



PROCEDURES SPECIALES DU CONSEIL DES
DROITS DE L'HOMME

SPECIAL PROCEDURES OF THE HUMAN
RIGHTS COUNCIL

Working Group on discrimination against women in law and practice

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Dear Colleagues,

The United Nations Working Group on the issue of Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice would like to cordially invite you to a **workshop on Business and Gender** which will take place in Geneva from **2 October (afternoon) to 3 October (whole day) 2013**.

The Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice is in the process of preparing its second thematic report which will focus on economic and social life, with special attention to times of economic crisis. In its report, the Working Group hopes to include a survey of knowledge, concerns and corrective measures regarding discriminatory laws against women and societal barriers to gender equality in the context of business and transnational corporations, with an emphasis on the identification of good practices to eliminate such discrimination and empower women. The report will be presented to the Human Rights Council in 2014.

Within this framework, the Working Group has convened a workshop, during its 8th session, on the issues of gender equality in the context of business and transnational corporations. The purpose of this workshop is to examine the gender implications of the regulation of business and transnational corporations in the international human rights context and will examine the gender responsiveness of global institutions and mechanisms in promulgating regulatory policies for business and transnational corporations, including international trade, in the context of the goals of sustainable development, poverty reduction, gender equality, and the empowerment of women. It will explore good practices as regards gender responsiveness in the formulation and implementation of principles for corporate responsibility to respect human rights.

The workshop will bring together a wide range of actors including a member of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, representatives from UN agencies and international organizations, academic scholars and civil society organizations.

For more details, please see the concept note attached to this invitation. A detailed programme of work will be sent to you in due course.

If you have not already done so by email, kindly confirm your participation by **Monday 23 September 2013** at email: wgdiscriminationwomen@ohchr.org.

Yours sincerely,

Timothy R. Ryan