The role of parliaments in the implementation of international and regional human rights instruments

Seminar for members of parliament and parliamentary staff in French-speaking African countries organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in collaboration with the National Assembly of Burkina Faso

"OUAGA 2000" CONFERENCE CENTRE, OUAGADOUGOU, 1-3 OCTOBER 2007

PROGRAMME

MONDAY 1 OCTOBER 2007

8 a.m. - 9 a.m.  Registration of participants and distribution of documents

9 a.m. - 10 a.m.  Inaugural session

10 a.m. - 10.15 a.m.  Election of President and Rapporteur of the Seminar, adoption of the agenda and rules of procedure

10.15 a.m. - 12 noon  Fundamenta human rights principles and the obligations they imply for States

Speaker: Mr. Jean-Emile Somda, Sitting judge, African Court of Human and Peoples’ Rights

General discussion

12 noon - 2 p.m.  Lunch courtesy of IPU at Ouaga 2000

2 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.  The principal universal human rights instruments and their treaty bodies: mechanisms and procedures, and follow-up of recommendations

Film on the work of treaty bodies

Speakers:
- Mr. Markus Schmidt, Team Leader, Petitions Unit, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Ms. Noemy Barrita-Chagoya, Human rights expert, Treaties and Council Branch, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

General discussion

4.30 p.m. - 4.45 p.m.  Coffee break

4.45 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.  The civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights; the so-called "third generation rights": Are MPs aware of them, and if so, do they implement them?

- Civil and political rights

Speaker: Mr. Markus Schmidt, Team Leader, Petitions Unit, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

- Economic, social and cultural rights

Speaker: Ms. Noemy Barrita-Chagoya, Human rights expert, Treaties and Council Branch, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

General discussion
TUESDAY 2 OCTOBER 2007

8.30 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.  ▶ Parliamentary mechanisms and strategies for safeguarding and promoting human rights
   Speaker: Mr. Mélégué Traoré, MP, National Assembly of Burkina Faso

▶ The IPU Committee on the human rights of Parliamentarians
   Speaker: Ms. Ingeborg Schwarz, Human Rights Programme Officer at IPU

▶ The role of the Senate Committee in the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights in Democratic Republic of the Congo
   Speaker: Ms. Eve Bazaiba Masudi, Chair of the Senate Committee on Socio-cultural Affairs

10.30 a.m. - 10.45 a.m.  Coffee break

10.45 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.  ▶ African human rights instruments and their implementation mechanisms
   Speaker: Ms. Reine Alapini-Gansou, Member of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders

General discussion

12.30 p.m. - 2 p.m.  Lunch courtesy of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso at Ouaga 2000

2 p.m. - 3.45 p.m.  ▶ The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Union Court of Justice
   Speaker: Mr. Jean-Emile Somda, Sitting judge, African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights

General discussion

15.45 p.m. - 4 p.m.  Coffee break

4 p.m. - 6 p.m.  ▶ Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of African Women & The role of rapporteurs in regional instruments
   Speaker: Ms. Reine Alapini-Gansou, Member of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders

WEDNESDAY 3 OCTOBER 2007

9 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.  ▶ United Nations institutional framework reform: from the Human Rights Commission to the Human Rights Council
   Speaker: M. Markus Schmidt, Team Leader, Petitions Unit, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

General discussion

10.30 a.m. - 10.45 a.m.  Coffee break

10.45 a.m. - 12 noon  Case studies

12 noon - 2 p.m.  Lunch courtesy of IPU at Ouaga 2000

2 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.  Summary of discussions and debates

3.30 p.m. - 4.45 p.m.  Participants' evaluation of seminar

CONCLUSION