



International parliamentary conference

Parliaments, minorities and indigenous peoples: Effective participation in politics

31 October - 3 November 2010

Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas (Mexico)

Practical information note

Date and venue

1. The Conference on “Parliaments, minorities and indigenous peoples: Effective participation in politics” will be held from the evening of 31 October until the afternoon of 3 November 2010. This Conference is co-organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Mexican Congress of the Union and the Government of the State of Chiapas.
2. The conference will take place in the Centro de Convenciones Mesoamericano in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, Mexico.

Centro de Convenciones Mesoamericano
Cerrada Andrés Serra Rojas 1000
El Retiro
29040 Tuxtla Gutiérrez
Chiapas
Mexico

<http://www.centrodeconvenciones.chiapas.gob.mx/>

Participation and registration

3. Participants in the Conference will include members of national parliaments as well as regional and sub-national parliaments, and representatives of international organizations and other relevant organizations.
4. Delegations are kindly requested to complete and submit the enclosed registration form and to send it to the following address by **Friday, 1 October at the latest**:

Inter-Parliamentary Union
5, chemin du Pommier
P.O. Box 330
CH - 1218 Le Grand-Saconnex/Geneva
Switzerland
Fax: +4122 919 41 60
E-mail: postbox@mail.ipu.org

List of Delegates

5. A provisional List of Delegates will be issued on the basis of confirmations received by the IPU Secretariat up to 15 October 2010. For technical reasons, it will not be possible to produce a revised list on the spot, but one will be issued after the end of the session and placed on the IPU web site. Delegates are kindly requested to

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Mexican Congress of the Union and the Government of the State of Chiapas, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme; the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; the United Nations Independent Expert on minority issues; and the Minority Rights Group International.

report any changes in the provisional list to the Conference Secretariat by no later than 4 p.m. on Wednesday 3 November 2010.

Arrangements for the conduct of the Conference

6. The conference will be organized in plenary sessions and smaller parallel sessions. Each session will be launched by speakers who will make introductory remarks. Delegates can participate in the debate either by making brief comments or by asking questions. In view of the largely informal nature of the debate, no list of speakers will be drawn up in advance. A moderator will guide the debate and decide the order of interventions and questions. On the morning of 3 November, a field visit will be organized in San Juan Chamula, approximately one hour from Tuxtla Gutiérrez, where participants will hold a discussion with traditional and constitutional indigenous leaders.

Languages

7. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish. Official written documentation of the Conference will be available in English, French and Spanish.

Documents

8. The only official documents of the Conference will be the agenda, List of Delegates, discussion papers prepared by the speakers and the information notes prepared by the Conference Secretariat.

9. Should participants and observers wish to distribute their own documents or other material pertaining to the theme of the Conference, they may use a table provided for that purpose in the immediate vicinity of the meeting room.

Visas

10. Strict regulations are in force regarding entry into Mexico and entry is refused to persons not holding the required visa. Delegates requiring an entry visa must obtain one from the Mexican consulate or diplomatic mission in their country of residence. It is strongly recommended to delegates to take the necessary steps in order to obtain their visas as soon as possible. Please note that citizens of some countries are required to have an entry visa (not a transit one) for the United States when they land in a US airport on the way to Mexico.

11. Delegates in countries where there is no Mexican consulate or diplomatic mission may contact the address below for advice on obtaining a visa:

Lic. Jorge Vázquez Salazar,
Subsecretaría de Enlace para Cooperación Internacional,
Gobierno del Estado de Chiapas,
Calle 4ª Poniente Sur# 425, entre 3ª y 4ª Sur, Colonia Centro,
Código Postal 29000
Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas,
Mexico
Telephone: +53 961 612 9734
Mobile: +53 961 6579803
Email: vasajorg@gmail.com

Hotel accommodation

12. Delegates will be responsible for their own hotel expenses. Attention is drawn to the fact that, according to the practice of all hotels in Chiapas, only reservations with details of a credit card as a guarantee will be confirmed.

13. A list of hotels in Tuxtla Gutiérrez is available at
<http://www.turismochiapas.gob.mx/listados/listado.php?idmpio=101&t=12>

The closest hotels to the Conference venue are the

- Camino Real <http://www.caminoreal.com/Micrositio/index.php?id=25>
- Fiesta Inn

http://www.fiestainn.com/portal/p/en_MX/FI/TLX/1/0/Availability/showHotelInformation.do?hotelCode=TLX&country=MX&city=-100000

Delegations can book accommodation from an agent of their choice or from the Tourist Office of Chiapas. If opting for the services of the Office, they may contact "Tourism Palenque".

Turismo Palenque
1ª Norte Poniente No. 1016^a
Col. Centro, C. P. 29000
Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, Mexico
Tel. +53 961 611224
<http://www.turismopalenque.com.mx/index.html>
E-mail: gerencia@turismopalenque.com.mx

Supplementary information about accommodation options can be obtained from:

Secretaría de Turismo
Boulevard Belisario Domínguez No. 950, Xamaipak
Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, Mexico, C.P. 29060
Tel. +53 961 61 7-05-50.
<http://www.turismochiapas.gob.mx>

Health requirements

14. Vaccination certificates are not required for admission to Mexico.

Catering services

15. Lunch will be provided for delegates during the Conference.

Local transport

16. Transport will be provided to all Conference participants between Tuxtla Gutiérrez Angel Albino Corzo Airport and the hotels. Transport will also be provided for all official events during the Conference.

Climate

17. The average temperature for the month of November in Tuxtla Gutiérrez is 24°C during the daytime and 16°C at night time. Delegates are advised that November is the rainy season in Chiapas.

Currency

18. The currency in Mexico is the Mexican Peso. Most major international currencies can be exchanged at local banks, exchange offices and hotels. Moreover, major credit cards are widely accepted.

Voltage

19. The voltage in Mexico is 120 volts, 60 Hz.

Requests for further information

20. Requests for further information concerning the Conference should be addressed to:

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