



International parliamentary conference

Parliaments, minorities and indigenous peoples: Effective participation in politics

31 October - 3 November 2010

Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas (Mexico)

Programme

Sunday 31 October 2010

Venue: Teatro de la Ciudad, Tuxtla Gutiérrez

7 p.m.

Opening ceremony

Monday 1 November

Venue: Centro de Convenciones Mesoamericano, Tuxtla Gutiérrez

Plenary

10.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m

► Effective participation in politics: a human right, a prerequisite for democracy and a means of preventing conflict

- What has to be understood by “effective participation” and why is important?

Moderator: Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Democratic Governance Practice Director, Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP

- Ms. Gay McDougall, United Nations Independent Expert on minority issues
- Chief Wilton Littlechild, former MP, former member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (Canada)
- Ms. Rahui Katene, MP (New Zealand)
- Mr. Furio Radin, MP, Chair of the Committee on Human and National Minority Rights (Croatia)
- Mr. Porfirio Muñoz Ledo, Member of the Chamber of Deputies (Mexico)

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Mexican Congress of the Union and the Government of the State of Chiapas, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme; the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; the United Nations Independent Expert on minority issues; and the Minority Rights Group International.

Parallel sessions

11.30 a.m - 1 p.m.

► Perspectives on effective participation

- What are the major obstacles to realizing the right of effective participation?

Session 1: Minorities

Moderator: Mr. Antti Korkeakivi, Coordinator, Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Unit, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

- Ms. Gay McDougall
- Mr. Marin Jurjevic, MP (Croatia)
- Mr. Emilian Frâncu, MP, Vice-Chair of the Committee for human rights, cults and national minorities issues (Romania)
- Mr. Joe Frans, former MP, former Chair of the UN Working Group on People of African Descent (Sweden)

Session 2: Indigenous peoples

- Chief Wilton Littlechild (Canada)
- Ms. Rahui Katene (New Zealand)
- Mr. Carlos Morales Morales, UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Costa Rica)
- Ms. Beatriz Paredes, Member of the Chamber of Deputies (Mexico)

Lunch

Plenary

3 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

► Legislative lessons learned

- What determines the extent to which minorities and indigenous peoples are involved in the development of laws and measure affecting them?

Moderator: Mr. Anders B. Johnsson, IPU

- Mr. Donald Oliver, Speaker pro tempore of the Senate (Canada)
- Mr. Juan Antonio Martinez (Panama)

Plenary

4.30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

► The participation of minority and indigenous women in decision-making

- How can the double discrimination faced by women belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples be overcome?

Moderator: Mr. Javier Hernández Valencia, Representative of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Mexico

- Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, UNDP
- Ms. Otilia Lux de Coti, MP (Guatemala)
- Ms. Sophia Abdi Noor, MP (Kenya)
- Ms. Lucky Sherpa, MP (Nepal)

Tuesday 2 November

Venue: Centro de Convenciones Mesoamericano, Tuxtla Gutiérrez

Measures for enhancing effective participation

10.00 a.m - 1 p.m.

► Session 1: Representatives and citizens

- Are reserved seats an effective means of representation for minorities and indigenous peoples?

Moderator: Mr. Maurice Bryan, Minority Rights Group International

- Mr. Vital Bambanze, Senator (Burundi)
- Mr. José Poyo Cascante, MP, President of the Indigenous Parliament of the Americas (Venezuela)
- Mr. Rajaiah Siricilla, MP (India)

► Session 2: Political parties

- Are 'identity-based' parties a more effective means of representation than 'mainstream' political parties?

Moderator: Ms. Gay McDougall

- Mr. Miro Petek, MP, Chair of the Commission for Relations with Slovenes in Neighbour and Other Countries (Slovenia)
- Mr. Pedro de la Cruz, MP (Ecuador)

3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

► Session 3: Inside Parliament

- What are the possibilities and/or blockages for minority and indigenous representatives to address their issues within Parliament? What are the advantages and limitations of parliamentary committees with a mandate to promote the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples?

Moderator: Mr. Joe Frans (Sweden)

- Ms. Elisabeth Leon, MP, former Chair of the Committee on Andean, Amazonian and Afro-Peruvian Peoples, the Environment and Ecology (Peru)
- Mr. Márton Gyöngyösi, MP, Vice-President of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Hungarians Living Abroad, (Hungary)
- Ms. Melissa Parke, MP (Australia)

► Session 4: Local, provincial, regional government and autonomous structures

- Are minorities and indigenous peoples' issues dealt with more effectively at a sub-national level than at the national level? What are the prerequisites for the effectiveness of autonomous structures and what should their relationship with governments look like?

Moderator: Mr. Antti Korkeakivi, OHCHR

- Mr. Lars-Anders Baer, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, former President of the Saami parliament (Sweden)
- Mr. Jose Molintas, UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Philippines)
- Ms. Blanca Ruth Esponda, Head of Cabinet of the Governor of the

State of Chiapas, former Senator (Mexico)

Wednesday 3 November

Morning

- ▶ **Dialogue with indigenous leaders from the State of Chiapas**

Plenary

Venue: Parliament of the State of Chiapas, Tuxtla Gutiérrez

4.30 p.m. - 6.30 p.m.

- ▶ **Building an agenda for effective political participation**

Moderator: Mr. Anders B. Johnsson, IPU

- Mr. Oleh Protsyk, European Centre for Minority Issues

6.30 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.

Conference evaluation

Closing ceremony