



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

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IS PARLIAMENT OPEN TO WOMEN? AN APPRAISAL

Seminar for Chairpersons and Members of Parliamentary Bodies Dealing with Gender Equality

CICG Geneva, 28-29 September 2009

PROGRAMME

Monday, 28 September 2009

08.30-09.30 Registration of participants

09.30-10.00 **Welcome remarks**

Mr. Anders B. Johnsson, Secretary General of the IPU

10.00-10.15 **Group photo**

10.15-10.45 **Coffee break**

10.45-12.30 **Session 1: Challenges: Current trends**

This session will examine the obstacles that women face entering parliaments, including socio-cultural barriers such as stereotypes and structural barriers such as political parties and electoral systems. It will briefly highlight the numerical progress made since Beijing in 1995.

- What are primary socio-cultural challenges, such as dual burden and stereotyping?
- What are the main structural barriers, such as electoral systems and money in politics?
- What role do political parties play as gatekeepers to politics?

Presentations by:

- *Ms. Kareen Jabre, Manager, Gender Partnership Programme, IPU*
- *Ms. Linah J. Kilimo, Assistant Minister for Cooperative Development and Marketing, Member of Parliament, Kenya*
- *Ms. Kay Hull, Member of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Australia*

Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.

12.30-14.00 **Lunch break**

14.00-14.15 **Presentation of the International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics (iKNOW Politics)**

14.15-16.00 **Session 2: Overcoming barriers: Electoral gender quotas**

This session will examine the effects of electoral gender quotas, a specific policy measure implemented in the past 15 years to increase women's access to parliament.

- What are electoral gender quotas and what form do they take?
- How effective have quotas been in accelerating women's access to parliament?
- What strategies and lessons can be shared about passing quota legislation?

Presentations by:

- *Prof. Drude Dahlerup, Dept. of Political Science, Stockholm University, Sweden*
- *Ms. Daniela Payssé, Member of the House of Representatives, Uruguay*

Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.

16.00- 16.30 **Coffee break**

- 16.30-18.00 **Session 3: Overcoming Barriers: Other special measures and strategies**
- Given the challenges of implementing electoral quotas in several countries, this session will examine other measures that have been used or proposed to enhance women's access to parliaments.
- What are other forms of special measures to promote women in parliament?
 - What role does money in politics play, and can campaign finance reforms help?
 - What other measures can political parties implement, such as training and campaign support?
 - What difference can the media make?
- Presentations by:
- *Dr. Marcela Tovar, Director of the Latin American Studies Program at Queens College – City University of New York (QC - CUNY)*
 - *Ms. Colleen Lowe Morna, Executive Director, Gender Links, South Africa*
 - *Ms. Alyson Kozma, Program Manager, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)*
- Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate
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- 18.15-19.30 **Cocktail hosted for participants (IPU Headquarters)**
(buses will transport participants from the CIGC to the IPU Headquarters)

Tuesday, 29 September 2009

- 09.30-11.00 **Session 4: Women in Parliament: Challenges inside the House**
- When women enter parliament, they have typically entered a male domain where the vast majority function according to rules established by men. This session will examine the challenges that women confront once they take up their seats in parliament.
- Are parliaments' still male bastions, 15 years after Beijing?
 - How do the traditional rules and practices of parliament affect women's participation?
 - Does a critical mass of women members (30%) matter?
- Presentations by:
- *Ms. Kareen Jabre, Manager, Gender Partnership Programme, IPU*
 - *Ms. Massuma Al Mubarak, Member of the National Assembly, Kuwait*
 - *Ms. Irène Yameogo, Member of the National Assembly, Burkina Faso*
- Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.
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- 11.00-11.30 **Coffee break**
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- 11.30-13.00 **Session 5: Legislative and policy outputs: Facilitating a gender perspective**
- This session will examine some of the initiatives that have been taken to improve the gender sensitivity of the legislative process. It will review gender mainstreaming strategies, highlight institutional structures that have been put in place to facilitate gender mainstreaming - such as specialised committees and women's caucuses – and provide an overview of monitoring impacts from a gender perspective.
- How are parliaments faring in terms of mainstreaming gender into their policy work and what mechanisms can be implemented to enhance gender mainstreaming?
 - What role can committees and caucuses play, such as gender-based analysis and monitoring of impacts?
 - What lessons learned can be drawn?
- Presentations by:
- *Dr. Bahiya Al Jishi, Member of the Shura Council, Bahrain*
 - *Ms. Dina Akkelidou, Member of the House of Representatives, Cyprus*
- Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate
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- 13.00-14.30 **Lunch break**
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14.30-16.00	<p>Session 6: Gender Sensitive Parliaments</p> <p>A gender sensitive parliament responds to the needs and interests of both men and women in its structures, operations, methods and work. This session will identify which changes can be made, or facilities introduced, to ensure parliaments are responsive to the needs of women and men.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What changes to the rules and practices of parliaments can be made to make them more gender-sensitive and family-friendly? • How can the barriers to women’s full participation in parliament be removed? • What reforms have been adopted to ‘modernize’ parliaments, such as adopting a gender action plan, changing sitting times or introducing childcare facilities? • What benchmarks can be identified to measure the gender sensitivity of parliaments? <p>Presentations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Margaret Mensah Williams, Vice President of the National Council of Namibia - Ms. Julie Ballington, Programme Specialist, Gender Partnership Programme, IPU - Mrs. Hillevi Engström, Member of the Riksdag, Sweden <p>Presentations followed by a plenary debate.</p>
16.00 – 16.30	<p>Coffee break</p>
16.30 – 16.45	<p>Special Presentation on the IPU Project to End Violence against Women</p>
16.45-18.00	<p>Session 7: A Parliamentary Appraisal</p> <p>The final session will seek to define progress made in terms of women’s parliamentary participation since Beijing, and take stock of concrete steps and special measures that have opened parliaments up to the participation of women. It will also assess ways in which women parliamentarians have changed politics and redefined political priorities to include their concerns and priorities.</p> <p>Facilitator: <i>Mr. Anders B. Johnsson, Secretary General of the IPU</i></p>
18.00	<p>Closure of Conference</p>