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AIDE MEMOIRE

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women:
The roles of judges and parliamentarians in implementation

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Amman, Jordan
17-19 October 2007

Introduction

The United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, in cooperation with

all appropriate measures to eliminate such discrimination, whether committed by public authorities or by any person or organization.

Upon ratification or accession to the Convention, States parties assume specific obligations for the full implementation of the Convention at the national level. States also undertake to submit on a regular basis, for consideration by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (the Committee), the expert body which monitors compliance with the Convention, reports on measures taken and progress achieved in the implementation of the Convention. In its constructive dialogue with States parties and its concluding comments, the Committee urges all branches of Government – i.e the executive, legislative and judicial branches - to participate in the implementation of the Convention, follow-up to the Committee's concluding comments, and the preparation of the report.

ESCWA has undertaken numerous advisory missions to its Member States, primarily in support of the work of the national machiner

The objective of the workshop is to enhance implementation of the Convention by building the capacity of judges and parliamentarians to protect and promote women's

Participants will examine the two themes – family and personal status laws; and violence against women – on the second and third day of the workshop, whereby judges and parliamentarians will meet in parallel groups on each theme. Each group will identify opportunities and strategies for more creative and widespread use of international law and in particular the Convention, and possibilities for narrowing and ultimately withdrawing of reservations by States parties.

Each participant will be invited to prepare a short paper on one of the two themes based on her/his own country-specific experience. These papers should identify progress made in these areas, the role played by judges and parliamentarians and the obstacles encountered. These papers will form the basis of the discussion in the working groups.

Theme 1: Family and personal status laws

This session will examine family and personal status laws in participating countries, and in particular existing provisions in relation to male guardianship over women; rights of

It is expected that one judge and one parliamentarian from each of the following countries will attend the workshop: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. The Occupied Palestinian Territories will also attend. Representatives of the Division, ESCWA, and the League of Arab Women will also be present at the workshop.

Timing, duration and venue