

# The role of parliaments in the implementation of international and regional human rights instruments

Seminar for members and staff of parliament in French-speaking African countries organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in collaboration with the National Assembly of Burkina Faso

OUAGA 2000 CONFERENCE CENTRE, OUAGADOUGOU, 1-3 OCTOBER 2007



Geneva, 31 July 2007

Madam President,  
Mr. President

We have pleasure in inviting your parliament to participate in the regional seminar on *The role of parliaments in the implementation of international and regional human rights instruments*. Organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in collaboration with the National Assembly of Burkina Faso, the seminar will take place from **1 to 3 October 2007** at the "Ouaga 2000" Conference Centre in Ouagadougou.

As the first of a series of activities to be conducted under the two-year project, this seminar aims to provide general information on the system of United Nations treaty bodies and on the role parliaments can play in the implementation of their recommendations. The functioning of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights will also be examined.

The purpose of this pilot project is to build the capacity of parliamentarians in French-speaking Africa thereby enabling them to effectively carry out their role as the guardians of human rights.

Following this first regional seminar, the project aims to target four parliaments that will undertake to elaborate a participatory strategy with a view to overcoming obstacles encountered on the ground in their respective regarding ratification, drawing up reports and implementing the recommendations of treaty bodies and of the Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

This project will draw to an end at the close of a second regional seminar, which will bring together all participating parliaments to allow them to have an exchange on the work conducted at the national level and thereby lay the foundations of future parliamentary cooperation in the region.

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Please find attached the provisional programme of this first three-day seminar, which is open to all members of parliament and parliamentary staff. The final programme, with the list of speakers will be sent to you by mid-September 2007. The themes on the agenda will be presented by parliamentarians and human rights experts.

As is customary at IPU meetings, we invite all parliaments to send a gender-balanced delegation, ensuring furthermore that the different political parties are represented therein. Please find attached a registration form, which must be completed and returned to the address indicated no later than **8 September 2007**.

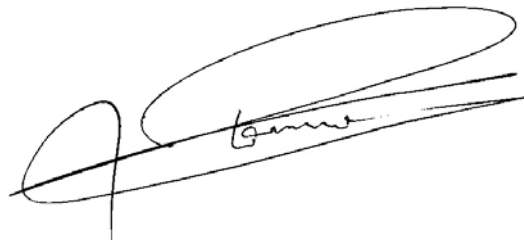
We should like to draw your attention to the fact that all matters relating to visas, hotel accommodation and ground transfers will be taken care of by participants. In order to facilitate hotel reservations, we are attaching a hotel reservation form, which participants may wish to use.

I look forward to the participation of your parliament at the seminar.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anders', with a vertical red line to its right.

Anders B. Johnsson  
Secretary General  
Inter-Parliamentary Union

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roch Marc Christian Kaboré', with a horizontal line below it.

Roch Marc Christian Kaboré  
President  
National Assembly  
of Burkina Faso

enc.: Provisional programme  
Seminar registration form and hotel reservation form  
General information