### 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_

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<td><strong>Monday, 4 December 2006</strong></td>
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<td>08.30-09.30</td>
<td>Registration of participants</td>
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<td>09.30-10.00</td>
<td><strong>Inaugural session and procedural matters</strong></td>
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<td>10.00-10.30</td>
<td><strong>Keynote address:</strong> Ms. Anne Marie Lizin, President of the Belgian Senate</td>
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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. |
| 13.00-14.30 | **Lunch break** | |
| 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. Cahima, Senator, Member of the Forum of Rwandan Women Parliamentarians, Rwanda | |
Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.

Coffee break

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.

Cocktail hosted for participants (IPU Headquarters)

Tuesday, 5 December 2006

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.

Coffee break

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.

Lunch break

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.

Coffee break
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.

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.

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.