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## Promoting child nutrition in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region

Regional parliamentary seminar hosted by the Parliament of Namibia and organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

**28-29 September 2015, Windhoek (Namibia)**

Geneva, 25 June 2015

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President

It is our pleasure to invite your parliament to participate in a regional parliamentary seminar on the subject *Promoting child nutrition in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region*, which will be held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 28 to 29 September 2015. The seminar will be organised jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UNICEF and hosted by the Parliament of Namibia.

The SADC region faces significant nutrition challenges as evidenced by the prevalence of stunting, wasting, underweight and overweight. According to the World Health Organization the stunting rates alone are close to or above 30% in ten of the fifteen countries of the region.

The ultimate goal of the meeting is to enhance parliamentary capacity and action to support nutrition interventions and contribute to nutrition security. To reach this two-fold objective, the seminar aims firstly to bolster the understanding of parliamentarians and of parliamentary staff on issues related to malnutrition and stunting, including the damaging effects inaction has on countries' economic development. The seminar will pay particular attention to parliament's role in tracking and earmarking budgets for scaling up nutrition and to other powers (law-making, oversight and representation) parliamentarians can deploy to help reduce malnutrition rates and boost economic development in their communities and countries.

Secondly, the seminar will consider parliamentary strategies based on best practices at the national level and offer the opportunity to explore possibilities for parliamentary initiatives to help implement the Rome Declaration on nutrition as well as the framework for action, the two main outcome documents of the second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), held in Rome in November 2014, and available at <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/icn2/news/news-detail/en/c/264683/>.

We hope that your parliament will be able to participate in this seminar. We encourage parliaments to send a delegation of parliamentarians and parliamentary staff who are themselves directly involved in this work, and to ensure a balanced composition of the delegations as regards political affiliation and gender.

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As usual, participants will be asked to make all their own arrangements for visas, accommodation and travel. To assist us with hotel bookings, we enclose a reservation form which we kindly ask participants to fill out. We would be grateful if you could let us know before 31 July 2015 whether your parliament intends to participate in the seminar. All of the documents and forms related to this meeting are available on-line from the website of the IPU <http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/futrmets.htm>.

We very much hope that your parliament will be able to participate, and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Chungong  
Secretary General  
Inter-Parliamentary Union



Hon. Prof. Peter Katjavivi  
Speaker of the National Assembly  
Namibia