



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
S.R. VIETNAM



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Geneva, 9 January 2006

Dear Madam Speaker,
Dear Mr. Speaker,

We are pleased to invite your Parliament to take part in the regional seminar on *Developing a protective framework for children: the role of Parliaments*, which will be held in Hanoi from 15 to 17 February 2006.

The fulfilment of children's rights, including those related to protection, is a crucial objective for each and every country. It is a precondition for building sustainable, peaceful and fair societies and for the improvement of the lives of future generations. This objective depends on a global movement in which everyone understands and respects their duties to children, and, most importantly, acts upon them.

Parliaments and their members are key actors in ensuring respect for children's rights and their protection. Their legislative, oversight and representative functions, in addition to their power to allocate financial resources, put them in a central position to champion child protection.

The regional parliamentary seminar, organised jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and hosted by the National Assembly of Viet Nam, aims at facilitating debate on ways and mechanisms of developing a protective framework for children, with a particular focus on parliamentary mechanisms. The seminar will address all functions of a parliament – legislation, oversight and representation - and examine how these can serve to protect children. Experience from various countries will be presented, and specific case studies addressed. You will find enclosed the draft agenda, a concept paper and a general information document, together with a registration form.

The seminar is open to Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff and your Parliament is invited to send up to 10 participants. We encourage your parliament to send a delegation composed of members that actively work on child protection issues or belong to parliamentary committees that oversee child protection issues in your country. In line with the IPU's stated objective to promote partnership between men and women in political life, parliaments should aim at including an equal number of men and women members. Your delegation should also be representative of the political configuration of the parliament. You are also invited to include parliamentary staff members from the competent parliamentary committees.

We very much hope that your Parliament will participate in this Seminar and look forward to your response.

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Nguyen Van An
President of the National
Assembly of Viet Nam

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pier Ferdinando Casini".

Pier Ferdinando Casini
President of the IPU
President of the Italian
Chamber of Deputies

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anders B. Johnsson".

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General
Inter-Parliamentary Union