



# Women and Work

*Seminar for Chairpersons and Members of Parliamentary Bodies Dealing  
with Gender Equality and other committees addressing labour issues  
Organized jointly by the IPU and the ILO*



GENEVA, IPU HEADQUARTERS, 6-8 December 2007

## INFORMATION DOCUMENT

### 1. OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR

Today, women account for almost 40 per cent of the workforce. However, women are often disadvantaged in the workplace, their employment being preponderantly unpaid or underpaid compared to men's. Promoting women's access to the labour market and enhancing their economic input are key elements of development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The seminar on *Women and Work*, organised by the IPU in cooperation with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), will examine women's participation in the labour market, within the current global context, and discuss new and old forms of discrimination. It will then focus its on two main themes: access to work and security at work. This will include questions related to women entrepreneurship, equal pay, and discrimination or exploitation at work.

The conference will endeavour to raise awareness amongst parliamentarians of new challenges related to women and work. It will aim at identifying key priority areas for action and adequate parliamentary initiatives and strategies in response for achieving equality between men and women in the labour market.

### 2. PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

The provisional programme of the Seminar is attached.

### 3. ORGANIZATION OF PROCEEDINGS

Members of parliament and/or experts and representatives of international organizations will introduce the topics on the agenda. The emphasis will be on discussion, and everything will be done to leave ample time for a free exchange of views.

In accordance with IPU practice, all participants will have equal speaking rights. In order for the discussions to be as fruitful and diverse as possible, the following arrangements will be made:

- (a) There will be no list of speakers on any agenda item. After an agenda item has been introduced by the resource persons, the floor will be open to participants for questions and comments.
- (b) Experience has shown that pre-prepared statements are not suited to this kind of event. Subject to arrangements that the Chair may decide to make depending on the circumstances, oral statements may be allowed but should not exceed five minutes. Participants may, however, speak several times on each item, particularly to respond to other statements.
- (c) The IPU Secretariat will prepare a report on the proceedings of the Seminar, for distribution to the participating parliaments, the IPU governing bodies and interested organizations.

### 4. PARTICIPATION

The Seminar is open to parliamentarians who are members of committees dealing directly or indirectly with the status of women and gender equality issues. The meeting is also open to members of parliament who work on labour issues in their country. Each delegation should be composed of three persons, including advisors.

### 5. LANGUAGES

The Secretariat of the Inter-Parliamentary Union will provide simultaneous interpretation in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

6. VENUE AND DATES

The Seminar will be held from 6 to 8 December 2007 at IPU Headquarters in Geneva.

7. REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES

The parliaments participating in the Seminar **are kindly requested to make known the composition of their delegations before 21 November 2007 on the attached registration form.**

This information should be sent to the following address:

▶ Inter-Parliamentary Union	Telephone: +41 22 919 41 50
Chemin du Pommier, N° 5	Fax: +41 22 919 41 60
Case postale 330	E-mail: <a href="mailto:postbox@mail.ipu.org">postbox@mail.ipu.org</a>
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex / Geneva	
Switzerland	

8. TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Delegates will be responsible for making their own travel arrangements.

9. VISAS

Strict provisions are in force regarding entry into Switzerland and entry is refused to any person who does not hold the required visa. Delegates requiring an entry visa must obtain one from the Swiss consulate or diplomatic mission responsible for the necessary arrangements in their country of residence.

Moreover, Geneva Airport is located on the Swiss-French border and also has a French entry point. Some flights coming from Paris or other French airports to Geneva are considered as internal flights. Therefore, delegates may wish to check if a French visa is required for certain nationalities when passing through a French airport en route to Geneva.

10. HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Matters concerning hotel accommodations are to be handled by the participants, either through their country's mission in Geneva, through their preferred tourist operator or through the Geneva Tourist Office. Should delegations wish to use the services offered by the Geneva Tourist Office, they are kindly requested to use the attached hotel reservation form. However, attention is drawn to the fact that, in keeping with the practice of all hotels in Geneva, only reservation forms returned with details of a credit card as a guarantee will be confirmed. The hotel reservation form should be returned directly to the Geneva Tourist Office by no later than **21 November 2007**, with copy to the IPU Secretariat.

11. TRANSPORTATION IN GENEVA

No transportation services will be provided by the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

12. RECEPTION

A reception for participants will be hosted at IPU Headquarters on 6 December, at 6 p.m.