



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.



## African Regional Parliamentary Conference *Comprehensive Responses to Refugee Situations – Effective Parliamentary Approaches*

**Midrand (South Africa), 11–13 November 2019**

Organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and hosted by the Pan-African Parliament

### GENERAL INFORMATION NOTE

*This information note provides information about the Meeting and related arrangements.*

#### BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE

The Regional Conference *Comprehensive Responses to Refugee Situations – Effective Parliamentary Approaches* is organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and hosted by the Pan-African Parliament. It will be held in Midrand, South Africa, from 11 to 13 November 2019.

The Regional Conference takes place in follow-up to the adoption of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and in the context of the African Union's theme for 2019: *The Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa*.

The conference will provide an opportunity for members of parliament and key stakeholders working on the development and implementation of comprehensive responses to the benefit of refugees and affected host populations to have an exchange on the issue. It will also serve as a platform for learning and strategizing. By focusing on the importance of developing comprehensive, inclusive, and effective responses to refugee situations, the conference aims to:

- Raise awareness of MPs across Africa on the GCR and the Global Refugee Forum.
- Define strategies to better assist, protect, and find solutions to refugee situations in countries across Africa.
- Facilitate the dialogue on key challenges and solutions linked to the inclusion of refugees, internally displaced persons, and stateless persons.

The conference is expected to result in a declaration for parliamentarians to support the implementation of effective responses to the refugee situation that will be in line with the GCR. It should also aim at building parliamentary support and contributions to the Global Refugee Forum which will be held in December 2019 in Geneva.

#### VENUE

The Conference will be held in Midrand, at the Pan-African Parliament Headquarters.

#### PARTICIPATION

All national parliaments from the African continent are invited to send a delegation of up to four members, preferably composed of male and female parliamentarians who have experience in human rights, international humanitarian law or refugee issues, or who are members of a parliamentary committee dealing with these issues. African regional parliamentary organizations which are Associate Members of the IPU will also be invited to attend.

Invited national Parliaments are: **Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.**

## ORGANIZATION OF PROCEEDINGS

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In accordance with the IPU's practice, all participants will have equal speaking rights. For the discussions to be as fruitful and enriching as possible, the following arrangements have been foreseen:

- (a) There will be no list of speakers on any agenda item. Once the agenda item has been introduced by the resource persons, the floor will be opened to participants for questions and comments.
- (b) Experience has shown that this kind of meeting is not suitable for pre-prepared statements to be read out. Subject to arrangements which the Chair may make to suit the circumstances, oral contributions may not exceed three minutes. Participants may, however, speak several times on each item, particularly to respond to other statements.
- (c) A General Rapporteur will be called upon on the last day to sum up the work of the conference at its concluding session.

Once presentations have been made, the floor will be open for debate.

Observers will be able to intervene once the speakers' requests to take the floor have been exhausted.

## DOCUMENTS

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Written texts of presentations will be distributed to participants as they become available. The Conference Secretariat will strive to make these documents available in the conference's official languages.

To the extent possible and for the information of participants, the IPU Secretariat will make available background documentation relevant to the issues under discussion. Participants wishing to distribute to their colleagues relevant documentation will be required to provide it in sufficient quantities and put it on a table set aside for that purpose.

## LANGUAGES

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Simultaneous interpretation will be provided into and from Arabic, English, French and Portuguese.

Additional booths will be available for participants addressing the meeting in any other language. They should provide their own interpreter; the additional booth will be reserved on a first come-first served basis. These interpreters should contact a member of the Conference staff ahead of time.

## REGISTRATION

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Invited parliaments are requested to send to the addresses indicated below their list of participants attending the Conference no later than **1 November 2019** using the enclosed Registration form:

**Contact Persons at the  
Pan-African Parliament**

Mr. Driss Alaoui Belghiti  
Gallagher Convention Center  
Private Bag X16  
Midrand  
Johannesburg  
Republic of South Africa  
Tel: +27 11 545 5314  
Mobile: +27 82 348 4913  
Email: [alaouid@africa-union.org](mailto:alaouid@africa-union.org)

**cc: Inter-Parliamentary Union**

Ms. Marie-Graziella Nguini  
House of Parliaments  
Chemin du Pommier 5  
P.O. Box 330  
1218 Grand-Saconnex  
Geneva  
Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 919 41 50  
Fax: +41 22 919 41 60  
E-mail: [mgn@ipu.org](mailto:mgn@ipu.org)  
[postbox@ipu.org](mailto:postbox@ipu.org)

## HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AND RESERVATIONS

The Host has identified the following hotels with accommodation available during the conference period:

Hotel and contact details	Contact number/email	Room type	Approximate daily rate (in ZAR)	Includes
<b>Gallagher Hotel</b>	<b>Mr. Sizwe Dlamini</b> E-Mail: <a href="mailto:bookings@thegallagherhotel.co.za">bookings@thegallagherhotel.co.za</a> Tel: +27 81 47 96 124	Standard	R750	B&B
<b>Mercure Inn</b>	<b>Mrs. Sarah Buekes</b> E-mail: <a href="mailto:H2917@accor.com">H2917@accor.com</a> Tel: +27 11 31 22 020	Standard	R883	B&B
<b>Protea Hotel by Marriott®</b>	<b>Mr. Kabelo Motlhom</b> E-mail: <a href="mailto:Kabelo.Motlhom@proteahotels.com">Kabelo.Motlhom@proteahotels.com</a> Tel: +27 (0) 11 318 1868	Standard	R1300	B&B
		Junior Suite	R1995	B&B
<b>Radisson Blu Sandton</b>	<b>Mrs. Samkelisiwe Malevu</b> E-mail: <a href="mailto:samkelisiwe.malevu@radissonblu.com">samkelisiwe.malevu@radissonblu.com</a> Tel: +27 112 458 000	Standard	R1450	B&B
		Business Class	R2 050	B&B
		Junior Suite	R3 500	B&B

Delegates and officials are required to cover the cost of their accommodation in Midrand and are required to settle their bills directly with the hotel. Delegates and officials are advised to secure accommodation at the above hotels to avoid logistical challenges. Should delegates opt for alternative accommodation, they will be required to make their own transport arrangements.

***Due to the demand for accommodation during the period of the conference, delegates and officials are urged to secure accommodation as soon as possible.***

## ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

In order to ensure an efficient reception service, all participants are kindly requested to provide on the arrivals and departures form the required arrival and departure information, including dates, flight numbers, and arrival and departure times.

The Pan-African Parliament will welcome delegates upon their arrival at the **O. R. Tambo International Airport** and arrange their ground transfers to and from the airport. They will also provide transfers for delegates between their hotels and the official meeting venue and related events.

**Delegates are kindly invited to arrive, if possible, before 10 p.m. to facilitate transportation to Midrand.**

## VISAS

Entry visas are required except for citizens of countries which have visa exemption agreements with South Africa.

Delegates must be in possession of a valid passport and those that require a visa should make the necessary arrangements through the South Africa High Commission in their respective countries prior to their arrival in the Republic of South Africa. Attendees are requested to ensure that they have the required inoculations prior to travelling to South Africa.

## MEDICAL FACILITIES

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During the meeting, first aid facilities will be provided at the venue. All other medical facilities and prescriptions will be at a participant's own expense.

## REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DESK

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A Registration and Information Desk will be available to participants at the above-mentioned hotels and at the meeting venue from 9 to 15 November. Participants are kindly requested to register with this service as soon as possible after their arrival. It will issue identity badges and deal with enquiries concerning the Conference.

## SECURITY

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All necessary security measures will be taken by the national authorities. Participants are required to wear their identity badges at all times when they are at the conference venue and at all official functions during the conference.

## WEATHER CONDITIONS

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The month of November in Midrand, South Africa, is characterized by *gradually rising* daily temperatures, with daily highs between 25 and 28°C throughout the month. Daily minimum temperatures range from 12 to 15°C.

## CURRENCY REGULATIONS

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The Republic of South Africa's currency is the Rand (ZAR). Foreign currency notes of all major currencies are accepted by banks, Forex bureaux and authorized institutions. The US dollars, British pounds and euros are easily convertible.

Delegates are encouraged to exchange currency upon arrival at the airport.

As at October 2019, the exchange rate was approximately ZAR 15 = US \$ 1.

## PRESS

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Journalists wishing to cover the seminar are requested to obtain accreditation from the Pan-African Parliament.

## TRANSPORT

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During the Meeting, a shuttle service to and from the hotel(s) and the conference venue and social event locations will be arranged by the Pan-African Parliament.

## RECEPTION

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The programme of social events will be communicated to participants in due course.