



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

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

New York, 11 March 2014

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

We are pleased to announce that the annual parliamentary event on the occasion of the 58th session of Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will be held in New York on 11 March 2014. The event, hosted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), will contribute to the CSW's main theme, Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls.

The parliamentary event, entitled "At the crossroads of sustainable development and gender equality: the role of parliaments" will focus on strategies to achieve gender equality in all decision-making positions (in politics, the private sector, the judiciary, etc.), taking stock of progress made over the past 10 years. Gender equality in decision-making is a prerequisite for sustainable development. The meeting will also focus on the future and gender equality in the next generation of development goals. It will look at the specific role and needs for parliaments to ensure that gender equality goals are effectively implemented over the next 10 years.

The IPU strongly encourages your parliament to request the inclusion of both male and female members of parliament in your country's delegation to the CSW session, including chairpersons or members of gender equality, legal affairs or human rights 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 that will take place from 10 to 21 March 2014.

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A copy of the agenda of the 58th session of the CSW is available at www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/58sess.htm. Please also note that the IPU will be organizing two informal one-hour side events in Meeting Room C on 10 March (11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.) and 12 March (time to be determined). Since the United Nations does not have interpretation facilities in the informal meeting rooms, the debates for these side events will be held in English only.

Please find attached the agenda of the event and other pertinent documents. These documents are also available at www.ipu.org/splz-e/csw14.htm.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anders', enclosed within a large, stylized, handwritten flourish that loops around the name.

Anders B. Johnsson