

## AGENDA

*Towards a Parliamentary Strategy for African Women's Rights and Gender Equality – Uniting parliamentary efforts to end violence against women in Africa*

### EU Presidency Seminar

SENATE OF BELGIUM, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

FRI, 22 OCTOBER 2010

- Dutch, French and English interpretation -

**08:30-09:00**      **Participant registration**

**09:00-10:00**      **Opening Session**

**Chairs** : Hon. Ms. Sabine de Bethune, President of AWEPA Belgian section, Member of Senate of Belgium  
Hon. Mr. Philippe Mahoux, Member of Senate of Belgium  
Hon. Mr. Jan Roegiers, Member of Parliament of Flanders

Opening speeches

- Hon. Ms. Helga Stevens, Vice President of Senate of Belgium
- H.E. Mr. Steven Vanackere, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium
- H.E. Ms. Viviane Reding, Vice President of European Commission European, Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship – *Video message*
- Hon. Mr. Abdirahin Haithar Abdi, Speaker East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)
- H.E. Ms. Miet Smet, President of AWEPA, Minister of State

**10:00-10:30**      **Coffee/tea Break**

**10:30-12:30**      **Session 1 : Violence against women: ending Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) in Africa**

**Chairs** : Hon. Ms. Magda De Meyer, Vice President AWEPA Belgian section, former Member of House of Representatives of Belgium  
Hon. Ms. Safina Kwekwe, Chair of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) Women's Forum, Member of National Assembly of Kenya

Short film : UNICEF dvd on FGM/C

Keynote speeches:

- *Accelerating abandonment of FGM/C : evidence and opportunities* : Ms. Francesca Moneti, Senior Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF
- *Prevalence and Policy on FGM/C in Africa* : Hon. Ms. Dora Kanabahita Byamukama, Member of EALA Women's Forum, Member of Parliament of Uganda
- *Role of Civil Society* : Doctor Ms. Bogaletch Gebre, Executive director Kembatta Women's Self-Help Center, gynaecologist, Ethiopia

Panel : Good parliamentary practices

- EP : Hon. Ms. Isabelle Durant, European Parliament Vice President
- Austria : Hon. Ms. Petra Bayr, Member of National Council
- Belgium : Hon. Ms. Olga Zrihen, Member of Senate
- Uganda : Hon. Mr. Chris Baryomunsi, Member of Parliament
- Burkina Faso : Hon. Ms. Blandine Sawadogo, Member of Parliament

Discussion

**12:30-12:45                      Group Picture (in PERISTYLIUM)**

- Book stand: Books by Prof. Luc Huyse
- Promotional/sales stand: Woman's Non Government Organization's (NGO's) and other organizations

**12:45-14:00                      Lunch offered by the President of the Belgian Senate**

**14:00-15:00                      Session 2: Violence against women: Women, peace and security**

**Chairs :** Hon. Mr. Alain Destexhe, Vice President AWEPA Belgian section, Member of Parliament of the French Community of Belgium, Member of the Brussels Regional Parliament  
Hon. Ms. Mary Mugenyi, Vice President of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP)

Keynote speeches :

- *Violence against women in conflict areas* : Ms. Dagmar Schumacher, Director of UNIFEM - Brussels Office
- *African common action plans for women in conflict* : H.E. Ms. Vabah Kazaku Gayflor, Minister of Gender & Development, Liberia
- *Civil Society involvement* : Prof. Ms. Katlijne Malfliet, University of Leuven, President of Dutch speaking Women Council, Belgium

**15:00-15:30                      Coffee/tea break**

**15:30-16:30**

**Session 2 (part 2) : Violence against women: Women, peace and security**

Panel : Good parliamentary practices

- Burundi
- Denmark : Hon. Mr. Karsten Lauritzen, Member of Parliament
- Ivory Coast : Hon. Ms. Colette Kouakou Akissi, Member of National Assembly
- South-Africa : Hon. Ms. Lindiwe Zulu, former regional Member of Parliament
- The Netherlands : Hon. Ms. Kathleen Ferrier, Member of House of Representatives

Discussion

**16:30-17:15**

**Closing session : Recommendations and conclusions**

**Chair :** Hon. Ms. Sabine de Bethune, President of AWEPA Belgian section, Member of the Senate of Belgium

**17:15**

**Closing musical performance : Mrs. Dobet Gnahoré**

*Dobet Gnahoré is a singer, dancer and percussionist from the Ivory Coast, where she started her musical career. She now lives between Europe en Africa.*

*Through her music, she honours Africa and its cultures by singing in various African languages about the challenges of the African society (women, children ...).*

*This year she won the Grammy awards for Best Urban/Alternative Performance along with the famous American soul singer India.Arie.*

**Side event : Sat. 23 October, 9.00 – 13.00**

**Field visit of Amazone – centre for women and womens' organizations**

**With the support of H.E. Ms. Joëlle Milquet, Minister of Employment and Gender equality**