



Sixth Annual Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament

Women Speakers take action on maternal, child and newborn health

Bern, 16-17 July 2010

organized by the Swiss Parliament and the Inter-Parliamentary Union



Geneva, 11 March 2010

Dear Madam Speaker, Dear Colleague,

It is our great pleasure to invite you to the 2010 Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament, which will be held on 16 and 17 July 2010. This Meeting, organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, will be hosted by the Parliament of Switzerland in Bern and will precede the 3rd World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, due to take place in Geneva from 19 to 21 July.

At their Fifth Meeting held last year in Vienna, the Women Speakers expressed their wish to maintain a link to the agenda of the United Nations, while ensuring that the meeting provided a forum and opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences on other gender issues which are of interest to their national and international agendas.

With this in mind, we would like to suggest that this year's Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament focus on challenges faced in achieving gender equality and, in particular, in achieving Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 on child survival and maternal health.

We are convinced that this meeting will provide an opportunity to take stock of progress made and challenges ahead in achieving these two Goals which concern us all, but which have long been overlooked by politicians. The meeting should also provide an opportunity to contribute to the preparations for the Millennium Development Goal Review, which will take place in September 2010 at United Nations Headquarters. The preliminary agenda of the meeting, a registration form and an information note are attached.

As you will see, five sub-themes are highlighted in the agenda. In order to benefit from your experience, we would be honoured if you would agree to speak on one of these five themes. Through a presentation of about five minutes, we would ask you to set the tone for an interactive debate and prepare the ground for the other contributions of women Speakers. In this way, we hope to stimulate an interactive and constructive debate. We would appreciate if you could let us know which theme you wish to speak on by completing the relevant section in the attached registration form.

We sincerely hope that you will be able to join us at this important political event and look forward to hearing from you and to welcoming you to Bern.

Yours sincerely,

Pascale Bruderer Wyss
Speaker of the
National Council

Erika Forster-Vannini
President of the
Council of States

Theo-Ben Gurirab
President of the
Inter-Parliamentary Union