



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

# 137<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly

St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 14–18 October 2017



## FORUM OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS 26<sup>th</sup> SESSION

St. Petersburg, Saturday, 14 October 2017  
(10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2.30 to 5.30 p.m.)

Forum of Women Parliamentarians  
Agenda

FEM/26/A.1-Rev.1  
11 October 2017

### I. MEETING SCHEDULE AND SPEAKING ARRANGEMENTS

The 26<sup>th</sup> session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians will be held in Dumsky Hall (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, on Saturday, 14 October 2017, from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2.30 to 5.30 p.m.

The Session is meant to elicit spontaneous and active debate. Speaking time may not exceed three minutes. There will be no formal list of speakers. In plenary, participants will be able to request the floor by completing the form to be found on the desks.

### II. ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

#### 1. Election of the President of the 26<sup>th</sup> session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians

Welcome remarks

#### 2. Adoption of the agenda

#### 3. Gender activities

##### (a) Report of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

Participants will be briefed about the Bureau's deliberations at its sessions in Dhaka on 1 April 2017 and in Saint Petersburg on 14 October 2017.

##### (b) Report of the Gender Partnership Group

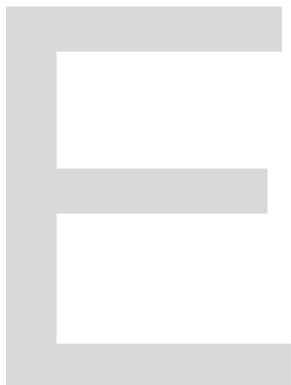
Participants find out about the work and recommendations of the Group.

##### (c) Update on recent IPU activity on gender equality

Participants will be briefed about the IPU's recent activity on gender equality.

##### (d) Celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration on Democracy.

*The discussion will conclude by 11.30 a.m.*



#IPU137

#### 4. **Contributing to the work of the 137<sup>th</sup> Assembly from a gender perspective**

Participants will be invited to discuss the following item on the agenda of the 137<sup>th</sup> Assembly:

- Sharing our diversity: The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy (*Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights*)

Participants will split into two groups to discuss the following sub-themes:

**Group 1:** How can technology be at the service of democracy and gender equality?  
Challenges and opportunities

The participants will be invited to discuss how to ensure that the whole population can enjoy the benefits that the Internet can bring to economic, social, cultural and environmental life. They will also share good practices developed to protect both freedom of speech and the right to physical and psychological integrity. They will discuss in particular means to stop online harassment and cyber-violence that targets women and girls as well as measures to combat trafficking in persons perpetrated through the Internet. The participants will also be invited to identify means and strategies to promote and increase the public participation of women and girls by using online means and tools.

**Group 2:** Educating for democracy and gender equality at all steps of the ladder: family, community and State

The participants will be invited to discuss how democratic values and principles can be furthered from generation to generation, focusing in particular on gender equality values and practices. They will share good practices experienced in education programmes on democracy in school curricula. They will also identify ways to anchor democratic and gender equality principles and values in family education. They will discuss in particular how to promote participation and empowerment in the learning experience of girls.

On the recommendation of its Bureau, the Forum will designate a chairperson and a rapporteur for each group. They will agree on recommendations that the rapporteurs will submit to the Forum of Women Parliamentarians at its afternoon sitting.

*Each group will meet from 11.30 a.m. to 1p.m.*

***The Forum will resume its work at 2:30 p.m.***

#### 5. **Panel discussion Marking the fifth anniversary of the Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments**

A gender-sensitive parliament is one that responds to the needs and interests of both men and women in its structures, operations, methods and work. It is a parliament that embodies gender equality and that delivers on it.

The Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive parliaments was adopted by IPU Members at the 127th Assembly in Quebec, in 2012. As a tool to support parliaments in taking action to become more gender-sensitive institutions, the Plan of Action proposed concrete solutions to situations common to all countries while offering a wide range of options responding to individual situations.

5 years after the adoption of the Plan of Action, many parliaments have adopted measures to further equal representation of men and women on parliamentary committee membership, to open day care centers for members and staff's children or to enhance capacities to better address gender equality issues.

What has your Parliament done?

Participants in the Panel discussion are invited to share information on and lessons learned from advancements made and challenges encountered by their parliaments to enhance their gender sensitivity and their ability to deliver on gender equality.

*The panel discussion will conclude by 4 p.m.*

**6. Hearing of the candidates for the post of IPU President**

The participants will have an opportunity to hear the candidates for the post of IPU President. The hearing will begin at 4 pm.

**7. Elections to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians**

The Forum will be called upon to fill the vacant seats on the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians. There are two vacancies: one regional representative each for Eurasia and the Twelve Plus groups. Elections will be held on the basis of candidatures submitted by those geopolitical groups.

**8. Reports of the discussion group rapporteurs**

The discussion group rapporteurs will present their reports. The Forum will then ask them to consult with the President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and of the President of the Forum's 26<sup>th</sup> Session, and prepare amendments to be presented during the debate of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights (scheduled for Sunday 15 October from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m.).

**9. Venue and date of the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians**

The Forum of Women Parliamentarians will host a Parity Debate on the theme "**Holding the purse strings: Exercising oversight for the common good**". The Parity Debate will take place on Tuesday, 17 October 2017 from 11.00 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Dumsky Hall (ground floor), Tavrichesky Palace. It is open to all members of delegations, both male and female.