



## TRANSLATING INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITMENTS INTO NATIONAL REALITIES: THE CONTRIBUTION OF PARLIAMENTS TO THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Seminar for African parliaments organized jointly by the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in partnership with the Inter-ministerial delegation for human rights of Morocco, the National Council of Human Rights of Morocco, and in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

**29-30 September 2014, Parliament of Morocco (Rabat)**

Geneva, 15 July 2014

Dear Madam  
Dear Sir,

We are pleased to invite you to a seminar for African parliaments on *Translating international human rights commitments into national realities: The contribution of parliaments to the work of the United Nations Human Rights Council*, organized jointly by the Parliament of the Kingdom of Morocco and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in partnership with the Inter-ministerial delegation for human rights of Morocco, the Human Rights Council of Morocco, and in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Rabat on 29 and 30 September 2014.

Parliaments undoubtedly have a critical role to play in protecting and promoting human rights, in particular by contributing to the work of the United Nations Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review mechanisms and translating the international human rights norms and standards into national realities. Parliamentary action - be it passing laws or overseeing government action - has helped ensure follow-up of numerous UPR Human Rights Council recommendations entrusted with examining the human rights situation in all UN Member States. Nevertheless, it is clear that parliamentarians are still often unaware of the work of the Council and have little direct involvement in it, although the tide is slowly turning.

The Rabat Seminar is part of a series of regional events designed to enhance the contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council. It is aimed to inform participants about how the Council functions and prompt them to become more involved. It also seeks to identify good parliamentary experiences and practice in working with the Council and in promoting and protecting human rights in general in particular by initiating an effective and continuous dialogue with other stakeholders such as national institutions and civil society.

We sincerely hope that your parliament will be represented at the seminar by a delegation of a maximum of four parliamentarians. As is usual practice at the IPU, each delegation should include women and men MPs and reflect the political spectrum represented in the parliament. It would also be preferable that the designated members of the delegation be directly involved in human rights issues in your parliament. The working languages of the seminar will be Arabic, English and French.

Please find attached an information note containing practical details related to participation in the seminar. You are kindly requested to complete and return the attached registration form by **8 August 2014** at the latest.

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. Nonetheless, in order to facilitate hotel reservations, please find attached a general information note about the proposed hotel in Rabat, together with a reservation form which participants may wish to use.

We sincerely hope that your parliament will be able to participate in this event.

Yours sincerely,



Abdelwahad Radi  
President of the Inter-  
Parliamentary Union



Mr. Rachid Talbi El Alami  
President of the House of  
Representatives



Dr. Mohamed Cheick Badiallah  
President of the House of  
Councillors