



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ARMENIA



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION



Making Child Rights a Reality for the Most Vulnerable Children

Regional parliamentary seminar hosted by the National Assembly of Armenia
and organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Yerevan, Armenia, 14-16 June 2011

Draft Provisional Agenda

Tuesday 14 June (Venue: National Assembly)	
10.45	Departure of buses from hotels
11.00 - 11.30	Registration
11.30 - 12.00	Opening Ceremony
12.00 - 12.15	Key note address Respecting the rights of the most vulnerable children: achievements and challenges
12.15- 12.45	<i>Group Photograph</i>
12.45 - 14.30	Lunch hosted by the Parliament of Armenia
14.30 - 16.00	Session 1: Overview of Parliamentary action for child rights The session will give an overall idea of the situation of child rights activities and monitoring in parliaments of countries in Central Eastern Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States, priorities currently addressed by parliaments and mechanisms used to by Parliaments to address child rights. Presentations will be followed by a debate.
16.00 - 16.15	Coffee/Tea break
16.15 - 17.30	Session 2: The International and regional legal frameworks for child rights and Parliamentary obligations The session will provide an overall introduction to the international and regional legal frameworks related to child rights, in particular as regards vulnerable children. It will place specific attention to the role of parliaments in the various regional and international monitoring processes, such as the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Presentations will be followed by a debate.
20.00	Formal Dinner hosted by the Parliament of Armenia
Wednesday 15 June (Venue: Marriott Hotel)	
09.00 - 10.30	Session 3: Early childhood development (ECD): a first response to mitigating vulnerability The session will explain how investing in early childhood development contribute to maximizing children's potential and minimizing risks. It will provide examples of good practices of ECD from the region and highlight challenges faced by states in placing more support to ECD. Presentations will be followed by a debate.
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee/Tea break

11.00 - 13.00	<p>Session 4: Parliamentary support to ECD</p> <p>The session will discuss what various initiatives parliaments can take to ensure greater support to ECD in their countries, current challenges and trends. In particular, parliament's budgetary functions will be addressed to discuss how necessary budgetary allocations can be made in favor of the most vulnerable children.</p> <p>Presentations will be followed by a debate.</p>
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch
14.30 - 15.45	<p>Session 5: Protecting children from violence, especially in early childhood</p> <p>The session will highlight the link between early childhood development and the protection of young children from all forms of violence. It will also place particular attention to the importance of family or family-like care for the proper development of young children and the accountability of the State to ensure that laws, policies and services are in place to protect young children from any form of violence.</p> <p>Presentations will be followed by a debate</p>
15.45 - 16.00	Coffee/Tea break
16.00 - 17.30	<p>Session 6: Parliamentary action for child rights (continuation of session 1)</p> <p>The session will discuss various actions and mechanisms available to parliaments to promote respect for children's rights, adequate development and protection from violence. The session will aim at pursuing discussions launched in session 1 and will place particular attention on oversight mechanisms (work of a parliamentary committee on children in overseeing and monitoring implementation of legislation; building partnerships with civil society and children; leadership role of MPs; changing mentalities to prevent violence etc).</p> <p>Presentations will be followed by a debate</p>
17.30 - 18.00	Presentation of field visits
18.00 – 21.00	Cultural visit and Dinner hosted by UNICEF

Thursday 16 June
(Venue: Marriott Hotel)

9.00 - 11.00	Field Visits
11.00 -11.30	Coffee/Tea break
11.30 - 13.00	<p>Session 7: Review and adoption of Outcome Document and Follow up</p> <p>The session will discuss the seminar's outcome document. Each delegation will also be asked to share its views on how to ensure adequate follow up to the meeting and Parliament's potential needs to do so.</p>
13.00 - 13.30	CLOSING