



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, 7 October 2010

Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG), Room B (CCV)

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

8.45 a.m. - 9.30 a.m. Registration

9.30 a.m. - 9.45 a.m. Welcoming remarks

MORNING SESSION

General overview of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the contribution that parliaments can make, in cooperation with the Covenant's monitoring body, the United Nations Human Rights Committee, to ensure respect for its provisions

9.45 a.m. - 11 a.m. Introducing the Covenant and its Optional Protocols

- Presentation: **Professor Michael O'Flaherty** (Ireland), member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, Professor of Applied Human Rights and co-Director of the Human Rights Law Centre at the University of Nottingham, School of Law, United Kingdom
- Debate

11 a.m. - 11.15 a.m. *Coffee break*

11.15 a.m. - 1 p.m. The protection of freedom of expression under the Covenant

- Presentation: **Professor Michael O'Flaherty**
Freedom of expression is the touchstone of democracy and the main working tool for parliamentarians. What are the scope and limits of this fundamental right?
- Debate

1 p.m. - 2.30 p.m. *Lunch*



AFTERNOON SESSION

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: the uphill battle of its supervisory Committee in reminding States that they can and should make these rights tangible at the national level

2.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Introducing the Covenant and its Optional Protocol

- Presentation: **Mr. Philippe Texier** (France), member of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Honorary Advisor to the Court of Cassation
- Debate

3.30 p.m. - 3.45 p.m.

Coffee break

3.45 p.m. - 5.15 p.m.

What role and obligation for States, including Parliaments, to promote and protect the right to work in a globalized world

- Presentation: **Mr. Philippe Texier**
In today's globalised world, individual state sovereignty is increasingly challenged in the work place. International corporations pursue unfettered investment opportunities offering great returns on capital but with sometimes harmful effects on employment and working conditions. The availability and movement of cheap labour across borders allows poor families to break out of the cycle of poverty but also encourages a race to the lowest common denominator of protection and opens the door to abuse. How should states address these challenges and what are their obligations? What can parliaments do to ensure the right to work in a globalized world?
- Debate

5.15 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.

Closure of the seminar
