



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

Copenhagen, 25 October 2011

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 Burkina Faso 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) and Nepal (2011) 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 2012 field trip to Burkina Faso will take place around third week of January – with the tentative dates 16 – 21 January 2012. The trip will offer visits to a number of activities and programmes showcasing different innovative and joint approaches for sustainable solutions in a country which ranks as one of the poorest in the world – 161 of 169 on UNDP's Human Development Index. The country has limited natural resources and around 90% of the population lives on the crops they grow which make them extremely vulnerable to the recurrent droughts that affect the country.

The UN in Burkina Faso is represented by a strong Country Team that coordinates a wide range of joint activities. The visit will introduce the Foreign Affairs Committee members to a wide range of themes such as: adaptation to climate changes, protection of natural resources and connecting farmers to markets, improving maternal health and increasing access to family planning, hiv/aids and the prevention of mother-to-child transmission, pediatric care and primary prevention among young people and protection of orphans as well as 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 14 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.

Please direct your responses and/or questions to:

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We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



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