



# 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, ILO HEADQUARTERS, 6-8 December 2007



## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

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Thursday, 6 December 2007

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08.30-09.30      **Registration of participants**

09.30-10.00      **Welcome remarks**

Mr. Anders B. Johnsson, Secretary General, Inter-Parliamentary Union

Mr. Assane Diop, Executive Director, Social Protection, International Labour Organization

**Chair of the Meeting:**

Ms. Monica Xavier, Senator, Uruguay and President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians

10.00-10.30      **Keynote address: Women and work: key trends and challenges**

Ms. Nouzha Skalli, Minister of Social Development, Family and Solidarity, Morocco

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10.30-11.00      **Coffee break**

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11.00-13.00      **Changing patterns of work in a global context**

The session will look at trends in women's and men's participation in the labor market and their implications for gender equality within today's global context, which includes the impact of globalization, migration, demographic changes, technological progress, and social and cultural challenges.

- Dr. Stephanie Ware Barrientos, Institute for Development Policy and Management (IDPM), School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester
- Dr. Nedal Mohammed Al Tenaiji, Member of the Federal National Council, United Arab Emirates

Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.

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13:00-14.30      **Lunch break**

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14.30-16.00      **Changing patterns of work in a global context (continued)**

The session will look at trends in women's and men's participation in the labor market and their implications for gender equality within today's global context, which includes the impact of globalization, migration, demographic changes, technological progress, and social and cultural challenges.

- Mr. Jon Messenger, Senior Research Officer, Conditions of Work and Employment Programme, ILO
- Ms. Sharon Carstairs, Senator, Parliament of Canada

Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.

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16.00- 16.15      **Coffee break**

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16.15-18.00

### **Old and new forms of discrimination at work**

This session will look at old and new forms of discrimination at work affecting women. It will examine the patterns of and reasons for the persistence of long-recognized forms of discrimination against women and the emergence of new and multiple forms in today's global economy. It will also address the challenges in combating them.

- Ms. Manuela Tomei, Chief, Conditions of Work and Employment Branch, Labour Protection Department, ILO
- Ms. Mary Cornish, Senior partner, Cavalluzzo Hayes Shilton McIntyre & Cornish Law Firm; Chair of Ontario's Equal Pay Coalition

Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.

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18.00

**Cocktail hosted for participants (IPU Headquarters)**

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**Friday, 7 December 2007**

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### **Theme 1: How to enhance women's economic opportunities (or economic independence)**

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09.30-11.00

#### **Panel 1: Women entrepreneurship**

The panel will examine ways and means of supporting women entrepreneurship and women's economic autonomy, including through micro-credit initiatives.

- Ms. Jyoti Tuladhar, Senior Gender Specialist, Bureau for Gender Equality, ILO
- Dr. Fauzia Al Saleh, Member of the Shura Council, Bahrain
- Ms. Jalia Bintu Abwoili Lukumu, Member of Parliament, Chairperson of the Committee on Equal Opportunities, Uganda

*Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.*

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11.00-11.30

**Coffee break**

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11.30-13.00

#### **Panel 2: Reconciling family and work**

The panel will discuss the growing work-family tensions stemming from the intensification of labour, demographic changes and the HIV/AIDS pandemic, among others. It will present concrete examples of initiatives taken to address these tensions.

- Ms. Naomi Cassirer, Senior Technical Officer, Conditions of Work and Employment Programme, ILO
- Ms. Marieke Koning, Equality Officer, Equality Department, International Trade Union Confederation and Raquel Gonzalez, Assistant Director, Geneva Office, International Trade Union Confederation.
- Mr. Carlos Recondo, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Chile

*Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.*

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13.00-14.30

**Lunch break**

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### **Theme 2: How to enhance women's security at work**

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14.30-16.00

#### **Panel 3: Access to social protection**

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The panel will discuss strategies and experiences aimed at increasing women's access to social protection, including maternity protection and health care. It will also address the implications of ageing for women.

- Ms Shahra Razavi, Research Co-ordinator, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, (UNRISD)
- Mrs Desirée Pethrus Engström, Member of the Labour Committee, Parliament of Sweden
- Ms Sylvia Beales, Policy Manager, Helpage International
- Ms Renana Jhabwala, President of the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) All India

*Presentations followed by a plenary debate.*

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16.00-16.15

**Coffee break**

16.15-18.00

**Panel 4: Reducing risks and vulnerabilities**

The panel will discuss mechanisms to address discrimination, exploitation, abuse and violence at work.

- Ms. Pramila Patten, Member of the UN CEDAW Committee
- Ms. Eve Bazaiba Masudi, Senator, President of the Socio-Cultural Committee, Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Ms. Cristina Semidei, Parliamentary Gender Expert, Paraguay

*Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.*

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**Saturday, 8 December 2007**

09.30-11.00

**What next? Strategies for the future**

The session will aim at identifying priorities for the parliamentary committees and mechanisms to support progress. What can parliamentary committees do? What priorities and what commitments? It will also discuss possible cooperation with international organizations and other partners in this field.

- Baroness Uddin, Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom
- Delegate from Mexico
- Ms. Yasmin Ratansi, Member of the House of Commons, Chair of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women, Canada

*Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.*

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11.00-11.30

**Coffee break**

11.30-13.00

**Lessons Learned and Defining a Future**

Discussion on lessons learned  
Elaboration of follow-up activities and themes for future meetings.