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GRP/2013/InF.7
Geneva, 12 September 2013

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President

I am writing to invite your Parliament to attend the Tenth Information Seminar on Parliaments and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The seminar is organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and will be held at the CIGC on Thursday, 10 October 2013, immediately following the 129th IPU Assembly.

The CEDAW is the most comprehensive international legal instrument addressing women's rights and provides a framework for promoting gender equality. The implementation of the CEDAW is monitored by a United Nations treaty body, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which examines reports from States parties and issues concluding observations and recommendations for follow-up action.

The theme of this year's seminar, which aims to strengthen parliament's role in the reporting process of the CEDAW, is *Nationality and Economic Rights*. Several experts, including members of the Committee and a member of parliament with experience on questions related to access to nationality and economic rights, will facilitate the seminar.

Your parliament is invited to send two members, preferably a man and a woman who have expertise in the field of women's rights and the status of women and/or who are members of a parliamentary committee dealing with this topic. Please note that the invitation is also extended to one or two parliamentary staff dealing with these issues.

We will be sending the agenda of the event and other pertinent documents as soon as they are finalized. These documents will also soon be available at www.ipu.org/strct-e/futrmets.htm. Meanwhile, we are pleased to attach the registration form.

We would appreciate confirmation of your parliament's participation in this event by 1 October at the latest.

Yours sincerely,

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General

Tenth Information Seminar on Parliaments and CEDAW
Equality before the law: Nationality and Economic Rights

Geneva, 10 October 2013
CICG, Rooms 5-6

DRAFT AGENDA

8.30 – 9.00: Introductory remarks

9.00 – 11.00: Nationality rights and women

- *CEDAW and nationality*
- *What are the rights covered by CEDAW? What are State party obligations?*
- *What are main challenges and recent trends related to ending discrimination against women in accessing nationality or transmitting nationality?*
- *What can parliaments do?*

Presentation by:

- Ms. Patricia Schulz, Member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
- Mr. Mark Manly, Head of Statelessness Unit, Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees
- Member of Parliament (TBC)

11.00 – 12.45: Economic rights of women

- *What are the rights covered by CEDAW related to economic empowerment and independence? Access to land? Property? Credit? Inheritance?*
- *What are main challenges so far and recent good practices?*
- *What can parliaments do?*

- Ms. Nahla Haidar, Member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
- Member of Parliament (TBA)

12.45- 1 pm: Conclusions and recommendations

Tenth Information Seminar on Parliaments and CEDAW
Equality before the law: Nationality and Economic Rights
10 October 2013

SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM

(one per person)

To be returned by **1 October 2013** at the latest

Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/>	First Name:	
Last Name:		
Name of Parliament/Chamber:		
Country:		
Function:		
Member of parliament: <input type="checkbox"/>		
Senator: <input type="checkbox"/>		
Aide or staff person: <input type="checkbox"/>		
Full title: _____		

Participant's direct email address ¹	
Personal Email:	
Office Email:	

[For parliamentarians only]

Please list up to three parliamentary committees to which you belong	
1:	
2:	
3:	

Please return this form to:

The Secretariat
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¹ This information will be used to provide each individual participant with a copy of the final report of the meeting. Participants will also be registered to receive the IPU eBulletin, an electronic newsletter that provides information on IPU activities around the world.