



CHEMIN DU POMMIER 5
CASE POSTALE 330
1218 LE GRAND-SACONNEX / GENEVE (SUISSE)

TELEPHONE (41.22) 919 41 50
FAX (41.22) 919 41 60
E-MAIL postbox@mail.ipu.org

Geneva, 31 October 2005

Dear Madam Speaker, Dear Mr Speaker,

I am pleased to write to you regarding the Regional Conference for African Parliaments on "Violence against women, abandoning female genital mutilation: the role of national parliaments" which will take place in Dakar (Senegal) on 4 and 5 December 2005.

This Conference, which is hosted by the National Assembly of Senegal, is organized by the African Parliamentary Union, in cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The primary objective of the Regional Conference is to ensure the political commitment of members of parliament at the continental level to abandoning the traditional harmful practice of FGM by sensitizing and mobilizing them on the issue. It also aims to permit an exchange of views among parliamentarians on a subject that is of particular interest in Africa, and to outline lasting future parliamentary and inter-parliamentary action.

You will have received the invitation letter and the background information note from the African Parliamentary Union. As you will note, your Parliament is invited to send delegates who work on this particular issue or who are members of relevant parliamentary committees (social affairs, human rights or women's rights), including, if possible, an equal representation of men and women. For easy reference, I attach a copy of information note sent to you, together with the programme of the Conference

I hope that your parliament will be able to attend this important event.

Yours sincerely,

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General