



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
By Decisions of Parliament



PARLIAMENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Conference on  
Ensuring Everyone's Right to Nationality:  
The Role of Parliaments in Preventing and Ending Statelessness  
Cape Town (South Africa), 26-27 November, 2015**  
Co-organized by the Parliament of South Africa, the Inter-Parliamentary Union  
and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

5 October 2015

Dear Madam Speaker,  
Dear Mr. Speaker,

We are pleased to invite your Parliament to the Conference on "Nationality and Statelessness: The Role of Parliaments in Preventing and Ending Statelessness", which will take place in Cape Town, South Africa on 26 and 27 November 2015. The Conference is co-organized by the Parliament of South Africa, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Statelessness, or the absence of a nationality, is a problem affecting some 10 million people globally. There is no region on the planet that does not have significant numbers of stateless persons. In addition to the indignity of being without a nationality, stateless persons are often denied basic rights, such as access to education and health care.

Their exclusion from citizenship marks their lives, and those of their families and communities, in dramatic ways. Yet while statelessness is a serious problem, it is one that can be resolved with relatively simple changes in national law and practice. Parliamentarians therefore have a vital role to play in implementing legal reforms to prevent, reduce and ultimately end statelessness worldwide.

The Conference on Nationality and Statelessness will build on on-going cooperation between IPU and UNHCR as well as the momentum provided by UNHCR's new Global Campaign to End Statelessness by 2024. It will aim to enhance awareness about statelessness and consider ways that parliamentarians can contribute to preventing and resolving it for the benefit of individuals, communities, nation-States, and the international community as a whole. Debates will be action-oriented, showcase best practices and identify possible strategies.

We are pleased to invite you to send a delegation of up to 4 members. Ideally, they should be male and female parliamentarians who have experience in human rights and / or international humanitarian law, or who are members of a parliamentary committee dealing with issues related to statelessness.

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Please find attached the provisional programme, information note, registration form and hotel reservation form. We would be grateful if your Parliament could be registered by 26 October 2015 at the latest.

We sincerely hope that your parliament will be able to participate in this Conference and look forward to receiving confirmation of its attendance.

We look forward to welcoming your Parliament's delegation in Cape Town, South Africa.

Yours sincerely,



M. Chungong  
Secretary-General  
Inter-Parliamentary Union



B. Mbete, MP  
Speaker of the National Assembly  
Parliament of the Republic of South  
Africa