



**Seventh Annual Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament
Gender-sensitive Parliaments**

Venue : Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
3-4, October 2012

Organized by the Parliament of India and the Inter-Parliamentary Union



20 July 2012

Dear Madam Speaker, Dear Colleague,

It gives us immense pleasure to invite you to the Seventh Annual Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Parliament of India at New Delhi from 3 to 4 October, 2012.

At the Sixth Annual Meeting held in Bern in 2010, the Women Speakers had strongly felt that this meeting provides an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas and share experiences on strategies to address gender issues which are vital to their national and international agendas.

Therefore, this year's Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament will focus on strategies to make parliaments more gender-sensitive. It will include discussions on matters related to access of women to parliament and parliament's capacity to champion gender equality issues. The findings of the IPU's latest global survey on Gender Sensitive Parliaments that was launched recently will also be deliberated upon. Besides, the Meeting will highlight the role of Women Speakers in mentoring young women politicians.

The agenda will include a follow up session to the Bern meeting on maternal and newborn health. This will be the occasion to take stock of the action taken on the *Bern Initiative for Global Parliamentary Action on Maternal and Child Health* and to identify current challenges on the road to achieving MDGs 4 and 5 by 2015.

The preliminary agenda of the New Delhi meeting, registration form and an information note are attached herewith. We are confident that this meeting will prove to be invaluable for sharing experiences and learning from each other's best practices and invite you to identify the agenda topics you would like to contribute to with a presentation.

We sincerely hope that you will be able to join us at this significant event and look forward to welcoming you to New Delhi.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Hon. Meira Kumar (Smt.)
Speaker of the Lok Sabha of India

Abdelwahad Radi
President of the
Inter-Parliamentary Union