



**Celebrating CEDAW and its Optional Protocol:
30 years improving women's rights**

*Seventh Information Seminar on Parliaments and CEDAW
Geneva, 22 October 2009*

Programme

08:30-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:15	Welcoming remarks
09:15-10.30	<p>The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is 30 years old: achievements and challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Origins of the Convention on discrimination against women? What rights? What obligations? ➤ Taking stock of the situation today: How much progress for women's rights? What challenges? <p>Presentations by: Ms. R. Tavares da Silva, former member of the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women Ms. N. Foucard, Human Rights Officer, Office of the High Commission for Human Rights</p> <p>The presentations will be followed by a debate</p>
10.30-10.45	Coffee break
10:45-13.00	<p>The road ahead: priorities to achieve equality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What are the priorities for the next decade? ➤ The challenge of addressing violence against women ➤ The challenge of addressing inequality in the labour market <p>Presentations by: A member of the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women A representative from ILO</p> <p>The presentations will be followed by a debate</p>
13.00-14:30	Lunch
14:30-16:30	<p>The Optional Protocol to CEDAW is 10 years old: achievements and challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is the Optional protocol? ➤ What has it achieved for women? What are the challenges ahead? <p>Presentations by: A member of the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women Ms. N. Stadelmann, Petitions Unit, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights A Member of Parliament</p> <p>The presentations will be followed by a debate</p>
16:30 - 17:30	<p>What role for Parliaments? Conclusions and recommendations</p> <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