



*Inter-Parliamentary Union*



*Bangladesh Parliament*



*World Health Organization*

## **Multi-Country Seminar on Parliaments and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health**

Dhaka, Bangladesh  
30-31 July, 2013

### **INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

#### **1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE SEMINAR**

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Recent global efforts to improve women's and children's health have placed parliaments at the centre of the accountability discourse. Moreover, the report of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health has highlighted the role of parliaments and identified the national level as the most effective locus of accountability.

In April 2012, the 126<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly adopted a resolution on "Access to health as a basic right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing women's and children's health". Parliaments thereby committed to improve the health of women and children, including through relevant national accountability mechanisms.

The Parliament of Bangladesh, the IPU and the World Health Organization (WHO) are organizing a multi-country seminar to further promote the contribution of parliamentarians to on-going accountability processes at the national level and thus strengthen their role in the overall effort to improve the health of women and children.

#### **2. VENUE, DATE and PROGRAMME**

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The seminar will be held on 30 and 31 July 2013 at the Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The programme of the seminar is attached.

#### **3. PARTICIPATION**

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This seminar is open to members of parliament from countries where maternal and child mortality rates remain high and where, concurrently, country roadmaps for strengthening accountability developed under the process initiated by the above-mentioned Commission highlight the role of parliaments. These countries include Bangladesh, Kenya, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Malawi, Nigeria, Philippines, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe. The parliaments of these countries are invited to send a delegation of a maximum of three members, preferably gender-balanced and with experience in issues relating to reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health.

#### **4. ORGANIZATION OF PROCEEDINGS**

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In order to ensure that the discussions are as fruitful and enriching as possible, the following rules will apply:

- (a) Resource persons will introduce an agenda item and then the floor will be open to participants for questions and comments.
- (b) Interactive debate will be strongly encouraged. Participants may speak several times on each item, particularly to respond to other contributions.
- (c) A General Rapporteur will sum up the work of the seminar at its concluding session.

The seminar proceedings will be conducted in English.

## 5. DOCUMENTS

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Participants will receive hard copies of the presentations by the resource persons as they become available.

To the extent possible and for the information of participants, the IPU Secretariat will make available background documentation on the topics under discussion.

Participants wishing to distribute relevant documentation to their colleagues will be required to provide it in sufficient quantities and place it on a table set aside for that purpose.

## 6. REGISTRATION

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Invited parliaments are requested to send their list of participants attending the seminar **no later than 15 July** using the enclosed Registration Form to the following addresses:

To:	With copy to:
<b>Bangladesh Parliament</b>	<b>Inter-Parliamentary Union</b>
Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat	5, chemin du Pommier
Parliament House	case postale 330
Shere-e-Bangla Nagar	1218 Grand-Saconnex
DHAKA 1207, Bangladesh	Geneva, Switzerland
<a href="mailto:secretaryp@yahoo.com">secretaryp@yahoo.com</a>	e-mail: <a href="mailto:postbox@mail.ipu.org">postbox@mail.ipu.org</a>
Telephone: + 88 02 911 91 40	Tel.: +41 22 919 41 50
Fax: + 88 02 911 91 86	Fax: +41 22 919 41 60

## 7. HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AND RESERVATIONS

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The Bangladesh Parliament has arranged for delegates to reserve rooms at the Ruposhi Bangla Hotel.

Participants are kindly requested to complete the Hotel Registration Form and return it as soon as possible and no later than **15 July 2013**.

Reservations received after this date cannot be guaranteed and will be subject to availability. Reservations will be dealt with on a first-come-first-served basis. Participants are kindly asked to settle their bill directly with the hotel.

## 8. TRAVEL, ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

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In order to ensure an efficient reception service, all participants are kindly requested to provide the necessary arrival and departure information, including dates, flight numbers and arrival and departure times on the Hotel Reservation Form.

The competent services of the Bangladesh Parliament will welcome delegates upon their arrival at the airport in Dhaka and arrange their ground transfers to and from the airport. They will also provide transfers for delegates between their hotels and the official seminar venue and related events.

Parliaments participating in the seminar should make their own travel arrangements. They will have to bear the travel and other costs related to their delegates' participation.

## 9. VISAS

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Entry visas may be required for Bangladesh. Delegates should contact the Bangladesh Embassy in their country of residence to check whether they need a visa to enter Bangladesh and obtain it directly if necessary.

## **10. REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DESK**

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A Registration and Information Desk will be available to participants at the seminar venue from 29 to 31 July. It will operate from 3p.m. to 6 p.m. on 29 July and all day for the duration of the seminar.

Participants should, if possible, register with this service on 29 July. It will issue identity badges, deal with enquiries concerning the seminar and handle messages and mail.

## **11. SECURITY**

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The national authorities will take all the necessary security measures. Participants are required to wear their identity badges at all times when they are at the seminar venue and at all official functions during the seminar.

## **12. WEATHER CONDITIONS**

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In July, average temperatures in Dhaka range between 26°C (minimal average) and 31°C (maximal average). Conditions are generally humid with alternating periods of rain and sunshine.

## **13. CURRENCY REGULATIONS**

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The currency of Bangladesh is the Bangladeshi Taka (BDT). The exchange rate is BDT 102 to € 1, BDT 77 to USD 1 and BDT 83 to CHF 1.

## **14. VOLTAGE**

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Power outlets accommodate the standard European two-pin plug or the British three-pin plug with 220 and 240 volts AC. Due to variations from one place to another, it is recommended that participants bring adapters.

## **15. FOCAL POINTS**

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