



# INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

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## THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES IN MAINSTREAMING GENDER AND PROMOTING THE STATUS OF WOMEN

*Seminar for Chairpersons and Members of Parliamentary Bodies Dealing with Gender Equality*

Geneva, 4-6 December 2006

### PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

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#### Monday, 4 December 2006

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08.30-09.30 Registration of participants

09.30-10.00 **Inaugural session and procedural matters**

10.00-10.30 **Keynote address:**  
**Ms. Anne Marie Lizin, President of the Belgian Senate**

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10.30-11.00 **Coffee break**

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11.00-13.00 **Mandate, composition and working methods**

This session will examine different types of parliamentary gender bodies, their powers and mandates and how they are composed.

- What are parliamentary gender equality bodies and what is their *raison d'être*?
- What are their working methods and what challenges do they face in fulfilling their mandate?
- Gender mainstreaming and gender committees: how is gender mainstreamed into the work of parliaments?

- *Ms. Charalambous, Member of Parliament, Chairperson of the House Standing Committee on Equal Opportunities for Men and Women, Cyprus*

- *Ms. Qarlsson, Member of Parliament, Sweden*

- *Ms. Tourné, Member of Parliament, Chairperson of the Special Committee on Gender and Equality, Uruguay*

Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.

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13.00-14.30 **Lunch break**

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14.30-16.00 **Relations with Partners: Working with institutional partners**

This session will examine how committees relate with institutional partners to enhance their work.

- How can committees best coordinate with governmental or state gender institutions such as gender commissions and ombudspersons?
- How do committees ensure an effective partnership with parliamentary bodies such as women's parliamentary caucuses?

- *Mr. Udovenko, Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights of the Committee on Human Rights, National Minorities and Inter-Ethnic Relations, Ukraine*

- *Ms. Gahima, Senator, Member of the Forum of Rwandan Women Parliamentarians, Rwanda*

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- *Dr. Khafagy, Policy/Legal Expert, former Director, Office of the Ombudsman on Gender Equality, Egypt*

Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.

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16.00- 16.15

**Coffee break**

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16.15-17.45

**Working with other Partners**

This session will examine how committees relate with other partners to enhance their work.

- How can committees liaise with non-governmental and/or research organizations to enhance their work?
- What role can the media place to enhance their work?

- *Ms. Zouein, Chairperson of the Committee on Children and Families, National Assembly, Lebanon*

- *Ms. Morna, Executive Director of Gender Links and Chair of the Gender and Media Southern Africa (GEMSA) Network, South Africa*

Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.

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18.00

Cocktail hosted for participants (IPU Headquarters)

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**Tuesday, 5 December 2006**

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09.30-11.00

**Legislative and policy outputs**

This session will examine the legislative and policy outputs of gender committees.

- What are key issues being addressed and lessons learned regarding the development of policy and legislation?
- How do committees undertake effective gender-based analysis, e.g. gender budgeting?

- *Member of Parliament from South Africa, TBC*

- *Member of Parliament Canada, TBC*

- *Ms. Klatzer, Expert, Gender budgeting, Austria*

Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.

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11.00-11.30

**Coffee break**

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11.30-13.00

**Implementing international and regional legal instruments**

- The role of parliamentary gender committees in implementing international and regional legal instruments related to women's rights.
- What role can committees play in overseeing the implementation of CEDAW?

- *Member of the United Nations Committee on Discrimination against Women*

- *Ms. Diaz Delgado, Senator, Chairperson of the Committee on Equality and Gender, Mexico*

Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.

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13.00-14.30

**Lunch break**

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14.30-16.00

**Case study: the role of parliamentary committees in addressing Violence against women**

- Policies and legislation to combat violence against women. What are the current trends and lessons learned?

- *Ms. Brown, Senior Director for International Law, Policy and Campaigns at Amnesty International*

- *Ms. Me, Chief of the Social and Demographic Statistical Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe*

Presentations followed by a plenary debate.

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16.00 - 16.15

**Coffee break**

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16.15-17.45 **Case study: the role of parliamentary committees in addressing Violence against women (continued)**

- Policies and legislation to combat violence against women. What are the current trends and lessons learned?
- *Member of Parliament, India*
- *Representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe*

Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.

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**Wednesday, 6 December 2006**

09.30-11.00 **Supporting the work of parliamentary committees on gender issues**

- How can international and regional organizations, or regional parliamentary associations, support the work of national gender committees?
- *Ms. Kolthoff, President of the European Women's Lobby*
- *Representative of SADC-PF, TBC*

Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.

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11.00-11.30 **Coffee break**

11.30-13.00 **Lessons Learned and Defining a Future**

Discussion on lessons learned about parliamentary gender bodies.  
Elaboration of follow-up activities and themes for future meetings.