



CHEMIN DU POMMIER 5  
CASE POSTALE 330  
1218 LE GRAND-SACONNEX / GENEVE (SUISSE)

TELEPHONE (41.22) 919 41 50  
FAX (41.22) 919 41 60  
E-MAIL [postbox@mail.ipu.org](mailto:postbox@mail.ipu.org)  
ADR. TELEGR. INTERPARLEMENT GENEVE

GRP/2008/Inf.11  
12 December 2008

**The Role of Parliaments in promoting equal sharing of  
responsibilities between women and men**

New York, 4 March 2009

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

We are pleased to announce that the annual parliamentary event on the occasion of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) session will be held in New York on 4 March 2009. The event, hosted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, will focus on **The Role of Parliaments in promoting equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men**.

The meeting will place particular emphasis on the role of parliament and the contribution it can make in promoting a more balanced sharing of responsibilities between women and men, especially in the field of care giving. According to the Beijing Declaration, this balanced sharing is fundamental to the well-being of both men and women and of their families, and is central to the consolidation of democracy. The parliamentary event will therefore focus on what difference parliaments can make, in particular with regard to legislation, and how this can contribute to supporting a more balanced participation of women in politics. In so doing, it will provide an opportunity to contribute to the debates at the CSW whose priority theme this year is *The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS*.

The IPU strongly encourages your parliament to request that both male and female members of parliament be included in your country's delegation to the CSW Session, including chairpersons or members of gender equality committees. Not only would this ensure their attendance and contribution to the parliamentary event, but it would also facilitate parliamentary inclusion in the CSW discussions which will take place from 2 to 13 March 2009. A copy of the agenda of the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the CSW is available at [www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/53sess.htm](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/53sess.htm).

We will be sending the agenda of the event and other pertinent documents as soon as they are finalized. These documents will also soon be available at <http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/futrmets.htm>. Meanwhile, we are pleased to attach the registration form.

Yours sincerely,

Anders B. Johnsson

Secretary General