



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) invites you to a side event during the 58<sup>th</sup> Session on the Commission on the Status of Women on:

**Legal enforcement of CEDAW as key to sustainable development: Progress and challenges**

Gender equality is key to development and poverty elimination. Without equality, women cannot contribute fully to the development of their society, let alone reap the benefits of development. Gender equality must become a core component of the new Sustainable Development Goals.

For that to happen, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is a crucial legal instrument. The purpose of the Convention is to eliminate discriminatory provisions against women in legislation and guarantee de jure and de facto equality between men and women.

Over the past 10 years, a number of legislative reforms have been undertaken in keeping with CEDAW provisions. Other reforms will be necessary in order to ensure lasting and egalitarian development.

The meeting seeks to identify good practices of constitutional and legal reforms undertaken in several countries. It will also enable participants to determine which reforms should take priority over the next 10 years with a view to advancing women's rights and gender equality.

The participants are invited to debate the following questions:

- In which major areas have legislative reforms been undertaken in the past years to eliminate discrimination against women or enhance women's rights?
- Which legislative reforms are the most difficult to achieve for women?
- Which top-priority legislative reforms should be undertaken in the coming years to promote women's rights and gender equality?
- Once passed, are laws in themselves sufficient for achieving de facto equality?

Date and time: 10 March 2014, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Location: Meeting Room C, UN Building

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