



## IMPLEMENTING THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS: WHAT PART FOR PARLIAMENTS?

Seminar organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)



GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE (CICG), 22 OCTOBER 2009

### PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

8.45 a.m.	-	9.30 a.m.	Registration
9.30 a.m.	-	9.45 a.m.	Welcoming remarks
<b>MORNING SESSION</b>			
General overview of the Covenants and of the contribution that parliaments can make to ensure respect for their provisions			
9.45 a.m.	-	11 a.m.	<b>Introducing the Covenants and their Optional Protocols</b> <i>Presentations and debate</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Mr. Abdelfattah Amor</b>, Member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, Professor Emeritus, Honorary Dean of the Faculty of Legal, Political and Social Science of Tunis (Tunisia)</li><li>- <b>Mr. Eibe Riedel</b>, Member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Professor of Public Law, University of Mannheim (Germany)</li></ul>
11 a.m.	-	11.15 a.m.	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.15 a.m.	-	1 p.m.	<b>Implementing the Covenants: The role of parliament in the reporting and follow-up procedure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; Parliamentary involvement in the reporting mechanism</li><li>&gt; Developing an adequate legislative and oversight framework to ensure implementation of concluding observations</li><li>&gt; Working with civil society and the media</li><li>&gt; Keeping track of progress</li></ul> <i>Presentations and debate</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Mr. Mélégué Traoré</b>, Member and former Speaker of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso, Deputy-Chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (IPC-WAEMU)</li><li>- <b>Ms. Cecilia Jimenez</b>, Human rights lawyer, Consultant and Trainer</li></ul>
1 p.m.	-	2.30 p.m.	<i>Lunch</i>



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## AFTERNOON SESSION

**A close-up look at two rights and the obligations they entail for States, including parliament**

2.30 p.m. - 4 p.m.

**Article 7 of the ICCPR: The right to personal integrity and dignity and the prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**

- > How is the right to personal integrity and dignity addressed by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights? What are current challenges to the prohibition of torture?
- > What is required of States parties?
- > What can parliaments do?

*Presentations and debate*

- **Sir Nigel Rodley**, Member of the Human Rights Committee, Professor of Law and Chair of the Human Rights Centre, University of Essex (United Kingdom)

4 p.m. - 4.15 p.m.

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*Coffee break*

4.15 p.m. - 5.45 p.m.

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**Articles 11 and 12 of the ICESCR: The right to an adequate standard of living**

- > What does the right to an adequate standard of living as enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights entail? What are the current challenges to the implementation of this right?
- > What is required of States parties?
- > What contribution can parliaments make?

*Presentations and debate*

- **Mr. Eibe Riedel**, Member of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Professor of Public Law, University of Mannheim (Germany)

5.45 - 6 p.m.

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*Closure of the seminar*

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