



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

Monday, 4 December 2006

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
10.30-11.00	Coffee break
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. <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 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? <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 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? <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 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

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

Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.

16.00- 16.15

Coffee break

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.

18.00

Cocktail hosted for participants (IPU Headquarters)

Tuesday, 5 December 2006

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.

11.00-11.30

Coffee break

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.

13.00-14.30

Lunch break

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.

16.00 - 16.15

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.