

UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

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Geneva, 8 September 2009

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to invite your Parliament to attend the Seventh Information Seminar on Parliaments and the CEDAW, which will focus this year on *Celebrating CEDAW and its Optional Protocol: 30 years improving women's rights*. The seminar is organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and will be held at the *Centre international de conférences* (CICG) on 22 October 2009, immediately following the 121st IPU Assembly.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is the most comprehensive international legal instrument addressing women's rights and provides a framework for promoting gender equality. The implementation of the CEDAW is monitored by a United Nations treaty body, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which examines reports from States parties and issues concluding observations and recommendations for follow-up action.

The seminar, which aims to strengthen parliament's role in the reporting process of the CEDAW, primarily targets members of parliaments from those countries whose periodic report has been considered by the CEDAW Committee in the course of this year or will be considered in the near future, which is the case of your country. Several experts, including a member of the Committee, a member of the Committee's Secretariat and a member of parliament with experience in this field, will facilitate the seminar.

Your parliament is invited to send two members, preferably a man and a woman who have expertise in the field of women's rights and the status of women and/or who are members of a parliamentary committee dealing with this topic. Please note that the invitation is also extended to one or two parliamentary staff dealing with these issues.

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Mr. Kristian Pihl Lorentzen, MP
President of the Danish Inter-Parliamentary Group
c/o Mr. Flemming Kordt Hansen
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cc: Ms. Mette Vestergaard, Secretary of the Danish Inter-Parliamentary Group

A preliminary agenda is attached for your information, together with a registration form. The *Handbook for Parliamentarians on the CEDAW and its Optional Protocol*, published in 2003 by the IPU and UNDAW and widely distributed among parliaments, will be used as a reference tool for the seminar and can be downloaded from <http://www.ipu.org/english/handbks.htm#wom-protocol>.

We would appreciate confirmation of your parliament's participation in this event by 2 October at the latest.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anders', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

Anders B. Johansson
Secretary General



**Celebrating CEDAW and its Optional Protocol:
30 years improving women's rights**

Seventh Information Seminar on Parliaments and CEDAW
Geneva, 22 October 2009

Programme

08:30-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:15	Welcoming remarks
09:15-10.30	The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is 30 years old: achievements and challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Origins of the Convention on discrimination against women? What rights? What obligations?➤ Taking stock of the situation today: How much progress for women's rights? What challenges? Presentations by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">A member of the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against WomenA member of the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights The presentations will be followed by a debate
10.30-10.45	Coffee break
10:45-13.00	The road ahead: priorities to achieve equality. <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ What are the priorities for the next decade?➤ The challenge of addressing violence against women➤ The challenge of addressing inequality in the labor market Presentations by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">A member of the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against WomenA member of the Office of the High Commission for Human RightsA member of parliament The presentations will be followed by a debate
13.00-14:30	Lunch
14:30-16:30	The Optional Protocol to CEDAW is 10 years old: achievements and challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ What is the Optional protocol?➤ What has it achieved for women? What are the challenges ahead? Presentations by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">A member of the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against WomenA member of the Office of the High Commission for Human RightsA Member of Parliament The presentations will be followed by a debate
16:30 - 17:30	What role for Parliaments? Conclusions and recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Developing an adequate legislative and oversight framework➤ Working with civil society and the media➤ Keeping track of progress➤ Parliamentary involvement in the CEDAW reporting mechanism



**Celebrating CEDAW and its Optional Protocol:
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Seventh Information Seminar on Parliaments and CEDAW
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SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM
(one per person)

To be returned by **2 October 2009** at the latest

Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/>	First Name:	
Last Name:		
Name of Parliament/Chamber:		
Country:		
Function:		
Member of parliament: <input type="checkbox"/>		
Senator: <input type="checkbox"/>		
Aide or staff person: <input type="checkbox"/>		
Full title: _____		

Participant's direct email address ¹	
Personal Email:	
Office Email:	

[For parliamentarians only]

Please list up to three parliamentary committees to which you belong	
1:	
2:	
3:	

Please return this form to:

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¹ This information will be used to provide each individual participant with a copy of the final report of the meeting. Participants will also be registered to receive the IPU eBulletin, an electronic newsletter that provides information on IPU activities around the world.