



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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# 142nd IPU ASSEMBLY

## Virtual session, 24-28 May 2021

Forum of Women Parliamentarians  
Item 6

FEM/31/6-Inf.1  
15 April 2021

### Panel discussion: *Generation Equality in and through parliaments*

**Wednesday, 12 May 2021, 14:00–16:00 CEST**  
*Virtual event*

2020 marked several important milestones: 25 years since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 20th anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and five years since the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development came into force. And yet, many of the targets set in these key instruments are still far from reach.

It is against this backdrop that UN Women, in partnership with the governments of France and Mexico and civil society groups, decided to launch the [Generation Equality Forum](#), a unique platform centred on intergenerational dialogue and multi-stakeholder collaboration to achieve gender equality. The aim is to scale up commitments to accelerate progress in the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

There is no doubt that achieving the SDGs requires bridging gender gaps in all areas of life. The Generation Equality Forum focuses in particular on the following areas:

1. Gender-based violence
2. Economic justice and rights
3. Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)
4. Feminist action for climate justice
5. Technology and innovation for gender equality
6. Feminist movements and leadership

In March 2021, the IPU, in collaboration with other entities, unveiled draft priority areas of action under the six items above, each corresponding to an Action Coalition. These [Action Coalition draft priority areas](#) were thoroughly discussed with other interested stakeholders during the Generation Equality Forum hosted by Mexico, and are now being finalized.

As the [commitment-making phase](#) just began and will culminate at the Paris Forum in June 2021, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians will provide a space for such commitments to be discussed and formulated, both in terms of what MPs can pledge to do individually, and of what their institutions could commit to doing.

Participants at the panel discussion will be invited to share insights on the following:

- Is your parliament currently engaged in repealing discriminatory laws or considering new **legislation to guarantee women's rights and gender equality**, especially as regards gender-based violence, economic justice, and sexual and reproductive health and rights? What efforts could be made to accelerate such legal reforms?
- What would it take to **reach gender parity and ensure the presence of diverse groups of young women leaders** at all levels of decision-making and across all areas, including the economy, climate action and technology?
- Does your parliament have an **institutional mandate, a dedicated body and/or internal expertise to advance gender equality** in all areas of its work? Please give examples of what impact such gender mainstreaming mechanisms have had and outline what more they could do.

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- Is your parliament equipped for designing, adopting and monitoring **public finance and budget** through a gender lens? If not, what measures are envisaged to achieve this objective?
- How can parliaments and individual MPs lead by example in **tackling gender-based violence and sexism in parliament**?
- What measures would you take to engage **civil society groups and adolescent girls** so that they can voice their concerns and influence parliamentary decision-making processes?

During the panel discussion, focus will be placed on youth and adolescent girls' leadership, in line with the IPU's role as co-leader of Generation Equality's Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership. Participants will be briefed on the [call to action on young women's participation and leadership](#) issued by the IPU and the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth in March 2021. In addition, the discussion will provide an opportunity for MPs to hear from adolescent girls and young women on what it would take for them to feel empowered to participate in public life and contribute to decisions that can build a better future for them.

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