

**REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHT MECHANISMS ON WOMEN'S RIGHT**  
**Seminar convened by the Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice**  
**Geneva, 1st October 2013**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

NAME	EXPRESS BIO	
<b>Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR)</b>		
<b>Ms. Elisabeth ABI-MERSHED</b>	Elizabeth Abi-Mershed is the Assistant Executive Secretary of the IACHR and, since July 1, 2012, the Interim Executive Secretary. A United States citizen, she is the Commission's Legal Director, in charge of coordinating and supervising the preparation of all reports on cases and thematic and country reports. She also coordinates the work of the Office of the Rapporteur on the Rights of Women, as well as the specialized group that litigates cases before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.	
<b>ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)</b>		
<b>H.E. Rosario G. MANALO</b>	Ambassador Rosario Manalo is currently a member of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR). She was Chairperson of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women from 1983 to 1988, and was a former long standing CEDAW member from 1992 to 2002. Ms. Manalo is a retired diplomat who served as Philippine Ambassador to Sweden, France and Belgium.	
<b>African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)</b>		
<b>Soyata MAIGA</b>	Since November 2007 she has served as the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women for the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). She is also a Commissioner to the ACHPR. Ms. Maïga, a malian lawyer, is a graduate from the Ecole nationale de la magistrature of Paris (France).	
<b>Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)</b>		
<b>H.E. Ilham Ibrahim Mohamed AHMED</b>	Ms. Ahmed is the current Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan in Venezuela. She was the Vice-president of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Commission of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly in 2002. Ambassador Ilham Ahmed is also a Commissioner of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Independent Permanent Commission on Human Rights.	
<b>Council of Europe</b>		
<b>Ms. Carolina LASÉN DIAZ</b>	Ms. Lasén Diaz is a Programme officer at the Gender Equality and Violence against Women Division, Council of Europe. Ms Lasén Diaz has worked at the Council of Europe since 2005.	

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	She joined this Division in June 2013, having previously worked at the Secretariat of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (in particular with the independent monitoring mechanism: GRETA). She is a Spanish national holding a law degree from Madrid's Complutense University and a Master in European Union Law by Alcalá de Henares University.	
<b>Mr. Colm O' CINNEIDE</b>	Colm O' Cinneide is currently Vice-President of the European Committee of Social Rights, Council of Europe. Mr. O' Cinneide has served as specialist legal adviser to the UK Joint Committee on Human Rights and has also acted as consultant to a range of organisations, including the Northern Irish Human Rights Commission, the UK Equality and Human Rights Commission and the Irish Equality Authority.	
<b>European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)</b>		
<b>Ms. Irmina KOTIUK</b>	Ms. Irmina Kotiuk currently works as a lawyer in the European Court of Human Rights. Before joining the Court she was an advocate in Warsaw. Among other activities in private and public sector, she was cooperating with various women rights NGOs and litigating in women rights cases on the domestic and international level.	
<b>Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice</b>		
<b>Ms. Frances RADAY</b>	Frances RADAY is the new Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Discrimination against women in law and in practice. She is a former member of CEDAW and has taught extensively in various academic institutions in Israel and elsewhere. Ms. Raday is the author of numerous academic books and articles on human rights, labour law and feminist legal theory. She has acted as legal counsel on precedent-setting human rights cases in Israel's Supreme Court, including women's constitutional rights to equality in religious rituals at public sites and sex discrimination in retirement age. She is currently the Director of the Concord Research Centre for Integration of International Law, Haim Striks Law School, Colman.	
<b>Ms. Emna AOUIJ</b>	Emna AOUIJ is the new Vice-Chairperson of the Working Group on Discrimination against women in law and in practice. She assumed her function on 1st May 2011. She was member of CEDAW for three consecutive terms between 1990 and 2002. Ms. Aouij also served as independent expert of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Chad from 1996 to 1997. She has been ambassador to the Netherlands and Denmark and was	

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	previously a judge.	
<b>Ms. Patricia OLAMENDI TORRES</b>	Patricia OLAMENDI TORRES is a member of the Working Group on Discrimination against women in law and in practice. She assumed her function on 1st December 2012. Dr. Olamendi is currently Coordinator of the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the OAS Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women. She has been Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights at the Foreign Ministry, a Federal Deputy in the 54th Legislature and Deputy Attorney General for Services to Crime Victims in the Mexico City Attorney General's Office.	
<b>Ms. Eleonora ZIELINSKA</b>	Eleonora ZIELINSKA is a member of the Working Group on Discrimination against women in law and in practice. She is currently professor, chief of the comparative criminal law section and director of the legal clinic at Warsaw University and a member of the European Network of Legal Experts in the field of gender equality. Ms. Zielińska has been an active supporter of women's rights in Poland, and has served as an expert with governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations.	
<b>Ms. Kamala CHANDRAKIRANA</b>	Kamala CHANDRAKIRANA is the former Chairperson of the Working Group on Discrimination against women in law and in practice. She spent 11 years building Indonesia's national mechanism on women's human rights, the National Commission on Violence Against Women, as Chairperson (2003-2009) and Secretary General (1998-2003). She is also active in a diversity of civil society groups working in the area of peace and social justice in Muslim communities, human rights and democracy, collective memory on past violence, and public fund raising for social justice.	