



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.



National Assembly  
of Côte d'Ivoire

Geneva, 18 December 2015

**Seminar for African parliaments on the implementation of  
United Nations Security Council resolution 1540**

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mister President,

It is our pleasure to invite your parliament to participate in a regional parliamentary seminar *Engaging national parliaments in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540*. Jointly organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire, with funding from the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the seminar will take place in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 22 to 23 February 2016.

Adopted by the Security Council in 2004, resolution 1540 established an obligation under international law for governments to work proactively to keep weapons of mass destruction out of the hands of non-State actors. The resolution is part of the international community's response to the growing threat posed by terrorist groups.

It is a duty of parliamentarians everywhere to work for the security of their citizens. As the branch of government responsible for legislation, as well as oversight and budget allocations, parliaments have a key role to play in carrying forward the many provisions of resolution 1540. However, many parliamentarians are not fully aware of the presence of weapons of mass destruction in their country or region and of the risks associated with non-State actors obtaining such weapons. As a result, national legislative and regulatory frameworks are often lacking in one respect or another.

As discussed in the enclosed concept note, the main goal of this seminar is to enhance parliamentary capacity to evaluate the risk of weapons of mass destruction and take countervailing measures in the African region. The seminar will facilitate knowledge transfer and engage MPs in cross-border, informal networks or individual relationships. It will be very practical in nature and look at examples of legislation and regulation from countries in the region to examine strengths and weaknesses.

../..

We sincerely hope that your parliament will be represented at the seminar by a delegation of up to four parliamentarians. As is usual practice at the IPU, each delegation should include women and men MPs and reflect the political diversity in the parliament. Ideally, members of the delegation should be directly involved in foreign affairs and defence issues. The working languages of the seminar will be English and French.

In keeping with IPU practice, logistical matters relating to visas, hotel reservations and travel must be dealt with by the participants themselves. An information note containing practical details about participation in the seminar, as well as a registration form will be sent soon. These documents will also be posted on the IPU website at <http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/civ1540.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



Guillaume K. Soro  
Speaker of the National Assembly