



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
108th Conference and related meetings
Santiago de Chile, 6 - 12 April 2003



FEM/8/C.1
3 March 2003

**CONVOCAION OF THE
EIGHTH MEETING OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS**

Centro de Convenciones Diego Portales, Santiago (Chile), Sunday, 6 April 2003

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

I am pleased to inform you that the Eighth¹ Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will be held at the Centro de Convenciones Diego Portales in Santiago, on Sunday, 6 April 2003 from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 6 p.m. approximately. The provisional agenda, drawn up by the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians at its session in Geneva in September 2002, is appended hereto.

As you know, Article 11.1 of the Statutes provides that each national delegation to the meetings organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union should if possible include at least one woman MP and I wish to urge you to make a special effort to ensure that one or more women parliamentarians represent your Parliament at the Meeting.

The discussions at the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians are public and men MPs wishing to follow or even contribute to them are cordially invited to do so. Furthermore, as you will note from the attached agenda, a special segment of dialogue between men and women will take place during the Meeting at 3 p.m. It will discuss "The best ways to account for women's contribution to the economy and the general welfare of society, and to assess it a its full value". I hope that men and women MPs from your Parliament will attend the segment.

Yours sincerely,

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General

Encl: Annotated provisional agenda

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The number of the session is calculated with effect from the date on which the Meeting was officially recognised in the Statutes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, i.e. in September 1998. In reality, the first Meeting of Women Parliamentarians was held in Bonn in 1978.



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Meeting of Women Parliamentarians
Agenda

FEM/8/A.1
February 2003

Eighth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

Centro de Convenciones Diego Portales, Santiago de Chile, 6 April 2003

1. PRACTICAL AND PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS

Schedule and Rules

The Eighth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will take place on the premises of the Centro de Convenciones (Convention Centre) Diego Portales on Sunday, 6 April. It will comprise two sittings: from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 2.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. at the latest. The proceedings will be governed by the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.

President of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

In accordance with Rule 8, the Meeting will be opened by the President of the Coordinating Committee who shall conduct the election of the President of the Meeting. As per Rule 7, the Meeting will be chaired by a woman member of the host Parliament of the 108th Conference.

Participation and speaking rights

Women members of parliament who are part of their delegation as delegates to the Santiago Meetings can take the floor. Those who accompany the delegation in a capacity other than that of delegate can observe the proceedings of the Meeting but cannot take part in them (Rule 3 of the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians).

The debates are also open to men parliamentarians. Only those who form part of their delegation as delegates can take the floor (Rule 4.2 of the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians).

Representatives of international parliamentary assemblies that are Associate Members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and representatives of international organizations that enjoy observer status may also ask to take the floor.

Debating arrangements

The work of the Meeting will be carried out partly in plenary and partly in discussion groups.

The debates in plenary will be conducted in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. The debates in the two discussion groups will be held with the assistance of available interpreters.

The President will seek to promote an active and spontaneous dialogue. Interventions should therefore be brief and not exceed three minutes. Participants are urged to refrain from reading out prepared statements and are encouraged to debate ideas, illustrating their comments, where appropriate, with examples from their country.

No list of speakers will be drawn up in advance. In plenary, participants will be able to indicate their wish to take the floor by completing the registration forms they will find on their desks and handing it to the ushers who will pass them on to the President. This procedure will be optional in the discussion groups.

Documents

The Secretariat will make available in the meeting room a set of official documents, in English and French only, prepared for the session and various IPU publications.

Participants wishing to present developments in their country with regard to issues on the agenda or general gender issues can display documents on tables outside the meeting room. Prior to that, two copies of the documents should be given to the Secretariat. It must also be noted that such documents cannot be translated and reproduced by the Secretariat.

2. ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The following provisional agenda was prepared by the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians at its last session held on the occasion of the 171st session of the IPU Council (September 2002).

1. Election of the President of the Meeting

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Meeting will be required to adopt its agenda at the beginning of its proceedings.

3. Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians

(a) Work at the sessions held in Marrakech and Geneva, and recommendations

Participants will be informed of the Coordinating Committee's deliberations during its sittings on 22 March 2002, in Marrakech, on 25 September 2002, in Geneva, and in the morning of 6 April 2003.

(b) Questions relating to the panel discussion on "Trafficking of children" organised on the occasion of the 108th IPU Conference

Participants will be informed of the arrangements made for the panel discussion on "Trafficking of Children" scheduled for 9 April, (10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m). An information note on this event will be distributed during the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.

(c) Vacancies to be filled in the Coordinating Committee

The Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will be called upon to elect a new substitute regional representative for the Latin American Group, to replace Ms. S. Villalobos Barahona (Costa Rica), who is no longer a parliamentarian, until the expiry of her mandate (March 2004). The current composition of the Coordinating Committee is included in the set of documents of the Meeting.

(d) Any other business

4. Amendments to the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

The Meeting will be required to consider and adopt two sets of amendments to its Rules and the Rules of the Coordinating Committee of Women MPs.

(a) The first set of amendments results from the reform process adopted by the Council in Geneva 2002. The meeting will be asked to endorse the proposed amendments to its rules and to the rules of its Coordinating Committee. These amendments were circulated to all Members on 16 December 2002. No sub-amendment has been received.

- (b) *The second set of amendments were submitted by the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians and circulated to IPU Members on 10 January 2003. The proposed amendments aim at encouraging and stimulating the participation of men parliamentarians in the work of the Meeting, as well as achieving a better balance in the composition of the Coordinating Committee.*

In accordance with Rule 38.3 of the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will be called upon to take a decision on the proposed amendments and any sub-amendments by the majority of votes cast. After hearing the opinion of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, the Council of the IPU shall decide on such proposals by a two-thirds majority vote.

5. Contribution of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians to the work of the 108th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The Coordinating Committee decided to invite women parliamentarians to discuss item 5 of the 108th Conference on "International cooperation for the prevention and management of transborder natural disasters and their impact on the regions concerned", according to the following procedure:

Participants will split into two groups to discuss the following sub-themes:

Theme 1: *The role of women in natural disaster reduction (prevention and mitigation), response and recovery*

Theme 2: *Addressing special needs of women in natural disaster crisis situations*

Beforehand, the participants will elect, on the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee, a moderator and a rapporteur for each of the working groups formed. At the end of the discussion, each group will agree on the key ideas to be presented by the moderator or the rapporteur to the afternoon plenary Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.

The moderator and/or the rapporteur of each discussion group will be in charge of drafting, if need be, in consultation with the President of the Coordinating Committee and the President of the Meeting, elements for a draft resolution to be submitted, on behalf of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, to the relevant Study Committee.

Each discussion group will debate from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

6. Special segment of the Meeting on "The best ways to account for women's contribution to the economy and the general welfare of society, and to assess it at its full value"

Further to a recommendation expressed by the Gender Partnership Group, a dialogue will be held between men and women parliamentarians on the theme "The best ways to account for women's contribution to the economy and the general welfare of society, and to assess it at its full value". The dialogue will be introduced by two keynote speakers and will take place from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

7. Action by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to promote partnership between men and women

- (a) *Work and recommendations of the Gender Partnership Group*

Participants will be informed of the work of the Gender Partnership Group.

- (b) *Matters relating to the reform of the Inter-Parliamentary Union*

Participants will be briefed on recent developments in that field.

- (c) *Activities of the Focal Points*

Activities carried out by Focal Points will be briefly presented and followed by a debate.

- (d) Specialised meetings and other initiatives

Participants will be informed of the results of activities and meetings carried out by the IPU concerning gender issues.

8. Cooperation with the United Nations on gender issues

Participants will be briefed on the status of cooperation between the IPU and the United Nations in this field.

- (a) CEDAW and its Optional Protocol: launching of a Handbook for parliamentarians

The Handbook for Parliamentarians on the CEDAW and its Optional Protocol, prepared in collaboration with the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, will be presented to participants.

Further to this, a debate on ways and means of ensuring universal ratification and efficient implementation of the CEDAW and its Optional Protocol will take place.

- (b) Other issues and initiatives

9. Place, date and agenda of the Ninth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

The Ninth Meeting will take place on 28 March 2004, during the 110th IPU Assembly (London, United Kingdom).

In accordance with the provisions of Rule 11 of the Rules of the Meeting, the Coordinating Committee will draw up the provisional agenda at its sitting on Friday, 12 April 2003.