



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

145th IPU Assembly

Kigali, Rwanda
11-15 October 2022



FEM/34/A.1-rev
8 October 2022

34th SESSION OF THE FORUM OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

Provisional agenda

Sessions of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians are open to women and men parliamentarians.

1. **Election of the President of the 34th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians**
2. **Adoption of the agenda**
3. **Activities to advance gender equality**

Participants will be briefed about:

- (a) The work of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and its deliberations at the sessions held in Nusa Dua on 24 March 2022 and in Kigali on 11 October 2022
- (b) The work and recommendations of the Gender Partnership Group
- (c) IPU activities for the promotion of gender equality

4. **Contribution to the work of the 145th Assembly from a gender perspective**

Participants will be invited to discuss the draft resolution that is on the agenda of the 145th Assembly entitled *Parliamentary impetus to local and regional development of countries with high levels of international migration and to stopping all forms, including state-sponsored, of human-trafficking and human rights abuses* (Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights). Participants will discuss the draft resolution from a gender perspective and issue recommendations on gender-related amendments to be submitted by the Forum of Women Parliamentarians to the Standing Committee. The participants will discuss in particular the following aspects of the theme of the draft resolution:

- *Upholding a rights-based, gender-responsive approach to migration*
- *Addressing the root causes of human trafficking and ensuring survivor-centred anti-trafficking legislation and its enforcement*

After a short presentation on the draft resolution, the Forum will debate it in plenary. On the recommendation of its Bureau, the Forum will designate a rapporteur. The rapporteur will submit a set of recommendations stemming from the discussion to the Forum of Women Parliamentarians later in the afternoon.

The debate on the draft resolution will be held from 15:00 to 16:15.

5. Panel debate on *Gender-sensitive parliaments: Parliaments free from sexism, harassment and violence against women*

2022 marks the 10th anniversary of the IPU's *Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments*, adopted at the 127th Assembly in Quebec City, Canada. The Plan defines a gender-sensitive parliament as one that responds to the needs and interests of both men and women in its composition, structures, operations, methods and work. It is a parliament in which there are no barriers – substantive, structural or cultural – to women's full participation and to equality between its men and women members and staff. It is not only a place where women can work, but also a safe and respectful workplace where women want to work and contribute.

Ten years ago, sexual harassment policies for staff and MPs were the least common form of gender policy in parliament, with less than 20% of parliaments saying they had one¹. Yet evidence has since shown that gender-based violence, including sexism, misogyny, intimidation, harassment and many forms of sexual, physical, psychological and economic violence are perpetrated in the premises of parliament against women MPs and staff. IPU studies on sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments revealed that globally more than 80 per cent of women MPs surveyed have experienced psychological violence, 25 per cent physical violence, 22 per cent sexual violence, and 33 per cent economic violence².

Can a parliament be gender-sensitive if its women members and staff are assaulted or intimidated because they are women? How have parliaments addressed internal sexism, harassment and violence against women so far? What is needed for parliaments to be free from gender-based violence?

The panel debate will be a platform for participants to reflect on these key questions, share challenges faced and good practices experienced, and devise solutions to apply in their respective parliaments.

The panel will also provide an opportunity to showcase an exhibition of posters and awareness-raising tools used in parliaments to prevent and address sexism, harassment and violence against women on parliamentary premises.

The panel debate will be held from 16:15 to 17:45.

6. Report of the rapporteur of the discussion on the draft resolution

The rapporteur of the discussion on the draft resolution on the agenda of the 145th Assembly will present her report. The Forum will then ask the rapporteur to consult with the President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and prepare as required any amendments to be presented during the debate of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights.

7. Elections to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

The Forum of Women Parliamentarians is called upon to fill the vacant seats on the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians.

8. Venue and date of the 35th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians

¹ IPU, *Gender-Sensitive Parliaments: A Global Review of Good Practice*, 2011.

² IPU, *Issues Brief: Sexism, harassment and violence against women parliamentarians*, 2016.