



Foreign Affairs Committees of  
Denmark, Finland, Iceland,  
Norway and Sweden

Copenhagen, 31 October 2013

Dear Chairpersons of the Committees,

On behalf of the United Nations system in the Nordic countries, it is our pleasure to invite members of the Foreign Affairs Committees of the five Nordic countries on a field visit to Mali to firsthand experience our operational work.

Our cooperation with the Foreign Affairs Committees is long-standing. Successful visits for Nordic parliamentarians have been organized to Zambia (2004), Malawi (2006), Mozambique (2007), Nicaragua (2008), Liberia (2009), Nepal (2011), Burkina Faso (2012) and Bangladesh (2013) with the aim to expand knowledge of the UN system and its work in practice. We have always received very positive responses on these visits.

The 2014 field trip to Mali that was plunged into internal conflict and political instability after the March 2012 coup will take place around the third week of January – with the tentative dates 20 – 25 January 2014. The trip will provide insights of the efforts undertaken by the UN System in partnership with the Government of Mali to create sustainable solutions and development in a country, where social indicators remain among the lowest in the world. Mali, a vast country landlocked in the heart of the Sahel region, is ranked 182 out of 187 countries on the UNDP Human Development Index.

The UN Country Team in Mali will introduce the Foreign Affairs Committee members to a wide range of themes such as: improving gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights; women's empowerment in the area of governance, participation, access to markets and peace and security; adaptation to climate changes and protection of natural resources; social safety nets to ensure nutritional health among pregnant and nursing women as well as their children; local poverty initiatives through microfinance and access to energy services.

We would highly appreciate receiving your expression of interest to participate in this visit. If affirmative, please forward a list of participants and possibly alternate participants. We kindly ask you to revert no later than 22 November 2011.

We hope that you will find this opportunity interesting and useful and that previous participants will share their experiences with potential new participants on this once-a-year opportunity to get a first hand impression of the work of the UN in the field.

We are looking forward to hearing from you. For any further information or questions, please do not hesitate to contact WFP/Anne Poulsen, +45 4050 3993, [anne.poulsen@wfp.org](mailto:anne.poulsen@wfp.org).

Yours sincerely  
on behalf of the UN Development Group in Copenhagen  
UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UNICEF Nordic National Committees, UNWFP and UN  
Women



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