

SECURITY SECTOR REFORM IN THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONTEXTS

Regional Seminar for Parliaments from South-East Asia and the Asia-Pacific region hosted by the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand and organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in cooperation with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces

Phuket, 1-2 September 2006



CONCEPT PAPER

The Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Parliament of Thailand, in cooperation with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), will be organizing a regional seminar for parliaments from South-East Asia and the wider Asia-Pacific region on security sector reform in the national and regional contexts.

This seminar will be held in:

**Phuket (Thailand)
on 1 and 2 September 2006**

The precise venue of the seminar will be determined at the beginning of July and posted on the IPU web site <http://www.ipu.org> under the section "Future meetings".

OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR

Against the backdrop of a constantly evolving security environment and new thinking about the concept of security, the seminar aims to create a better understanding of the security concerns that countries face in South-East Asia at the national and regional levels, and provide an impetus for increased parliamentary oversight of the security sector at the domestic level, and regionally, to further cooperation between parliaments on security issues.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

The provisional programme of the seminar is hereto attached.

RESOURCE PERSONS

The IPU, the Parliament of Thailand and DCAF will identify resource persons, including from the ASEAN+3 region, who will make presentations and lead discussions on the various themes of the seminar.

PARTICIPATION

The seminar targets first and foremost members of parliament and parliamentary staff from national parliaments of the ASEAN+3 region, but is also open to parliaments from the larger Asia-Pacific region. Each parliament will be invited to send a delegation of up to a maximum of 8 persons, including support staff. All participating parliaments will be asked to designate their participants in light of their work on security and defence issues, and to cover the cost of their travel and subsistence. In line with IPU's stated objective to promote partnership between men and women in

political life, participating parliaments should aim at including an equal number of men and women delegates. Delegations should further be representative of the political configuration of the respective parliaments.

In addition to parliaments, relevant international, regional and national organizations may be invited to participate in the seminar.

ORGANIZATION OF PROCEEDINGS

In accordance with IPU's practice, all participants will have equal speaking rights. In order for the discussions to be as fruitful and enriching as possible, the following arrangements have been foreseen thus far:

- (a) There will be no list of speakers on any agenda item. After an agenda item has been introduced by the resource persons, the floor will be open to participants for questions and comments.
- (b) Experience has shown that this kind of meeting is not suited to the reading out of pre-prepared statements. Subject to arrangements which the Chair may make to suit the circumstances, oral statements may not exceed **three minutes**. Participants may, however, speak several times on each item, particularly to respond to other statements.
- (c) A Rapporteur will be called upon in the afternoon of the second day to sum up the work of the seminar at its concluding session.
- (d) The Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union will prepare a publication on the proceedings of the seminar, for distribution to the participating parliaments, the IPU governing bodies and interested organizations.

The debates will take place in English. Delegations who wish to have interpretation into their own language are kindly requested to inform the Parliament of Thailand, which will arrange for interpretation booths and necessary equipment. The delegations concerned will be responsible for recruiting and covering the expenses of their interpreters.

DOCUMENTS

Written texts of the presentations made by the resource persons will be distributed to participants as they become available.

To the extent possible and for the information of participants, IPU's Secretariat will make available background documentation relevant to the issues under discussion.

Participants wishing to distribute to their colleagues relevant documentation will be required to provide it in sufficient quantities and place it on a table set aside for that purpose.