

**Sixth Information Seminar on Parliaments and CEDAW
Addressing Laws that Discriminate against Women**

Geneva, 16 October 2008

Programme

08:30-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:15	Welcoming remarks
09:15-10.30	Introducing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Why a Convention on discrimination against women? What rights? What obligations?➤ Why an Optional Protocol to the Convention? What rights? What mechanism? Presentations by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ms. F. Gaspard, Vice-President of the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against WomenMs. Jane Connors, Office of the High Commission for Human Rights The presentations will be followed by a debate
10.30-10.45	Coffee break
10:45-13.00	Focus on Addressing laws that discriminate against women <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Article 2 of the CEDAW and general recommendations➤ Overview of existing legislation that discriminates against women➤ Addressing discriminatory legislation: What are the challenges faced?➤ Parliamentary mechanisms: reviewing, amending and monitoring legislation Presentations by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ms. F. Gaspard, Vice-President of the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against WomenMr. M. Traoré, Member the National Assembly of Burkina Faso, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the WAEMUMs. F. Banda, author of a study on discriminatory laws The presentations will be followed by a debate
13.00-14:30	Lunch
14:30-17:00	Implementing the Convention: the Role of Parliament <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Developing an adequate legislative and oversight framework➤ Working with civil society and the media➤ Keeping track of progress➤ Parliamentary involvement in the CEDAW reporting mechanism Presentations by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ms. F. Gaspard, Vice-President of the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against WomenMs. Jane Connors, Office of the High Commission for Human RightsA Member of Parliament The presentations will be followed by a debate
17:00 - 17:30	Conclusions and recommendations
