



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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140th IPU Assembly

Doha (Qatar), 6 – 10 April 2019



FORUM OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

29th SESSION

Doha, 6 April 2019

FEM/29/A.1
15 January 2019

I. MEETING SCHEDULE AND SPEAKING ARRANGEMENTS

The 29th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians will be held in the room Al Rayyan at the Sheraton Convention Center, Doha, Qatar, on Saturday 6 April 2019, from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2.30 to 5.30 p.m.

The session is meant to elicit spontaneous and active debate. Speaking time may not exceed three minutes. There will be no formal list of speakers. In plenary, participants will be able to request the floor by completing the form to be found on the desks.

II. ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. **Election of the President of the 29th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians**
2. **Welcome remarks**
3. **Adoption of the agenda**
4. **Activities to advance gender equality**
 - (a) Report of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians
 - (b) Report of the Gender Partnership Group
 - (c) Update on recent IPU activities for the promotion of gender equality

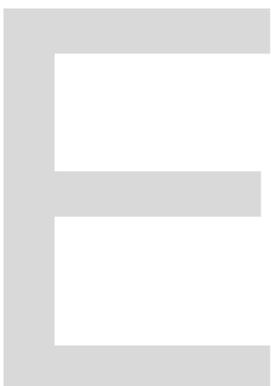
The discussion will conclude by 11.30 a.m.

5. **Contribution to the work of the 140th Assembly from a gender perspective**

Participants will be invited to discuss the draft resolutions that are on the Agenda of the 140th Assembly entitled *Non-admissibility of using mercenaries as a means of undermining peace and violating human rights* (Standing Committee on Peace and International Security), and *The role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation* (Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade). Participants will discuss the draft resolutions from a gender perspective and issue recommendations on gender-related amendments to be submitted by the Forum of Women Parliamentarians to the two Standing Committees. For this purpose, they will work in two groups as follows:

Group 1 will discuss: *Non-admissibility of using mercenaries as a means of undermining peace and violating human rights.*

Group 2 will discuss: *The role of fair and free trade and investment in achieving the SDGs, especially regarding economic equality, sustainable infrastructure, industrialization and innovation.*



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After a short presentation on the draft resolutions, the Forum will split into discussion groups. On the recommendation of its Bureau, the Forum will designate a chairperson and a rapporteur for each group. The rapporteurs will submit the groups' recommendations to the Forum of Women Parliamentarians at its afternoon sitting.

Each group will meet from 11.45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Group 1 will meet in the Al Rayyan room, Sheraton Convention Center

Group 2 will meet in the Salwa 1 room, Sheraton Convention Center

The Forum will resume its work at 2.30 p.m.

6. Panel discussion: *Equality at work*

The global labour force is made up of only half of the women in the world and about 76 per cent of the men in the world. The gap widens based on ethnicity as well as for migrant women and mothers. Women workers are overrepresented in the informal economy, and in low-paid, low-skilled or unregulated jobs. They often face gender-based discrimination, violence and harassment in the workplace. Women also bear the burden of most unpaid care and domestic work and tend to earn less than men for work of the same value. Last but not least, women are the main victims of the unacceptable scourge of modern slavery.

On the other hand, women's equal participation in the global labour force would add USD 12 trillion to the global economy. Gender equality at work would also have a multiplier effect for development, human rights and gender equality as women who are economically empowered are more likely to invest in nutrition, education and health, with great benefits for their children, families, communities and society as a whole. The topic will also be high on the international agenda in the coming months with the negotiation of a new International Labour Organization (ILO) instrument that will address violence and harassment in the world of work. In this context, "*Ending Gender-Based Violence in the World of Work*" was chosen as the theme of the *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign* in 2018-2019.

The Panel discussion will focus on sharing good practices, strategies, policies, legislation and measures to achieve gender equality, dignity, security and health at work as well as value of and sharing responsibility for unpaid care and domestic work. It will address sexual harassment and violence in the workplace, the ensuring of equitable social protection for all and the elimination of exploitation in all its forms.

The panel discussion will conclude by 4.30 p.m.

7. Election to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

The Forum of Women Parliamentarians will be called upon to fill the vacant seats on the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians:

- One regional representative for the African Group (end of term March 2020) to fill the seat left vacant after the decease of Ms. F. Adedoyin (Nigeria);
- One regional representative for the Eurasia Group (end of term March 2020) to fill the seat left vacant by Ms. S. Sardaryan (Armenia) who is no longer a parliamentarian.

Elections will be held on the basis of candidatures received from the corresponding geopolitical groups.

The Forum of Women Parliamentarians will also be called upon to approve the nomination of Ms. A. Al-Basti (United Arab Emirates) to fill the position of the First Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and Ms. A. Tolley (New Zealand) to fill the position of Second Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians. These nominations had been decided by the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians at its 42nd session held on 18 October 2018.

8. Report of the discussion group rapporteurs

The discussion group rapporteurs will present their reports. The Forum will then ask them to consult with the President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and prepare amendments aimed to enhance a gender perspective in the draft resolutions to be presented during the debates of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade.

9. Venue and date of the 30th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians (October 2019)