

Greetings All,

It is an honour for me to participate the 145th session of IPU and address this gathering today.

I would like to give you some updates regarding gender and gender equality. Besides improvements in all spheres in my country, including Security, economic and political stability, also women political participation was given special importance and attention that led to a lot of tangible achievements.

The country went to Parliamentary elections late last year, and we have formed special group that lobbied for the participation of women in parliament. We met with all concerned parties on this issue to make this dream happen, fortunately a lot good things happened because of this huge campaign.

For the first time in history, Somalia elected a woman MP for the 1st deputy of Speaker of the House of People of the Federal parliament of Somalia. It is also worth to note that 50% of the chairs of Senate standing committees are women elected to lead.

For your information, there is no Women quota bill in our country, and no articles in our constitution mandating this quota.

We are also facing a lot of challenges including cultural barriers that need to be jointly worked on and overcome.