

Parliamentary oversight in the area of security in West Africa: disseminating best practices in ECOWAS Member States

Regional Parliamentary workshop

Hosted by the National Assembly of Mali and organized by the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the African Security Sector Network

Bamako, 28 - 29 November 2011



Geneva, 12 October 2011

Dear Madam Speaker,
Dear Mr. Speaker,

We are pleased to invite your Parliament to take part in a regional parliamentary workshop on ***Parliamentary oversight in the area of security in West Africa: Disseminating best practices in ECOWAS Members States***, which the National Assembly of Mali will be hosting on 28 and 29 November 2011. This workshop is a joint initiative of the National Assembly of Mali, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, and the African Security Sector Network. It will take place at the ***Azalai Grand Hotel*** in Bamako.

Parliamentary security oversight at both national and regional levels together with healthy relations between civil society and the security sector are complementary and essential aspects for sustainable democratic governance in West Africa. In the light of these challenges DCAF, IPU, ASSN and the National Assembly of Mali, in line with their respective mandates, are eager to help strengthen democratic governance in the region.

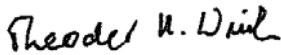
Following the regional seminar in Dakar, held on 21 and 22 September 2011, the Bamako meeting aims to strengthen the capacity of parliaments effectively to address security concerns by placing the emphasis on good parliamentary practice in carrying out effective oversight of the security sector. The ultimate objective of the seminar is to enhance the contribution of parliaments to security sector governance at the national level and to further parliamentary cooperation on security issues at the regional level through the ECOWAS Parliament.

Please find attached a concept note and provisional seminar programme, a registration form and a hotel reservation form. All parliaments are invited to send a delegation of a maximum of three persons, preferably two members of security and defence committees and one parliamentary staff member servicing these committees. In keeping with IPU practice, participating delegations will be required to cover their own costs. The host Parliament will greet delegations at the airport and assist with room reservations at the Azalai Grand Hotel, which will also be the venue of the meeting.

Looking forward to the participation of your Parliament in the seminar, we remain,

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Theodor H. Winkler



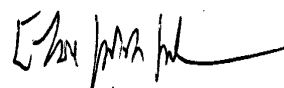
Director of the Geneva
Centre for the Democratic
Control of Armed Forces

Mr. Dioncounda Traoré



Speaker of the National
Assembly of Mali

Prof. Eboe Hutchful



Chair, Interim
Executive Secretary
of ASSN

Anders B. Johnsson



Secretary General of
Inter-Parliamentary
Union

Annex: Concept note
 Provisional programme
 Seminar registration form
 Hotel registration form