



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Promoting child nutrition in Western and Central Africa

Inter-regional parliamentary seminar co-organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in collaboration with alive&thrive and the support of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso

27-29 June 2017, Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)

Geneva, 10 May 2017

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

It is our pleasure to invite your parliament to participate in the regional parliamentary seminar on the subject *Promoting child nutrition in Western and Central Africa*, which will be held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 27 to 29 June 2017.

According to UNICEF, an estimated one million children under the age of five die from undernutrition-related causes each year in the Western and Central Africa region (WCAR). Among the 15 countries in the world with the worst under-five mortality statistics, 11 are in WCAR. The prevalence of child stunting equals or exceeds 40 per cent in eight countries in the region.

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UNICEF with the collaboration of alive&thrive, this seminar will be hosted by the National Assembly of Burkina Faso. Its objective is to enhance the understanding of parliamentarians and of parliamentary staff of issues related to malnutrition and stunting, including the damaging effects inaction to address inadequate nutrition can have on countries' economic development. The seminar will pay particular attention to parliament's role in tracking and earmarking budgets for scaling up nutrition and to other powers (law-making, oversight and representation) parliamentarians can use to help reduce malnutrition rates and boost economic development in their communities and countries.

In addition, the seminar will consider parliamentary strategies based on best practices at the national level and offer the opportunity to explore possibilities for parliamentary initiatives to help implement the World Health Assembly (WHA) Nutrition Targets.

We hope that your parliament will be able to participate in this seminar. We encourage parliaments to send a delegation of no more than five members (parliamentarians and parliamentary staff) who are themselves directly involved in this work, and to ensure a balanced composition of the delegations in terms of political affiliation and gender.

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As usual, participants will be asked to make all their own arrangements for visas, accommodation and travel. To assist us with hotel bookings, we enclose a reservation form which we kindly ask participants to fill out. We would be grateful if you could let us know before **9 June 2017** whether your parliament intends to participate in the seminar. All of the documents and forms related to this meeting are available on-line from the website of the IPU <http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/futrmets.htm>.

We very much hope that your parliament will be able to participate, and look forward to hearing from you.



Martin Chungong
Secretary General
Inter-Parliamentary Union



Salifou Diallo
Speaker of the National Assembly
Burkina Faso

Encl.:

- Concept note on the seminar
- Provisional programme
- General information
- Registration form
- Hotel reservation form