



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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# 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 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

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

## INFORMATION NOTE

During the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) - whose priority theme is *implementing the Beijing Platform for Action* -, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women are organising a parliamentary meeting entitled **Parliaments for Gender Equality: Priorities for Beijing +20 and beyond**.

The meeting will take place on **11 March 2015**, 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 meeting 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 59<sup>th</sup> CSW.

The meeting will focus on taking stock of achievements made in implementing the Beijing commitments and identifying remaining challenges. It will aim to identify main priority areas that require future attention to achieve gender equality beyond the 2015 milestone. The meeting will also pay particular attention to the responsibility of parliaments and the need to build strategic partnerships to achieve progress.

The morning session will focus on progress made in implementing the Beijing commitments. It will also identify actions that remain to be implemented and priority areas that require future attention to achieve gender equality. The session will also pinpoint the resources that parliamentarians need to implement remaining priority actions. Two sessions will take place in the afternoon. The first will focus on good practices developed in creating strategic partnerships with a variety of stakeholders, including civil society, youth, men and the media, to accelerate progress in implementing the Beijing commitments. The second afternoon session will explore women's leadership in international fora as a strategy to mainstream gender in high level international debates and resolutions.

### 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 accelerating progress and addressing remaining challenges in implementing the Beijing commitments and setting the post Beijing +20 priorities.

### Relevant documents

Background documents to be used throughout the meeting include:

- Written contributions of the panellists, when available;
- Documents of the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the CSW.

## Participants

The participants in the parliamentary event will include:

- Parliamentarians present in New York for the 59<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: Beijing and beyond: What more is required to achieve gender equality?
1 - 2:45 p.m.	Lunch break
2:45 – 4:15 p.m.	Session 2: Partnerships for gender equality
4:15 - 5:45 p.m.	Session 3: Driving global change: women's leadership in international fora
5:45 – 6:00 p.m.	Concluding remarks

## 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@ipu.org](mailto:postbox@ipu.org) and [vs@ipu.org](mailto:vs@ipu.org)).

## Informal side-events

- ❖ *Countering cyber violence against women* (9 March 10 to 11:15 a.m., Conference Room E - GA Building), organized by the IPU.
- ❖ *Empowering the next generation: Paving the way for young women in decision-making at all levels* (10 March, 4:45 to 6 p.m., Conference Room E - GA Building), organized by the IPU and the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations.

**N.B. Meeting Room E does not have interpretation facilities and these two meetings will be held in English only.**