the first two phases included the development of a roadmap for parliamentary action based on the conclusions of the Regional Conference held in Cotonou in May 2010.

As provided for in this roadmap, national activities have been conducted in Benin, Burkina Faso, Gabon and Togo. The implementation of action plans developed in these countries has produced some encouraging results and helped to introduce good practices in the fight against child trafficking and labour. Some of the reforms carried out have also confirmed the need, as recommended during the Cotonou Regional Conference, for closer coordination of national efforts and strategies to ensure an identical and concerted response to traffickers in this part of the continent, where these scourges have been particularly prevalent.

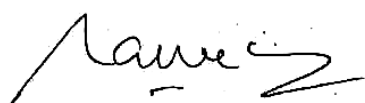
To this end, the character and regional action of the ECOWAS Parliament eminently qualify it to perform such a function. In addition to sharing and capitalizing on national experiences, this seminar will also examine all possible ways for this regional institution to play the required uniting role with a view to addressing these scourges collectively through a regional approach.

Attached please find the registration form which should be completed and returned to us no later than **31 May 2012**, as well as useful documents related to this seminar.

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that, in keeping with usual IPU practice, all matters relating to visas, hotel reservations and transportation are to be handled by the

participants themselves. To facilitate hotel reservations, we have attached a hotel reservation form that participants can use if they wish to.

It is our hope that your parliament will be represented to this seminar. Please accept, Mr. Speaker, Madam Speaker, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Ike Ekweremadu  
President of the Parliament of  
ECOWAS



François de Donnea  
President of the Sahel and  
West Africa Club



Anders B. Johnsson  
Secretary General of the  
Inter-Parliamentary Union

Encl.:

- Information note on the seminar
- Provisional agenda
- Registration form
- General information
- Hotel reservation form