



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

126th Assembly and related meetings

Kampala (Uganda), 31 March to 5 April 2012



Meeting of Women Parliamentarians
Agenda

FEM/17/A.1
30 January 2012

Seventeenth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

31 March and 4 April 2012

I. PRACTICAL AND PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS

Schedule and Rules

The Seventeenth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will take place on the premises of the Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala and will comprise four sittings:

- Two regular sittings on Saturday, 31 March, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the latest, to consider all the agenda items except item 3(a)ii);
- One special sitting on Wednesday, 4 April, from 2 to 3 p.m., to elect new titular and substitute regional representatives to the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians (agenda item 3(a)ii));
- A second special sitting on Wednesday, 4 April, from 4 to 4.30 p.m., to elect the President and two Vice-Presidents of the Coordinating Committee.

The proceedings will be governed by the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.

President of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

In accordance with Rule 8, the Meeting will be opened by the President of the Coordinating Committee who shall conduct the election of the President of the Meeting. As per Rule 7, the Meeting will be chaired by a woman member of the host Parliament of the 126th Assembly.

Participation and speaking rights

Women members of parliament who are part of their delegation as delegates to the Kampala Meetings can take the floor. Those who accompany the delegation in a capacity other than that of delegate can observe the proceedings of the Meeting but cannot take part in them (Rule 3 of the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians).

The debates are also open to men parliamentarians. Only those who form part of their delegation as delegates can take the floor (Rule 4.2 of the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians).

Representatives of international parliamentary assemblies that are Associate Members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and representatives of international organizations that enjoy observer status may also ask to take the floor.

Debating arrangements

The work of the Meeting will be carried out partly in plenary and partly in working groups. The debates will be conducted in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

The President will seek to promote an active and spontaneous dialogue. Interventions should therefore be **brief** and **not exceed three minutes**. Participants are urged to refrain from reading out prepared statements and are encouraged to debate ideas, illustrating their comments, where appropriate, with examples from their country.

No list of speakers will be drawn up in advance. In plenary, participants will be able to indicate their wish to take the floor by completing the registration form they will find on their desks and handing it to the ushers who will pass them on to the President. This procedure will be optional in the discussion groups.

Documents

The Secretariat will make available in the meeting room sets of official session documents, in English and French only, and various IPU publications.

Participants wishing to present developments in their country with regard to issues on the agenda or general gender issues can display documents on tables outside the meeting room. Prior to that, two copies of the documents should be given to the Secretariat. It must also be noted that these documents cannot be translated and reproduced by the Secretariat.

II. ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

At its sitting on Saturday, 31 March, the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will consider all items on its agenda except item 3(a)ii).¹

1. **Election of the President of the Meeting** (FEM/17/1-Inf.1)
2. **Adoption of the agenda** (FEM/17/A.1)
3. **Gender activities at the Inter-Parliamentary Union Assemblies**
 - (a) (i) **Work of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians at the sessions held in Bern and Kampala and recommendations** (FEM/15/7(a)-Inf.1)
Participants will be informed of the Coordinating Committee's deliberations at its sittings of 16 October 2011, in Bern, and of 31 March 2012, in Kampala.
 - (ii) **Elections to the Coordinating Committee** (FEM/17/3(a)-Inf.2)
The 17th Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will be called upon to renew half of the membership of its Coordinating Committee, to replace those titular and substitute representatives whose term expires in April 2012, as well as those members of parliaments that have lost their seat.
The Meeting of Women will hold elections to the Coordinating Committee on Wednesday, 4 April. The electoral process is detailed in Annex I.
Geopolitical groups are requested to submit candidatures in writing by Monday, 2 April by 6 p.m. at the latest. Candidatures should be accompanied by a brief curriculum vitae (3 paragraphs maximum) of the candidates in English and/or French only, for distribution to participants.
 - (b) **Work and recommendations of the Gender Partnership Group** (FEM/17/3(b)-Inf.1)
Participants will be informed of the work of the Gender Partnership Group.
 - (c) **Any other business**

The discussion on gender activities at the Inter-Parliamentary Union will conclude by 11 a.m.

4. **Contribution to the work of the 126th Assembly** (C-II/126/R-rev, C-II/126/DR-rev, C-III/126/R-rev and C-III/126/DR-rev)
The Coordinating Committee decided to invite women parliamentarians to discuss the following items of the agenda of the 126th Assembly:
 - Redistribution of power, not just wealth: Ownership of the international agendas (Second Standing Committee) (Achwa Room, Kampala Serena Conference Center);

¹ The only documents distributed on 31 March are those relating to the items to be discussed at the sitting. Documents relating to item 3(b) will be made available on 4 April.

- Access to health as a basic right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children (Third Standing Committee) (Primrose Hall, Imperial Royale Hotel).

Participants will split into two groups, one per topic.

Beforehand, the participants will elect, on the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee, a moderator and a rapporteur for each of the working groups formed. At the end of the discussion, each group will agree on the key ideas to be presented by the rapporteur to the afternoon plenary Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.

The rapporteur of each discussion group will be in charge of drafting amendments to the draft resolution submitted to the Second and Third Standing Committees for discussion. These amendments will be drafted in consultation with the President of the Coordinating Committee and the President of the Meeting and submitted on behalf of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians. The amendments will aim at introducing a gender perspective to the two resolutions.

Each discussion group will debate from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Meeting will adjourn from 1 to 2.30 p.m.

5. Debate on women in politics

Participants will be presented with the latest Map on Women in Politics: 2012, jointly produced by the IPU and UN Women. They will also be briefed on progress and setbacks of women in parliament in 2011. The presentations will be followed by a debate.

6. Dialogue session between men and women on *Supporting the next generation of women MPs*

The road to Parliament is not an easy one. The list of challenges faced by women in accessing Parliament and performing their role as members of parliament is long and has been researched extensively. When navigating in unknown waters, experience and guidance from those who have gone through a similar process becomes crucial.

An analysis of testimonials from women parliamentarians regarding their political experience has emphasized the importance of mentorship and solidarity between women parliamentarians with a view to facilitating a wider participation of women in parliaments from all walks of lives. How is this mentorship carried out? How systematic is it? What have been the benefits? How can one strengthen it? What strategies?

Women and men parliamentarians will be invited to discuss the question of mentorship and ways and means of bringing in to parliament underrepresented groups (young women, minorities, rural women). Participants will be asked to share examples of innovative initiatives, personal experiences and suggestions for progress.

7. Report of the discussion group rapporteurs

The rapporteurs of the discussion groups will present their reports. The Meeting will then ask them to prepare, in consultation with the President of the Coordinating Committee and the President of the Meeting, amendments to be presented during the general debate of the Second Standing Committee (Monday, 2 April) and Third Standing Committee (Sunday, 1 April), in accordance with the modalities specified under item 4.

8. Action by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen the parliamentary dimension of United Nations efforts to promote partnership between men and women (FEM/17/8-Inf.1, FEM/17/8-Inf.2, CL/190/7(g)-R.1)

Participants will discuss follow-up of the 56th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and parliaments' contribution to the CEDAW reporting process.

9. Future IPU Assemblies

The Meeting will be informed of gender activities planned for future IPU Assemblies, including the 127th Assembly in Quebec (October 2012).

Procedure for Elections to the Coordinating Committee to be held during the 17th Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

The 17th Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will be called upon to renew half of the membership of its Coordinating Committee, to replace those titular and substitute representatives whose term expires in April 2012.

The Meeting will also be called upon to replace members who have lost their parliamentary seats (Annex II contains the list of the current Coordinating Committee members).

Elections of the regional representatives and their substitutes: rules and procedure

Rule 31.1(c) of the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians provides that one representative from each of the IPU geopolitical Groups be elected for a four-year term of office and that a substitute for each regional representative shall be elected at the same election. A retiring member shall not be eligible for re-election for two years.

The IPU Geopolitical Groups are the following:

- African Group
- Arab Group
- Asia and Pacific Group
- Eurasian Group
- GRULAC
- Twelve Plus Group

The geopolitical groups should submit candidatures in writing. Individual IPU Members wishing to submit candidatures should submit them only to their geopolitical group. Each candidature should be accompanied by a brief curriculum vitae (3 paragraphs maximum) of the candidate in English and/or French only, for distribution to participants. Geopolitical groups are requested to submit candidatures in writing by Monday, 2 April by 6 p.m. at the latest.

Schedule

In accordance with the provisions of the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, the elections will be held during two special sittings, which will take place on Wednesday, 4 April:

- The first sitting will elect the titular and substitute regional representatives. Immediately following this election, the newly constituted Coordinating Committee will meet *in camera* to nominate candidates for the offices of President and First and Second Vice-Presidents of the Committee.
- The second sitting will approve these candidatures

Election of the President and the First and Second Vice-Presidents of the Coordinating Committee: Rules and procedure

Rule 32 of the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians stipulates that "*after each renewal of the regional representatives, every two years, the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians shall, on the proposal of the Coordinating Committee, elect the President, First Vice-President and Second Vice-President of the Coordinating Committee from among parliamentarians of different regions*".

**COMPOSITION AND OFFICERS OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE
OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS**

BUREAU (2010-2012)

<i>President</i>	Dr. N. Assegaf (Indonesia)
<i>First Vice-President</i>	Ms. F. Dağci Çiğlik (Turkey)
<i>Second Vice-President</i>	Ms. M. Mensah-Williams (Namibia)

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Expiry of term

		Expiry of term
African Group:		
<i>Titular:</i>	<i>Substitute:</i>	
Ms. Z. Drabo (Burkina Faso)	Ms. S. Shope-Sithole (South Africa)	April 2014
Ms. M. Mensah-Williams (Namibia)	Ms. S. A. Lyimo (United Republic of Tanzania)	April 2012
Arab Group:		
<i>Titular:</i>	<i>Substitute:</i>	
Ms. Z. Bouayad (Morocco)	<i>Vacant</i>	April 2014
<i>Vacant</i>	Ms. A. Mubarak (Bahrain)	April 2012
Asia-Pacific Group:		
<i>Titular:</i>	<i>Substitute:</i>	
Dr. N. Assegaf (Indonesia)	Ms. K. Ghosh Dastidar (India)	April 2014
Ms. C. Nishimura (Japan)	Ms. F. Ajorloo (Iran, Islamic Rep. of)	April 2012
Eurasia Group:		
<i>Titular:</i>	<i>Substitute:</i>	
Ms. A. Naumchik (Belarus)	<i>Vacant</i>	April 2014
Ms. V. Petrenko (Russian Federation)	Ms. E. Semenova (Russian Federation)	April 2012
Group of Latin American and the Caribbean:		
<i>Titular:</i>	<i>Substitute:</i>	
<i>Vacant</i>	Ms. S. Fernández (Ecuador)	April 2014
Ms. L. Menchaca (Mexico)	Ms. R. Latorre (Argentina)	April 2012
Twelve Plus Group:		
<i>Titular:</i>	<i>Substitute:</i>	
Ms. F. Dağci Çiğlik (Turkey)	Ms. A. Krüger-Leissner (Germany)	April 2014
Ms. C. Markwalder (Switzerland)	<i>Vacant</i>	April 2012

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Expiry of term

(ex officio, for the duration of their term on the Executive Committee)

Ms. S. Moulengui-Mouélé (Gabon)	October 2014
Ms. A. Kabore Koala (Burkina Faso)	October 2015
Ms. N. Motsamai (Lesotho)	October 2015
Ms. R. Kadaga (Uganda)	October 2015
Ms. Y. Passada (Uruguay)	October 2015

CHAIRPERSONS OF THE MEETING OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

Expiry of term

(ex officio for two years)

Ms. T. Boontong (Thailand)	April 2012
Ms. D. Castañeda (Panama)	April 2013