

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 ▶ **Fundamental 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
General discussion
- 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 Peoples' Rights, Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders
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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
