



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

+41 22 919 41 11  
+41 22 919 41 60  
postbox@ipu.org

Chemin du Pommier 5  
Case postale 330  
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex  
Geneva – Switzerland  
www.ipu.org

Office of the  
Secretary General

GRP/2017/Inf.1  
6 February 2017

**EMPOWERING PARLIAMENTS TO EMPOWER WOMEN  
MAKING THE ECONOMY WORK FOR WOMEN**  
New York, 17 March 2017

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

The Parliamentary Meeting at the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women will be held in New York on 17 March 2017. It will be hosted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). The Meeting will contribute to the Commission's main theme, [Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work](#).

The Parliamentary Meeting will focus on *Empowering parliaments to empower women: Making the economy work for women*. It will examine the crucial role parliaments can play in identifying and addressing obstacles to women's economic empowerment, in ensuring that social and economic policies respond to men and women's needs, and in monitoring the implementation and actual impact of those policies. The financial inclusion of women and gender equality at work will be the main focuses of the meeting. I enclose the agenda of the meeting and other relevant documents, which are also available at [www.ipu.org/splz-e/csw17.htm](http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/csw17.htm).

I wish to strongly encourage your parliament to request that your country's delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women include both male and female members of parliament, notably chairpersons or members of gender equality, legal affairs or human rights committees. This would ensure their attendance and contribution to the IPU-UN Women Parliamentary Meeting. It would also facilitate the inclusion of a parliamentary perspective in the Commission's discussions that will take place from 13 to 24 March 2017.

In addition to the Parliamentary Meeting, the IPU is organizing two side events on 16 March 2017. The first will be held from 1:15 to 2:30 p.m. and the other from 4:45 to 6 p.m. Both will take place in Conference Room A of the Conference Building of the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Additional information will be made available in due course. 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