



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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**Parliaments for Gender Equality: Priorities for Beijing +20 and beyond  
New York, 11 March 2015**

**Office of the  
Secretary General**

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

I am pleased to announce that the parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the 59<sup>th</sup> session of Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will be held in New York on 11 March 2015. It will be hosted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and will contribute to the CSW's main theme, *Implementing the Beijing Platform for Action*.

The parliamentary meeting, entitled *Parliaments for Gender Equality: Priorities for Beijing +20 and beyond*, will take stock of achievements made in implementing the Beijing commitments, identifying remaining challenges and new priorities to achieve women's equal rights. It will pay particular attention to the responsibility of parliaments and the need to build strategic partnerships to accelerate progress.

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 the inclusion of a parliamentary perspective in the CSW discussions that will take place from 9 to 20 March 2015. A copy of the agenda of the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the CSW is available at [www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2015/1](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/CN.6/2015/1). Other relevant documents will soon be available at <http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/futrmets.htm>.

Please also note that in addition to the parliamentary meeting, the IPU will also organize two informal side events. The first event, on 9 March (10 to 11:15 a.m.), will focus on countering cyber violence against women, and the second, on 10 March (4:45 to 6 p.m.), will focus on empowering the next generation of young women in decision-making. As 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.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Chungong  
Secretary General