

THE CONTRIBUTION OF PARLIAMENTS TO LONG-TERM PEACE IN THE EXTENDED GREAT LAKES REGION

Co-organized by the National Assembly of Kenya, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Geneva Centre
for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces

Nairobi, 7-9 December 2009
Kenyatta International Conference Centre



Geneva, 14 October 2009

Dear Mr. Speaker,
Dear Madam Speaker,

We are pleased to invite your Parliament to take part in the regional seminar on *The contribution of parliaments to long-term peace in the extended Great Lakes region*, which the National Assembly of Kenya will be hosting from 7 to 9 December of this year. The seminar, a joint initiative of the National Assembly of Kenya, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), will take place at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre in Nairobi.

Over the past two decades, the Great Lakes region has been plagued by widespread conflicts causing immense suffering and devastation. Today there are increasing signs that the region has set itself on the path to peace, thanks in part to stronger concerted action by African leaders to promote peace and stability. In 2004, 11 countries established the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) as a forum for resolving armed conflict, maintaining peace and security, and facilitating post-conflict reconstruction. In 2006, they agreed on a Pact on Stability, Security and Development in a concerted effort to address the root causes of the conflicts in the Great Lakes Region and to lay the foundations for sustainable peace and development.

The 11 Parliaments of the countries that participate in the ICGLR have a critical contribution to make to help ensure that the spirit and commitments that arise from this and other regional and international initiatives are fully implemented. The seminar aims to create a better understanding of the task at hand for Parliaments. It should provide impetus for increased parliamentary oversight of the security sector at the domestic level and, regionally, for further cooperation between parliaments on security issues.

We attach a concept paper on the seminar, the provisional programme, a registration form and a hotel reservation form. All Parliaments from countries participating in the ICGLR, including your own, are invited to send a delegation of a maximum of six persons, composed of members of security and defence committees and of parliamentary staff servicing these committees. As is IPU practice, participating delegations will cover their own costs of participation. The host Parliament will receive delegations at the airport and assist with hotel bookings.

The subjects on the agenda will be presented by parliamentarians and experts in the field of security issues. Interpretation will be provided into and from English and French and all official documents will be made available in both languages. The emphasis will be placed on discussion, and sufficient time will be allotted to a free exchange of opinions.

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

Yours sincerely,



Hon. Kenneth Marende
Speaker
National Assembly of Kenya



Anders B. Johansson
Secretary General
Inter-Parliamentary Union

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