



## Side event to the 131<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly

### **Leaving no woman, child or adolescent behind: Accelerating parliamentary action in reducing maternal and child mortality to reach the Millennium Development Goals**

Wednesday, 15 October 2014  
12:45 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.  
Room 18, CIGC, Geneva

*Light lunch to be served outside the room prior to the event*

With less than 500 days before the end of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in 2015, the global community has made significant progress in reaching MDG 4 (reducing under-five child mortality by two-thirds) and MDG 5 (reducing maternal mortality by three-quarters). Global maternal and child mortality rates are nearly half what they were in 1990, with important progress in past 10 years.

However, less than a quarter of the most affected countries will achieve their MDG targets, even in countries where domestic income is rising and where policymakers are increasingly aware of effective interventions to improve the health of women, children and adolescents.

While parliaments were not closely involved in the setting up of the MDGs, in recent years they have become critical to driving global efforts to implementing targets under some of them, especially MDGs 4 and 5, and to accelerating progress. In 2012, through the IPU, parliaments adopted a landmark resolution on "Access to health as a basic right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children". As a result of increased attention among parliaments to MDGs 4 and 5, many countries are setting the pace for implementing stronger accountability mechanisms for reviewing progress and for protecting rights, including in partnership with civil society and development partners. Robust reviews of budget allocation and expenditure, combined with legislative review and effective advocacy, are essential requirements of protecting and promoting the health of women and children.

This special side event of the 131<sup>st</sup> Assembly will review the progress made towards achieving MDGs 4 and 5 with special focus on parliamentary action. Specifically, the event will address the following questions:

- What progress has been made in reducing maternal and child mortality and improving reproductive health, and what are the lessons learned?
- How have parliaments contributed to these efforts? Can good practice be identified, at least for countries at similar levels of economic development?
- Who are the critical partners to parliaments as they exercise their accountability function?
- How can efforts on adolescent health be advanced, particularly as they relate to health and wellbeing of girls?

Languages of the side event: English, French and Spanish.



## Draft agenda

- Moderator: Senator Salma Ataullahjan, Canada, IPU Goodwill Ambassador on Maternal and Child Health
- Welcome: Mr Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General (12:45-12:50)
- Opening remarks: Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh (12:50-13:00)
- Key outcomes from the Regional Seminar on “Ending the Cycle of Violence Against Girls in Asia-Pacific”
  - Opportunities to strengthen parliamentary action on MNCH
- Expert presentation: Dr Marleen Temmerman, Director, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, World Health Organization (13:00-13:10)
- Latest evidence and global data on progress on MNCH
  - Importance of accountability for MNCH and the role of parliaments in ensuring it
  - Women’s and children’s health in the post-2015 development agenda
- Discussant: Ms Alphonsine Mukarugema, Deputy and Vice Chairperson of Social Affairs Commission in Chamber of Deputies of Rwanda (13:10-13:15)
- Discussion*
- Expert presentation: Dr Shyama Kuruvilla, Senior Technical Officer, The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (13:35-13:45)
- Key findings from global study on factors that explain national progress in reducing maternal and child mortality
  - Brief introduction to PMNCH Post-2015 consensus statement
- Discussant: Ms Denise Pascal Allende, Member of the National Congress of Chile (13:45-13:50)
- Discussion*
- Wrap-up and closing remarks: Senator Salma Ataullahjan (14:10-14:15)