



THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT IN CONFLICT PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT IN WEST AFRICA



Regional Conference organized jointly by
the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Abidjan, 28-30 October 2013

Geneva, 15 August 2013

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

We are pleased to invite you to the Regional Conference on **The role of parliament in conflict prevention and management in West Africa**, which will take place in Abidjan from 28 to 30 October 2013.

For several years West Africa has been the theatre of socio-political crises and recurrent conflicts. As a result, countries in the region have been facing growing instability, which in turn has weakened the foundations of the rule of law, unravelled the social fabric and jeopardized the achievement of socioeconomic development, which is a prerequisite of lasting peace.

As an institution that is representative of the people, parliament must make a significant contribution to conflict prevention and management as part of its mandate to defend the interests of the population.

The purpose of the Regional Conference is to sensitize parliamentarians to the pivotal role they must play in conflict prevention and management, inform them of relevant regional and international instruments and mechanisms and encourage them to increase dialogue-based initiatives aimed at defusing or peacefully settling such conflicts. These efforts should enable parliamentarians to play an important part in fostering social cohesion.

Participants will be invited to draw up guidelines to facilitate their involvement in this process at both the national and regional levels.

We therefore invite you to designate a delegation composed of a maximum of six members. In keeping with usual IPU practice, each delegation should include both men and women and reflect the political composition of your parliament. We kindly ask that you complete the attached registration form and return it to the addresses indicated therein by **20 September 2013 at the latest**.

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We wish to draw your attention to the fact that, as is customary at the IPU, all matters related to participants' visas, hotel accommodation and transport must be handled by the participants themselves. To facilitate hotel reservations, also attached is a general information document with the different categories of hotels proposed as well as a reservation form which participants may use.

We do hope that you will be able to participate in this event.

Yours sincerely,



Guillaume Kigbafori Soro
President
National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire



Anders B. Johansson
Secretary General
Inter-Parliamentary Union

Enclosures:

Provisional Agenda
Information Note
General Information
Registration Form
Hotel Registration Form