



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy, for everyone.



## **Translating international human rights commitments into national realities: The contribution of parliaments to the work of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

Seminar for Asia-Pacific parliaments organized jointly by the Senate of the Philippines and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

**26-27 February 2015, Diamond Hotel Philippines, Manila**

Geneva, 28 November 2014

Dear Madam,  
Dear Sir,

The Senate of the Philippines, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) are pleased to invite you to the above-mentioned Seminar for Asia-Pacific parliaments.

This event is part of a series of regional events designed to enhance the contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review (UPR). It is intended to inform participants about how the Council functions and prompt greater involvement. It also seeks to identify good parliamentary practice in working with the Council and in promoting and protecting human rights through continuous dialogue with other stakeholders, such as national human rights institutions and civil society.

Parliaments have a critical role to play in protecting and promoting human rights, in particular by contributing to the work of the UN Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review (UPR), under which it examines the human rights situation in all UN Member States every four years and half. Indeed, parliamentary action - passing laws or overseeing government action – is indispensable to ensure effective national follow-up to the UPR recommendations.

We sincerely hope that your parliament will be represented at the Seminar by a delegation of a maximum of five parliamentarians and parliamentary staff. In keeping with usual IPU practice, each delegation should include both female and male members of parliament and reflect the political spectrum represented in parliament. It would also be preferable if the designated members of your delegation were directly involved in human rights issues in your parliament.

The working language of the Seminar will be English. However, interpretation equipment can be set up for delegations wishing to bring their own interpreters.

We wish to draw your attention to the fact that, in keeping with usual IPU practice, all matters relating to visas, hotel reservations and travel must be dealt with by the participants themselves. Nevertheless, in order to facilitate these matters, the Senate of the Philippines has created a conference organizing committee to respond to queries and extend, where possible, their assistance to participants, including for any problems related to visa applications.

Please find attached the provisional programme, practical information note, hotel reservation form and registration form, which are also available online at <http://www.ipu.org/strict-futrmets.htm>.

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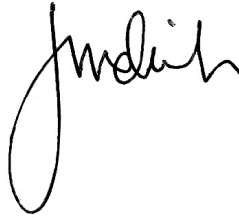
We kindly request that participants complete and return the registration and hotel reservation forms by **23 January 2015** at the latest.

We look forward to your parliament's participation in this important event.

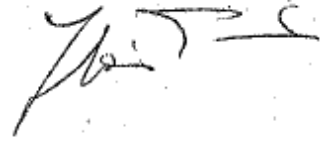
Yours sincerely,



Martin Chungong  
Secretary General of the Inter-  
Parliamentary Union



Franklin M. Drilon  
President of the Senate of the  
Philippines



Flavia Pansieri  
Deputy High Commissioner  
for Human Rights