Parliaments and women’s rights: Implementing the CEDAW Convention, realizing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for all

A parliamentary roundtable organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

22 June 2023, 9.00 – 16.00 CEST (hybrid event)

09:00 Chairperson: Ms. Cynthia López Castro, President of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

Opening statements

Mr. Volker Türk, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Ms. Nicole Ameline, Member of the CEDAW Committee

09:45 Coffee break

10:00 Session 1: Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – The role of parliament in eliminating barriers to women’s full and equal participation in political decision-making at all levels

- The state of women’s participation in political decision-making – presentations by:
  - Mr. Abdoul Thiöye, Chief of the Rule of Law, Equality and Non-Discrimination Branch, OHCHR
  - Ms. Zeina Hilal, Manager of the Gender Partnership Programme, IPU
- Member of parliament: National example of addressing gender-based violence against women in politics
- Member of parliament: National example of promoting the role of women in peacebuilding and conflict resolution

Interactive discussion

11:00 Session 2: Article 23 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – The role of parliament in ensuring women’s equal access to decent work

- Women’s equal access to decent work – presentation by:
  - Ms. Chidi King, Chief of the Gender, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Branch, ILO
• Member of parliament: National example of ensuring equal pay and social protection
• Member of parliament: National example of combating trafficking and exploitative forms of labour

Interactive discussion

12:00 Lunch break

13:00 Session 3: Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – The role of parliament in promoting gender equality in and through education

• Promoting gender equality in and through education – presentation by:
  o Ms. Adriana Quiñones, Head, Human Rights and Development, UN Women Geneva
• Member of parliament: National example of removing barriers to girls’ and women’s access to education, including in non-traditional fields
• Member of parliament: National example of addressing the gender dimension of digitalization/artificial intelligence

Interactive discussion

14:00 Wrap-up, pledges and closing remarks

Coffee break

15:00 Launch of the 2023 OHCHR-IPU Handbook for Parliamentarians on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women


Moderator: Ms. Nicole Ameline, Member of the CEDAW Committee