

**UNION
INTERPARLEMENTAIRE**

TELEPHONE + 41 22-919 41 50
FAX + 41 22-919 41 60
E-MAIL postbox@mail.ipu.org



**INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
UNION**

CHEMIN DU POMMIER 5
CASE POSTALE 330
1218 LE GRAND-SACONNEX / GENEVE (SUISSE)

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

Geneva, 7 October 2010

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

Geneva, 13 September 2010

Dear Madam Speaker,
Dear Mr. Speaker,

I am pleased to invite your parliament to participate in a human rights seminar, which will be organized by the IPU, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on 7 October 2010, the day after the closure of the 123rd IPU Assembly. The seminar is designed to enhance parliaments' involvement in the work of the United Nations treaty bodies and, more specifically, in the work of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) cover the full spectrum of human rights. By ratifying them, States commit themselves to implementing their provisions and reporting regularly on the steps taken to this end to the Human Rights Committee, which oversees the implementation of the ICCPR, and to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which oversees the implementation of the ICESCR. Both Committees issue concluding observations and recommendations to each State party. Parliaments can make a significant contribution to this reporting and follow-up process.

I hope, therefore, that your parliament will be able to participate in the seminar and to designate for this purpose, where possible, members of committees whose mandate is directly related to the work of one or both UN Committees. Please note that the invitation is also extended to one parliamentary staff member dealing with these issues.

Members of both UN Committees have been invited to facilitate the seminar. Please find attached a preliminary agenda of the seminar. A final version will be available shortly on the IPU website.

./..

I sincerely hope that your parliament's delegation will be able to participate in this seminar and would be grateful if your parliament could complete and return to us at its earliest convenience the attached registration form.

I look forward to the participation of your parliament in the seminar.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anders B. Johnsson". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'A' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General



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



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)

REGISTRATION FORM

DELEGATION OF: _____

PARTICIPANTS:

<input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms. <input type="checkbox"/> Mr.	Last name	First name	Title
	1.		
	2.		
	3.		

Please complete and return this form to:

Inter-Parliamentary Union
5, chemin du Pommier
Case postale 330
1218 Grand-Saconnex
Geneva, Switzerland

Telephone: + 41 22 - 919 41 50
Fax: + 41 22 - 919 41 60
e-mail: postbox@mail.ipu.org

For any additional information, please contact:

- Ms. Ingeborg Schwarz + 41 22 - 919 41 42 is@mail.ipu.org
- Mr. Rogier Huizenga + 41 22 - 919 41 24 rh@mail.ipu.org

Signatur

Date

e
