



WSIS Gender Caucus Orientation Session
13 September 2003, Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to invite you to attend the WSIS Gender Caucus Orientation Session, a one-day event to be held on 13 September 2003, in Geneva, Switzerland.

An estimated total of 50 participants from around the world are expected to participate in this one-day event. It forms part of the Capacity Building activity of the WSIS Gender Caucus aimed at ensuring that the lobbying and advocacy geared to mainstreaming gender in the WSIS process is increasingly more effective. The session coincides with the WSIS Third Preparatory Committee Meeting, to be held in Geneva from 15-26 September 2003.

The overall goal of the Caucus is to integrate gender equality and women's rights into the WSIS Declaration, Action Plan and outcome processes. We believe that there is a need to improve the effectiveness of structured interventions of gender advocates working in a collaborative manner and we offer this training programme as one contribution. This event will have a practical focus with group sessions for developing strategies and enhancing skills needed for timely and effective lobbying and advocacy interventions. A major focus of the day will be on building teamwork across diverse networks of gender advocates.

Written suggestions and contributions can be sent to the email address indicated on the registration form. I would also encourage participants to bring copies of advocacy materials they have found useful in their work.

The Gender Caucus is pleased to offer a limited number of small stipends of USD 100, covering one night's accommodations in Geneva to those participants who are not able to cover that cost with own or organizational funds. Please bear in mind that we may not be able to accommodate every request.

I look forward to your affirmative reply and active participation in this meeting.

Yours faithfully,

LETTIE LONGWE
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER, WSIS GENDER CAUCUS