



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

136th IPU Assembly

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 1- 5 April 2017



Forum of Women Parliamentarians

Debate on

Women's political participation: a new impetus to break the glass ceiling

Saturday, 1 April 2017
2 – 4 p.m.

Celebrity Hall, first floor, Bangabandhu International Convention Centre

Gender equality in politics is essential to democracy and to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Yet, progress has been very slow at all levels. The global average of women in national parliaments is 23.3 per cent, up from 22.6 per cent a year ago. At this pace, it would take another 50 years to reach gender parity in parliament.

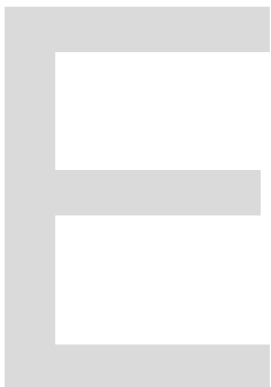
While quotas have proved effective in making progress in many parliaments, they have sometimes led to a new glass ceiling, with women's participation remaining at a minimum target or critical mass. Achieving gender equality in politics will therefore require strong political will and ambitious measures.

The discussion will start with a presentation of IPU's latest data on women in politics. Participants will hear a presentation on the IPU-UN Women Map [Women in Politics: 2017](#). They will also be briefed on the [progress and setbacks of women in parliament in 2016](#).

Following the presentation the participants will exchange views, experiences and good practices and identify priorities to achieve gender equality in politics.

Participants are invited to:

- Share information on recent developments in women's participation in parliament and in government;
- Present/Draw lessons from measures, including quotas, that have been most effective in enhancing women's political participation;
- Identify persisting challenges to bringing women's political participation to the next level, and to moving towards gender parity;
- Identify means to broaden the pool of women candidates in elections.



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