



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

Parliaments for Gender Equality: Priorities for Beijing +20 and beyond

A parliamentary event organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and UN Women
on the occasion of the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

11 March 2015, ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York

DRAFT AGENDA

11 March 2015

10:00 - 10:30 a.m. **Opening and welcome remarks**

- Chair of the Meeting: Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams, Vice President of the of National Council (Namibia) and President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians

Opening remarks by:

- Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General, IPU
- Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngucka, Executive Director, UN Women

10:30am – 1:00pm **Session 1. Beijing and beyond: What more is required to achieve gender equality?**

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action were adopted in 1995 by 189 governments as a comprehensive affirmation of women's rights and empowerment. Twenty years later, their commitments remain only partially fulfilled. This session will look at major achievements in and remaining obstacles to implementing the Platform.

Panellists for the session include:

- Ms. Shahrashoub Razavi, Chief, Research and Data Section, UN Women
- Ms. Nicole Ameline, Former Chairperson of the UN Committee for the elimination of discriminations against women (CEDAW), Member of Parliament (France)
- Mr. Aodhán Ó Ríordáin, Minister of State for Equality, New Communities and Culture (Ireland)
- Ms. Ellen Chesler, Senior Fellow, The Roosevelt Institute
- Ms Karen Jabre, Director of the Division of Programmes, IPU

Following a short presentation, a moderated debate will begin in which **panellists and parliamentarians are invited to respond to the following questions:**

- What are the main achievements since Beijing, including in terms of women's participation in politics?
- Which specific actions remain to be implemented from the Beijing Platform?
- What new social and cultural norms have been developed over the past 20 years, impeding the full implementation of the Platform for Action?
- What resources – financial and logistical – do parliamentarians need to implement remaining priority actions?
- What are the main priority areas that require future attention to achieve gender equality?

1:00 – 2:45pm

Lunch break

2:45 – 4:15pm

Session 2. Partnerships for gender equality

A key lesson in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action has been the need to create strategic partnerships with a variety of stakeholders, including civil society, youth, men and the media. In many parliaments, synergies created with these stakeholders has led to faster and more sustainable progress. This session will address the specific mechanisms used to create and nurture these partnerships.

Panellists for the session include:

- Ms. Roberta Blackman-Woods, Member of Parliament (United Kingdom)
- Mr. Gavin Shuker, Member of Parliament (United Kingdom)
- Ms. Rosaline Smith, Member of Parliament (Sierra Leone)
- Ms. Zoubida Bouayad, Member of Parliament (Morocco)

This session will be a moderated debate between **panelists and parliamentarians, in response to the following questions:**

- How have parliamentarians effectively engaged civil society organizations and women's organizations to implement the 12 Critical Areas?
- How have parliamentarians engaged and inspired young people to address gender equality?
- What actions have men parliamentarians taken to achieve gender equality?
- What good practices have parliaments and MPs employed to encourage the media to report on gender equality and women's empowerment, without resorting to negative gender stereotypes.

4:15 – 5:45pm

Session 3. Driving global change: women's leadership in international fora

That women should be included in leadership and decision-making processes is now widely accepted as a human right. With their increasing inclusion, the benefits brought about by women's leadership have also become acknowledged and documented, and political and development priorities have shifted. This session will look at mechanisms to ensure women's participation in these global processes and the inclusion of gender equality issues on the agenda.

Panellists for the session include:

- Ms. Farah Mohamed, CEO, G(irls)20
- Hon. Margaret Mensah-Williams, Vice President of the of National Council (Namibia) and President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians
- Ms. Verona Collantes, Inter-Governmental Specialist, UN Women

Presentations will be made by resource persons, to be followed by a moderated debate **in which parliamentarians are invited to respond to the following questions:**

- How have parliamentarians advocated for, and contributed to, gender mainstreaming in major international dialogues and resolutions such as those on peace and security, population and development or climate change?
- What are the obstacles to women's inclusion in high-level international fora and what strategies can be used to circumvent those obstacles (e.g. temporary special measures for women's participation in global leadership, fast-track promotion routes, etc.)?
- What are the lessons learned in ensuring women are able to express their voice at international decision-making tables and influence global decision-making? What is the responsibility of parliaments and their members in ensuring women's voices are represented in such arenas and processes?

5:45 – 6:00pm

Concluding remarks