



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

## At the crossroads of sustainable development and gender equality: the role of parliaments

A parliamentary event organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and UN Women on the occasion of the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women  
11 March 2014, UN Headquarters, New York



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women

### INFORMATION NOTE

During the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) - whose priority theme is *Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls*, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the UN Women are organising a parliamentary event entitled "At the crossroads of sustainable development and gender equality: the role of parliaments".

The meeting will take place on Tuesday, **11 March 2014**, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the ECOSOC Chamber at UN Headquarters in New York.

#### Objectives

In keeping with its policy of contributing to major international forums by seeking to introduce a parliamentary dimension into the proceedings of intergovernmental organisations, the IPU is organizing this one-day event with UN Women in order to provide a forum for debate between parliamentarians from all over the world, and to contribute to the deliberations of the 58<sup>th</sup> CSW.

The meeting will focus on tracking the progress made on the Millennium Development Goals over the past 10 years. It will also assess the role parliaments had in implementing the MDGs and holding governments accountable and discuss the place of gender equality in the next set of development goals.

The morning session will pay particular attention to the situation of women in decision-making posts in the political, corporate, judicial and civil society sectors. It will discuss national and international trends in this area and future strategies to transform these sectors into more women-friendly environments. The afternoon session will be dedicated both to assessing the role played by parliaments in overseeing the implementation of MDGs from a gender perspective and to discussing how gender equality should be framed within the sustainable development goals.

#### Expected outcome

At the close of the meeting, a brief message to the CSW will be issued, stressing areas for future priority action, with particular emphasis on the role of parliaments in preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls.

#### Relevant documents

Background documents to be used throughout the meeting include:

- Written contributions of the panellists, when available;
- Documents of the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the CSW.

#### Participants

The participants in the parliamentary event will include:

- Parliamentarians present in New York for the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the CSW as members of their respective delegations. A letter of invitation will be sent by the IPU Secretary General to all Member and non-member parliaments of the IPU.
- Representatives of governments, relevant organisations and funds of the UN system, and civil society will also be invited.

### **Programme**

9.30 - 10 a.m.	Registration of delegates
10.00- 10.30 a.m.	Welcome remarks
10.30 a.m. -1 p.m.	Session 1: Women in decision-making: Tracking progress over 10 years of MDGs
1 - 2:45 p.m.	Lunch break
2:45 – 4:30 p.m.	Session 2: The role of parliaments in implementation and accountability of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
4:30 - 5:45 p.m.	Session 3: The place of gender equality in the next set of development goals
5:45 – 6:00 p.m.	Closing session

### **Languages**

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the four languages customarily used at IPU Assemblies, namely English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

### **Access badges for United Nations Headquarters**

As is customary during General Assembly sessions, security arrangements are very strict and no one may enter the United Nations premises without a special badge (for delegates and visitors). In keeping with normal practice, delegations and diplomatic missions in New York will be invited to attend to all matters relating to visas, UN Badges, hotel reservations and transportation. Participants must therefore request their badge from **their country's permanent mission to the United Nations**.

### **Registration**

Persons wishing to participate in this meeting are urged to register as soon as possible using the attached form. Once this form has been filled out, it should be sent directly to IPU Headquarters (Fax: +41 22 919 41 60; e-mail: [postbox@mail.ipu.org](mailto:postbox@mail.ipu.org) and [vs@mail.ipu.org](mailto:vs@mail.ipu.org)).

### **Informal side-events**

- ❖ *Legal enforcement of CEDAW as key to sustainable development: Progress and challenges* (10 March 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., Meeting Room C), organized by the IPU.
- ❖ *10 to 11:15 a.m., in Meeting Room D* (12 March, 10 – 11:45 a.m. Meeting Room D), organized by the Permanent Mission of Ireland and the IPU.

**N.B. Meeting Rooms C and D do not have interpretation facilities and these two meetings will be held in English only.**