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## Promoting child nutrition in Asia

Regional parliamentary seminar hosted by the National Assembly of Lao People's Democratic Republic and co-organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) with the support of Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN)

**4-6 November 2014, Vientiane (Lao People's Democratic Republic)**

Geneva, 9 September 2014

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President

It is our pleasure to invite your parliament to participate in the regional parliamentary seminar on the subject *Promoting child nutrition in Asia*, which will be held in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, from 4 to 6 November 2014.

The seminar will be organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UNICEF with the support of the Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) Movement and hosted by the National Assembly of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Its objective is to enhance the understanding of parliamentarians and of parliamentary staff of issues related to malnutrition and stunting, including the damaging effects inaction to address inadequate nutrition can have 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 use to help reduce malnutrition rates and boost economic development in their communities and countries. The ultimate goal of the meeting is to enhance parliamentary capacity to support nutrition interventions and contribute to nutrition security.

This seminar will also offer parliamentarians from the region the opportunity to provide input to the upcoming second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) that will be held in Rome in late November 2014 at the Headquarters of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and will be attended by Heads of State and Government.

We hope that your parliament will be able to participate in this seminar. We encourage parliaments to send a delegation of no more than five members (parliamentarians and parliamentary staff) who are themselves directly involved in this work, and to ensure a balanced composition of the delegations in terms of political affiliation and gender.

As usual, participants are asked to make all their own arrangements for visas, accommodation and travel. To assist with hotel bookings, we enclose a reservation form, which may be useful for the participants. We encourage participants to stay in the Donchan Palace Hotel given that it will also serve as the venue for the meeting. We would be grateful if you could let us know before 11 October 2014 (as per the attached registration form) whether your parliament intends to participate in the seminar. All of the enclosed documents and forms are also available on-line on the IPU website <http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/futmets.htm>

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

Martin Chungong  
Secretary General  
Inter-Parliamentary Union

Pany Yathotou  
President of the National Assembly  
of Lao People's Democratic Republic