



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

142nd IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS May 2021

FEM/31/A.1-rev
22 April 2021

31st session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians

Provisional agenda

I. MEETING SCHEDULE AND SPEAKING ARRANGEMENTS

The 31st session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians will be held virtually on an integrated digital platform. The Forum will have two sittings: the first on **Monday, 10 May, from 14:00 to 17:00 CEST**; and the second on **Wednesday, 12 May, from 14:00 to 16:00 CEST**.

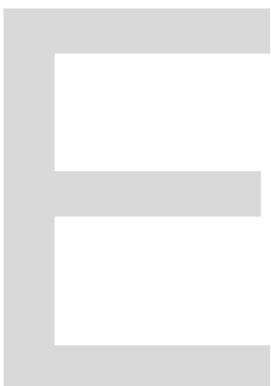
The session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians is open to women and men parliamentarians who wish to take part in the various discussions and debates. The session is meant to elicit spontaneous and active debate. Speaking time may not exceed two minutes. There will be no formal list of speakers. In plenary, participants will be able to request the floor using the raise hand button of the digital platform.

II. ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

<i>First sitting</i> <i>Virtual, Monday, 10 May 2021, from 14:00 to 17:00 CEST</i>

1. **Welcoming remarks**
2. **Adoption of the agenda**
3. **Recent activities to advance gender equality**
 - (a) Report of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians
Participants will be briefed about the Bureau's deliberations at its sessions held in Belgrade on 13 October 2019 and virtually on 9 March 2021.
 - (b) Update on recent IPU activities for the promotion of gender equality
Participants will be briefed about the IPU's recent publications and activities to promote gender equality.

The session will conclude by 14:45 CEST



#IPU142

4. Contributing to the work of the 142nd Assembly from a gender perspective

(a) Gender-related impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and prioritizing parliamentary action for gender-responsive recovery

The General Debate of the 142nd Assembly of the IPU focuses on the theme *Overcoming the pandemic today and building a better tomorrow: the role of parliaments*.

The impacts of crises are never gender neutral, and the COVID-19 crisis is no exception. Beyond the public health crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about dire economic and social consequences. As in other crises, rampant inequalities have once again been revealed and further exacerbated. The economic and social fallouts are felt hard by women as they are more likely to be found in vulnerable socioeconomic situations: they are more likely to be employed in the hard-hit economic sectors and occupy ill-protected jobs. Lockdown measures and economic pressure have also further amplified the various forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG) – the shadow pandemic.

Parliaments and their members are in a unique position to exercise political will and contribute gender-responsive action to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls and to drive a gender-responsive post-pandemic recovery.

Participants will have an interactive discussion on the theme *Towards a gender-responsive recovery post COVID-19*. Following short briefings on recent IPU debates on the gendered dimensions of COVID-19, they will be provided with an opportunity to exchange on priority action in this area.

Under the leadership of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, the IPU organized the *Inter-parliamentary Dialogue series of virtual meetings on gender-responsive recovery post COVID-19* held in March and April 2021 in partnership with UN Women.

The Inter-parliamentary Dialogue series aimed to build an evidence-based understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; exchange peer to peer experiences, good practices, lessons learned and advice; and to identify legislative, oversight and budgetary parliamentary actions for gender-responsive recovery. The virtual meetings focused respectively on women's political participation, women's economic empowerment, violence against women and girls, and gender-sensitive parliaments and gender-responsive legal reforms.

The series also aimed to inform the Forum of Women Parliamentarians in the preparation of its contribution to mainstreaming gender equality in the deliberations and outcomes of the 142nd Assembly of the IPU.

Reports of the *Inter-parliamentary Dialogue series of virtual meetings on gender-responsive recovery post COVID-19*, including findings and recommendations, will be presented by members of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians who led the Inter-parliamentary Dialogue series.

Interactive discussion: Towards a gender responsive post-COVID recovery

The presentation of findings and recommendations of the Inter-parliamentary Dialogue series will be followed by an interactive discussion among the members of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. The discussion will focus on prioritizing legislative, oversight and budgetary parliamentary actions for gender responsive post-COVID recovery.

The conclusions of the discussion will form the contribution from a gender equality perspective of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians to the work of the 142nd Assembly of the IPU on *Overcoming the pandemic today and building a better tomorrow: the role of parliaments*.

(b) Mainstreaming gender equality in the draft resolutions under consideration at the 142nd and 143rd Assemblies

Two draft resolutions are on the agenda of the 142nd Assembly, entitled “*Parliamentary strategies to strengthen peace and security against threats and conflicts resulting from climate-related disasters and their consequences*” (Standing Committee on Peace and International Security) and “*Mainstreaming digitalization and the circular economy to achieve the SDGs, particularly responsible consumption and production*” (Standing Committee on Sustainable Development).

Under the special procedure put in place in light of the current pandemic, the Standing Committees will meet in the weeks preceding the Assembly and will endorse the resolutions through a written silence procedure. Members of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians take part as ex-officio members in the bureaus, drafting committees and meetings of the respective Standing Committees, in order to ensure a gender perspective is integrated in their work.

The participants will be briefed on the above-mentioned draft resolutions and the inclusion of a gender perspective in each of them.

In preparation for the 143rd Assembly, participants will discuss the theme of the next resolution of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, entitled “*Legislation worldwide to combat online sexual child exploitation*”, to be adopted at the 143rd Assembly. The objective of the discussion is to identify gender-related priorities to share with the co-rapporteurs for the upcoming resolution. On behalf of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, a discussion summary will be presented by a member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians at the Standing Committee’s meeting on 18 May on the theme of its next resolution.

The session will end by 16:30 CEST

5. Elections to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

The Forum of Women Parliamentarians will renew half of the membership of its Bureau to replace those regional representatives whose terms expired in 2020 and had been extended until the 142nd Assembly, as well as those members who have lost their seats in parliament.

After the elections, the sitting will be suspended until 12 May to allow the newly constituted Bureau of Women Parliamentarians to meet *in camera* and select candidates for the positions of presiding officers: President, First Vice-President and Second Vice-President of the Bureau.

The sitting will end at 17:00 CEST

<i>Second sitting Virtual, Wednesday, 12 May 2021, from 14:00 to 16:00 CEST</i>

6. Panel discussion – Generation Equality in and through parliaments (Concept note attached)

The panel discussion will conclude by 15:30 CEST

7. (continued) Elections of the presiding officers of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians (15:30–15:55 CEST)

The Forum of Women Parliamentarians will resume its sitting to elect the President, First Vice-President and Second Vice-President proposed by the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians.

8. Venue and date of the 32nd session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians

The sitting will end at 16:00 CEST.

**COMPOSITION AND OFFICERS OF THE BUREAU
OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS
(as at 15 March 2021)**

PRESIDING OFFICERS (April 2018–2020)

President: Ms. S. Wakarura Kihika (Kenya)

First Vice-President: *Vacant*

Second Vice-President: *Vacant*

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Expiry of term

African Group:

Vacant

Ms. K. Bukar Abba (Nigeria)

Ms. S. Wakarura Kihika (Kenya)

Vacant

April 2022

April 2020

Arab Group:

Vacant

Ms. H. Alhelaissi (Saudi Arabia)

Ms. I. Almlohi (Syrian Arab Republic)

Vacant

April 2022

April 2020

Asia-Pacific Group:

Ms. P. Maadam (India)

Ms. S. Sirivejchapun (Thailand)

Vacant

Ms. R.W Karirathna (Sri Lanka)

April 2022

April 2020

Eurasia Group:

Ms. E. Vtorygina (Russian Federation)

Ms. L. Gumerova (Russian Federation)

Ms. Z. Greceanii (Rep. of Moldova)

Vacant

April 2022

April 2020

Group of Latin American and the Caribbean:

Ms. J. Álvarez Vera (Chile)

Vacant

Vacant

Vacant

April 2022

April 2020

Twelve Plus Group:

Vacant

Ms. S. Ataullajhan (Canada)

Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine)

Ms. S. Koutra-Koukouma (Cyprus)

April 2022

April 2020

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(ex officio, for the duration of their term on the Executive Committee)

Ms. B. Argimón (Uruguay)

Ms. E. Anyakun (Uganda)

Ms. C. Widegren (Sweden)

Ms. P. Krairiksh (Thailand)

Ms. A.D. Mergane Kanouté (Senegal)

Ms. L. Fehlmann Rielle (Switzerland)

Expiry of term

October 2024

October 2023

October 2023

October 2023

April 2023

October 2021

PRESIDENTS OF THE FORUM OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

(ex officio for two years)

Ms. R. Al Mansoori (Qatar)

Expiry of term

April 2021