Regional Workshop for Arab Parliaments on

Implementing CEDAW and ending violence against women

Beirut, 27-29 July 2010
organized by
the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Lebanese Parliament and the United Nations Development Programme-Parliamentary Development Initiative in the Arab Region (UNDP-PDIAR)

DRAFT AGENDA

27 July

09 – 9.30 a.m.	**Registration**
09.30 - 10 a.m.	*Opening and welcome addresses by the organizers*
10 - 10.30 a.m.	**Keynote address : Discrimination against women and violence against women**
	Mr. José Mendes Bota, Member of Parliament (Portugal), Chairperson of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)
10.30 - 10.45 a.m.	**Group photo**
10.45 - 11 a.m.	**Coffee break**
11 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.	**Session 1: International and regional legal framework**

- Introduction to the main human rights instruments
  - *Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Lebanon (TBC)*
- The Arab Charter on Human Rights and the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam
  - *Dr. Michel Moussa, Member of Parliament (Lebanon), President of the Human Rights Committee (TBC)*
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and General Recommendations on violence against women
  - *Mrs. Huguette Bokpe Gnacadja, Attorney (Benin), Former Member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women*
- International and regional plans of action, resolutions and declarations against discrimination and violence against women: (Beijing Platform for Action, UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820, etc.)
  - *Ms. Kristen Cordell, Gender Advisor, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)*

Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate

1.30 - 3 p.m.	**Lunch break**

3 – 4.30 p.m.	**Session 2: State of Implementation of CEDAW in the Arab countries**

- Achievements and remaining challenges
    - *ESCWA*
- Special focus on violence against women in the Arab World: Facts and figures, types of violence against women in the region, policies and strategies
    - *Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, Senator (Jordan)*

Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate

4.30 – 4.45 p.m.	**Summary and concluding remarks**

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9 – 11 a.m.	**Session 3: What can parliaments and parliamentarians do?**

- Developing an appropriate legislative and oversight framework, working with partners and the role of parliaments in the reporting process to CEDAW
    - *Mrs. Huguette Bokpe Gnacadja, Attorney (Benin), Former Member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women*
- National experiences
    - *Mr. Mill Majerus, Member of Parliament (Luxembourg), President of the Committee on Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities*
    - *Mrs. Naziha Zarrouk, Second Vice-president of the Chamber of Councillors (Tunisia) (TBC)*
    - *Dr. Syada Greiss, Member of Parliament (Egypt), President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians*

Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate

11.00 – 11.15 a.m.	**Coffee break**
11.15 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.	**Session 4: Parliamentary action against VAW**

- Introduction: The IPU Strategy in 6 points
    - *Dr. Syada Greiss, Member of Parliament (Egypt), President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians*
- Legislating on VAW: good practices and challenges to address
    - *Mrs. Carmen de la Fuente, Prosecutor (Spain)*
    - *Mrs. Zoya Rouhana, Director and Founding member, Kafa - Enough Violence & Exploitation (Lebanon)*
- National plans of action, gender equality and VAW
    - *Mrs. Karima El Korri, UNDP-PDIAR*
    - *Mrs. Naziha Zarrouk, Second Vice-president of the Chamber of Councillors (Tunisia) (TBC)*

Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate

1.30 – 3 p.m.	**Lunch break**
3 - 5 p.m.	**Session 5 (part one) : Working groups**

Group 1	**Group 2**
Parliaments and reporting on CEDAW	**Legislative drafting session on VAW**
- Follow-up of concluding observations (case studies from recent reporting: UAE and Egypt) - Consideration of reports: Tunisia	Preamble and raison d'être The components of legislation on VAW Enforcement measures

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9 – 09.30 a.m.   **Session 5 (part two): Reports of the working groups**

- Parliaments and reporting to the CEDAW
- Legislative drafting on VAW

Group reports to be followed by a plenary debate

9.30 – 10.30 a.m.   **Session 6: The challenges of implementing legislation against VAW**

- Costing VAW and the importance of indicators to assess VAW and monitor progress
  - *Dr. Elizabeth Villagómez, Senior Partner, Almenara Estudios Económicos y Sociales (Spain)*
- Parliament, monitoring and enforcement of legislation against VAW
  - *Member of Parliament (France) (TBC)*
- Gender budgeting and implementation of VAW legislation
  - *Dr. Maya Morsy, UNIFEM (Egypt)*

Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate

10.30 – 10.45 a.m.   **Coffee break**

10.45 a.m. – 12 noon.   **Session 7: Working to make VAW a priority issue**

- International, regional and national campaigns
  - *UN Secretary General's campaign, Mrs. Dena Assaf, UNIFEM (TBC)*
  - *Parliaments take action on violence against women, Mr. Anders B. Johnsson, Secretary General of the IPU*
  - *Stop domestic violence against women, Council of Europe, Mr. José Mendes Bota, Member of Parliament (Portugal), Chairperson of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)*
- Sensitization, partnerships, communication tools, media and national campaigns
  - *Mrs. Zoya Rouhana, Director and Founding member, Kafa - Enough Violence & Exploitation (Lebanon)*
  - *Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, Senator (Jordan)*
  - *Mrs. Doaa Abdelaal, Regional Coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa and Arabic Language Facilitator, iKNOW Politics*

Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate

12 noon – 1 p.m.   **Session 8: Wrap-up: Lessons learned and strategies for the future**

1 – 1.30 p.m.   **Closing remarks**