



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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Office of the
Secretary General

Geneva, 25 October 2018

Dear Madam Speaker,
Dear Mr. Speaker

I am pleased to invite your parliament to send a delegation to take part in the second session of the Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law that will address the theme of *Parliaments as promoters of human rights, democracy and the rule of law* in Geneva on 22 and 23 November this year. Please find enclosed the provisional agenda of this session.

The United Nations Human Rights Council established this Forum as a platform for promoting dialogue and cooperation on issues pertaining to the relationship between human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The Forum's first session in 2016 looked at *Widening the democratic space: the role of youth in public decision-making* and made concrete recommendations to enhance youth's political participation.

The UN Human Rights Council decided that the second session of the Forum should focus on the crucial role of parliament in promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law. This decision reflects the increasing interest within UN bodies in engaging with parliaments on these issues, not only to learn more about good parliamentary practices, discuss existing and potential challenges for parliaments and ways to address them, but also to further avenues for cooperation between the UN and parliaments.

I hope that it will be possible for a small delegation of parliamentarians who address these issues directly in your parliament to participate in the Forum.

Given that the meeting is directly organized by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and that it will take place at the UN premises in Geneva, I would kindly ask for your assistance in helping to ensure that participants [register online](#) through the link available on the Forum website: www.ohchr.org/democracyforum. This will enable the OHCHR to ensure access to the UN premises on both days of the Forum. Registration will be open until **16 November 2018**. You can find more information about the 2018 Forum, including its provisional agenda, on the Forum website. Please also confirm registration to the IPU.

As is customary, all matters related to travel, visas and accommodation of participants are the direct responsibility of invited parliaments.

I look forward to the participation of your delegation in the Forum.

Yours sincerely

Martin Chungong
Secretary General