



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



IPU Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians

From Mexico to the world: Let's mobilize for gender parity!

13–16 March 2025, Mexico City, Mexico

Conférence mondiale des femmes parlementaires de l'UIP

Du Mexique au reste du monde : mobilisons-nous en faveur de la parité !

13-16 mars 2025, Mexico (Mexique)

SPEAKERS AND PANELLISTS / ORATEURS ET INTERVENANTS

Opening ceremony

Ms. Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo, President of Mexico



Ms. Sheinbaum (b. 24 June 1962, Mexico City, Mexico) is a Mexican politician and environmental engineer. She is the first woman and the first person of Jewish descent to be elected to the post. Ms. Sheinbaum previously served as mayor of Mexico City (2018–2023) before stepping down to run in the presidential election in 2024 as a candidate for the National Regeneration Movement (Movimiento Regeneración Nacional (Morena)). She won a landslide victory in June and began her six-year term on 1 October 2024.

Dr. Tulia Ackson, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and Speaker of the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania



Dr. Ackson has been holding the position of Speaker of the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania since 2020 after having served as Deputy Speaker between 2015 and 2020. She was elected President of the IPU in October 2023. Before entering politics, Dr. Ackson was Associate Dean of the University of Dar es Salaam's School of Law, a position she held for six years before being promoted to Senior Lecturer in 2011.

Mr. Gerardo Fernández Noroña (Mexico), President of the Senate of the Congress of the Union



Mr. Fernández Noroña (b. 19 March 1960), sociologist, is a Mexican politician member of the Morena party, formerly member of the Labour Party (PT) and the Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD). He is known for his protest acts, especially starting with the 2006 presidential election. He was a member of parliament on two occasions (2009–2012 and 2018–2023) and in 2018 he was nominated by the Labour Party to run as a candidate for the presidency of the Republic within the “Together We Make History” coalition for the 2024 federal elections.

Ms. Cynthia López Castro (Mexico), Senator of the Congress of the Union and President of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians



Ms. López Castro became a member of the Mexican Chamber of Deputies in 2018 and was elected to the Senate in June 2024. Elected as a local member of Congress at 28, she played a pivotal role in drafting Mexico City’s new Constitution. She advocated for a youth quota in the city’s electoral law and was one of the promoters of the constitutional reform in Mexico in 2023, advocating reducing the age at which people could stand for election from 21 to 18. A member of the IPU Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians from 2019 to 2021, she was the first recipient of the IPU’s Cremer-Passy Prize in 2022.

Masterclass: Parity parliaments and what can be learned from them

Keynote address (video message) by

Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United-Nations, Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG), and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group



Prior to her appointment as Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ms. Mohammed served as Minister of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria where she steered the country's efforts on climate action and efforts to protect the natural environment. Ms. Mohammed first joined the United Nations in 2012 as Special Adviser to former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with the responsibility for post-2015 development planning. She led the process that resulted in global agreement around the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Panel discussion:

Ms. Espérance Nyirasafari (Rwanda), Senator of the Parliament, former Minister of Gender and Family Promotion, former Minister of Sports and Culture, former Vice-President of the Senate



Ms. Nyirasafari was appointed as Senator by the President of the Republic of Rwanda on 20 September 2019 and was elected as Vice-President of the Senate on 17 October 2019. Prior to that position, she served as Minister in different ministries. She is passionate about advocating and promoting gender equality between women and men, promoting and enhancing family cohesion as well as ensuring a better life for every child. Ms. Nyirasafari holds a Master's Degree in International Criminal Justice and Law of Human Rights.

Ms. Martha Lucía Micher Camarena (Mexico), Senator of the Congress of the Union, President of the Gender Equality Committee of the Senate



Ms. Micher Camarena is a Mexican politician affiliated with the National Regeneration Movement (Morena). She has been elected to the Mexican Congress of the Union on five occasions and is currently a senator representing the State of Guanajuato in the LXIV Legislature of the Mexican Congress. Ms. Micher Camarena has a degree in pedagogy from the Panamerican University and has been a supporter of the international left-wing feminist movement for over 40 years. She continues fighting for the full rights of women and girls.

Ms. Arellys Santana Bello (Cuba), Member of the National Assembly of the People’s Power and Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Youth, Children and Equal Rights for Women



Ms. Santana Bello was elected to the National Assembly in 2008 when she joined the Standing Committee on Youth, Children and Equal Rights for Women whose President she became in 2013. That same year she was appointed Secretary of the PARLATINO Commission on Gender Equality and Youth. For more than 30 years she held various positions at different levels of the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC) – FMC Secretary General in the provinces of Villa Clara and Havana, member of the National Secretariat and Second Secretary on the national level.

Ms. Ana Martinez Zaragoza (Spain), Senator of The Cortes



Ms. Martinez Zaragoza was elected in 2019 Senator to The Cortes for the province of Alicante. Member of the Spanish Socialist Workers’ Party (PSOE), during her long career as a councillor in her hometown of Guardamar del Segura (Alicante), she served in various capacities, including in areas related to citizen security, civil protection, beaches, health, public services and cemetery management. She is currently Deputy-Spokeswoman of the Senate Defence and Foreign Affairs Committees.

Ms. Dana Kirkpatrick (New Zealand), Member of Parliament



Ms. Kirkpatrick was elected in the 2023 general election as representative of the East Coast electorate to the New Zealand Parliament. She is a member of the National Party. Ms. Kirkpatrick sits on the Parliament’s Māori affairs, foreign affairs, defence and trade committees. Prior to entering politics she worked as a journalist for the *Gisborne Herald* and was CEO of Equestrian Sports New Zealand.

Mr. Thomas Brezzo (Monaco), Speaker of the National Council



Mr. Brezzo was elected Speaker of the National Council of Monaco on 3 April 2024. Being a member of the Bar of the Court of Monaco, he has served as President of the parliamentary Legislation Committee for six years. In this capacity, he coordinated the study of a large number of particularly technical legislative texts that were adopted by the National Council, including the various anti-money laundering laws, laws reforming the civil and criminal procedure, the law on the transmission of nationality by marriage, the law on the “Children of the Country”, and emergency laws during the COVID pandemic period. From 2018 to 2023, Mr. Brezzo was a deputy of the Monegasque political movement “Primo! Monaco as Priority” and on 5 February 2023 he was elected MP from the Monegasque National Union list.

Open debate: Good practices and challenges in advancing parity in parliament

Keynote address by

Ms. Nahla Haidar, Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)



Ms. Haidar is a jurist with over 30 years of international service. Currently, she is serving as Chair of CEDAW. She is also a Commissioner of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ). Prior to these appointments, Ms. Haidar served in various capacities in the United Nations system, both at Headquarters and in the field, covering the areas of social development, humanitarian action, peace building and human rights.

Expert presentation by

Ms. Drude Dahlerup, Professor emerita of Political Science at Stockholm University and honorary professor at Roskilde University



Ms. Dahlerup is a Danish-Swedish professor of political science at Stockholm University. Her main research area is gender and politics. She is an international consultant on the empowerment of women in politics and a specialist on the implementation of gender quota systems. Ms. Dahlerup has published extensively on electoral gender quotas; politics and gender; social movements; history of women's movements; and feminist theory.

Panel discussion: Strategies to engage men to advance gender equality

Keynote address by special guest

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



Mr. Chungong became the first African and first non-European to be elected IPU Secretary General in 2014. He was re-elected to a third term of office, which began in July 2022. With more than four decades of experience and knowledge of parliaments at national and international levels, he has dedicated his professional life to promoting and building democracy worldwide. In 2020, he was elected Chair of the Global Board of the International Gender Champions, a network of decision-makers, male and female, who have committed to breaking down gender barriers.

Moderator:

Mr. Waldo Fernández González (Mexico), Senator of the Congress of the Union



Mr. Fernández González was a local deputy for the National Regeneration Movement (Morena) in the State of Nuevo León. He served Head of the Government Unit of the Ministry of the Interior and was in charge of the office of the Executive Coordination of the State Public Administration. He was a plurinominal federal deputy in the LXIII Legislature. The Borde Político association recognized him as the best federal deputy, giving him a score of 100 for his performance as a legislator. During his term as federal deputy, Mr. Fernández González was awarded the 2017 CANACINTRA Eagle for Legislative Merit and was awarded twice in a row with the Recognition for Legislative Merit on Lawyer's Day.

Presentations by international experts and men parliamentarians

Mr. Dan Carden (United Kingdom), Member of Parliament, President of the IPU Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians



Mr. Carden from the United Kingdom has been the Labour MP for Liverpool Walton since 2017. He was a member of the UK Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee and the Public Accounts Committee in the previous legislature. Prior to that, from 2018 to 2020, he was Shadow Secretary of State for International Development and, in 2020, Shadow Financial Secretary to the Treasury. Before becoming an MP he worked for the Trade Union "Unite". Mr. Carden is a member of the Executive Committee of the British Group of the Inter Parliamentary Union (BGIPU).

Mr. Alejandro Murat Hinojosa (Mexico), Senator of the Congress of the Union and President of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs



Mr. Murat Hinojosa (b. 4 August 4, 1975) is a Mexican politician affiliated with the National Regeneration Movement (Morena). In 2016, while a member of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, he was elected Governor of Oaxaca, an office he held until November 2022. He served as a Federal Deputy in the LIX Legislature (2004-2006) and participated in the establishment of the Special Commission for Competitiveness and Regional Development, which he presided. In the Government of the State of Mexico, he served as General Director of the Institute of the Registry Function (2007-2009) and as General Director of the Mexiquense Radio.

Mr. Michael Kaufman, advisor, Senior Programs Fellow with Equipundo



Mr. Kaufman is an advisor who has worked in fifty countries with the United Nations, governments, companies, unions, schools and NGOs. He is the cofounder of the White Ribbon Campaign – men working to end violence against women. He has been named one of the hundred most influential people on gender policies in the world. He served the President of France and the Prime Minister of Canada on their respective G7 Gender Equality Advisory Councils. He is a senior fellow with the research centre Equipundo. His most recent book is *The Male Ally Handbook: Building Better Workplaces for Equality and Change*.

Breaking the ceilings: Tribute to women's leadership

Ms. Christine Lagarde, President, European Central Bank (ECB)



Ms. Lagarde has been President of the ECB and, in this capacity, also Chair of the European Systemic Risk Board since November 2019.

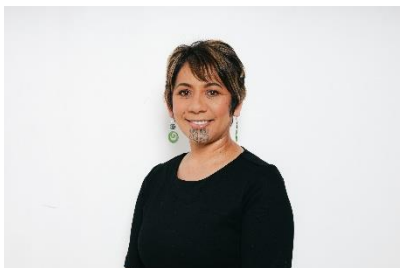
Between 2011 and 2019 she served as Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund. Prior to that she served as French Minister of Economy and Finance from 2007 to 2011, having been Trade Secretary from 2005 to 2007. A lawyer by background, she practiced for 20 years with the international law firm Baker McKenzie, of which she became Global Chair in 1999. She was the first woman to hold each of these positions.

Ms. Carolina Cerqueira (Angola), Speaker of the National Assembly



Ms. Cerqueira has been the Speaker of the National Assembly of Angola since 2022 and is the first Women to hold the position. She is a seasoned lawyer, journalist, politician, activist and staunch advocate for gender and social equality. She has devoted much of her professional and political career in the fields of education, culture, journalism and mediation. She holds a Degree in Law from Agostinho Neto University. She is an experienced politician having previously served as Minister for Social Communication, Minister of Culture, State Minister for Social Affairs and MP.

Ms. Cushla Tangaere-Manuel (New Zealand), Member of Parliament



Ms. Tangaere-Manuel is of the Ngati Porou tribe on the East Coast of New Zealand. She lives on her tribal lands in a small place called Rangitukia which sees the first sunrise each day. She is the NZ Labour Party MP for Ikaroa-Rāwhiti, a Maori electorate seat which traverses the East Coast of the North Island. She is the Co-Chair of the NZ Commonwealth Women's Parliamentarians Committee and Chair of the Labour Party's Womens Caucus.

Ms. Yasmín Esquivel Mossa, Minister of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation of Mexico



Ms. Esquivel Mossa has dedicated more than 38 years serving her country as a civil servant, working at all three levels of government. For the last 23 years, she has worked in the judicial sphere. In February 2019, the President of the Republic of Mexico nominated her Minister of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation, a nomination subsequently ratified by the Senate of the Republic. She became the twelfth Minister in the history of the Court. In 2021, she was appointed President of the Second Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation for the period 2021-2022. In addition, she was appointed as the Court's representative to the Inter-institutional Committee on Gender Equality of the Federal Judicial Authority.

On the international level, she was elected as a member of the Permanent Commission on Gender and Access to Justice at the XXI Ibero-American Judicial Summit, where she represents the Court in the Coordination and Follow-up Commission.

Ms. Fatma Öncü (Türkiye), Member of the Grand National Assembly



In the 2023 general election, the Justice and Development Party (AKP) entered the Grand National Assembly for the twenty-eighth term. On 15 July 2021, Ms. Öncü was appointed Deputy Minister of Family Social Services but resigned on 16 March 2023 to run for office in the general election of 2023. She is a member of the parliamentary Equal Opportunity Commission and the Inter-Parliamentary Union Group. From 2013 to 2015, she was in the AKP's Central Decision Board of the Women's Party Branches.

Ms. Amanda Chakukura (Zimbabwe), Member of Parliament



Ms. Chakukura serves as a member of the 10th Parliament of Zimbabwe, where she represents the Chipinge constituency. At the age of 30, through the women's quota (under 35), she became a member of parliament for Manicaland Province. Ms. Chakukura holds a diploma in teaching and she is currently working towards her Bachelor's degree in psychology.

Moderated debate: Equal participation and equal power

Keynote address by

Ms. Nicole Ameline, CEDAW Committee member and Chair of the CEDAW Working Group on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems, Chair of the International Institute for Peace and Human Rights (Caen)



Ms. Ameline, French Minister Delegate for Parity and Equality in Employment from 2002 to 2004 and Member of Parliament from 1991 to 2017, played a key role in embedding parity into the French Constitution, carrying an equal pay policy for women, the development and implementation of a plan for the prevention of violence against women, and introduced legislation to combat domestic violence.

A former representative of the French government at the International Labour Organization (ILO) and former Ambassador in charge of social issues and parity in international relations, Ms. Ameline brings expertise on the social impact of globalization and the promotion of women in politics.

Introductory presentation by

Ms. Sarah Childs, Professor, University of Edinburgh



Ms. Childs is Personal Chair of Politics & Gender at the University of Edinburgh. She was previously Professor of Politics & Gender at Royal Holloway (2020-22), Birkbeck College, University of London (2017-2020), and the University of Bristol (2009-2014).

Ms. Childs' research centres on the theory and practice of women's political representation, gender and political parties, gender (in)sensitive parliaments, institutional change, and feminism and democracy. She is the Principal Investigator of a five-year, five-country, "QUALREP" research project.

Ms. Gabriela Morawska-Stanecka (Poland), Senator, Vice-President of the IPU Executive Committee, former Speaker of the Senate



Former Deputy Marshal of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, lawyer, member of the IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians, Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee of the IPU, and member of the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law.

Senator Morawska-Stanecka has dedicated her career to women's rights, combating violence against women and children, and shaping their future in Poland.

Ms. Inada Tomomi (Japan), Member of the House of Representatives of the National Diet, former Minister of Defence, former Minister in charge of Administrative Reform



Ms. Inada Tomomi is a Member of the House of Representatives of Japan, representing the Liberal Democratic Party. She has been elected seven times from the Fukui 1st District (single-seat constituency). Born on 20 February 1959, in Echizen, Fukui, she graduated from the School of Law at Waseda University.

Throughout her career, she has held several key positions, including Minister of Defence, Minister of State for Special Missions, and Minister in charge of Administrative Reform, Civil Service Reform, the "Cool Japan" Strategy, and the "Challenge Again" Initiative.

Panel discussion: Zero tolerance for online and offline violence against women in politics

Keynote address by special guest

Ms. Olimpia Coral Melo, Mexican activist and promoter of the law against gender-based violence in the digital age in Mexico, Argentina and Colombia



Ms. Coral Melo (born in Huauchinango, Puebla in 1988) is a Mexican activist recognized as one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2021 by *Time* magazine and one of the 100 most powerful women in Mexico by *Forbes Magazine*.

She promoted the creation of a law against digital gender violence in Mexico, Argentina and Colombia that takes her name, the Olimpia Law. After suffering digital violence by an ex-partner who released a sex video of her without her consent, she began a seven-year struggle to create and promote a law that would criminalize these practices.

Presentations by international experts and parliamentarians

Introductory presentation by

Ms. Mona Lena Krook, Professor, Rutgers University



Ms. Krook is a Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Chair of the Women & Politics Ph.D. Program at Rutgers University. She has published widely on gender and political representation, particularly on electoral gender quotas and the impact of women in public office.

Her first book, *Quotas for Women in Politics: Gender and Candidate Selection Reform Worldwide* (Oxford University Press, 2009), won the American Political Science Association's Victoria Schuck Award in 2010 for the best book on women and politics. Since 2015, Ms. Krook has worked closely with global practitioners to address violence against women in politics, including launching the National Democratic Institute's #NotTheCost campaign.

Ms. Pamela Damoff (Canada), Member of House of Commons



Ms. Damoff was first elected as the Member of Parliament for Oakville North-Burlington in 2015. A community activist and business professional with over 25 years of corporate experience, Ms. Damoff served as an Oakville Town Councillor from 2010 to 2015 prior to becoming an MP.

Ms. Damoff most recently served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (Consular Affairs), and was a member of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security, the Standing Committee on the Status of Women, and the Subcommittee on International Human Rights of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development.

Ms. Damoff was instrumental in passing Bill-233, which includes Keira's Law, in the House of Commons, which enhances continuing education seminars for judges on matters related to intimate partner violence and coercive control, and Bill C-5, reforming the criminal justice system.

Ms. Lucy John Sabu (United Republic of Tanzania), Member of the National Assembly



Ms. Sabu is currently serving as a Member of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania, Special Seats (Revolutionary Party of Tanzania (CCM)) Representing Youth.

In other capacities, Ms. Sabu serves as a member in the parliamentary Standing Committee on Industries, Trade, Agriculture and Livestock.

Staying safe online:

Ms. Julie Inman Grant, eSafety Commissioner of Australia



Ms. Inman Grant is Australia's eSafety Commissioner. In this role, she leads the world's first government regulatory agency committed to keeping its citizens safer online.

Ms. Inman Grant has extensive experience in the non-profit and government sectors, and spent two decades working in senior public policy and safety roles in the tech industry at Microsoft, Twitter and Adobe.

Closing session

Mr. Sergio Carlos Gutiérrez Luna (Mexico), Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies



A Mexican lawyer and politician from Minatitlán, Veracruz, with a distinguished career in the legislative and academic fields, Mr. Gutiérrez Luna currently serves as the Speaker of the Mexican Chamber of Deputies in the LXVI Legislature, having held the same position during the LXV Legislature (2021-2022). He was elected three times as a federal MP in the LXIV, LXV, and LXVI legislatures (2018, 2021, and 2024).

Mr. Gutiérrez Luna studied Law at the Escuela Libre de Derecho in Mexico City, where he graduated with honors. Throughout his career, he has held significant roles in the public and legislative spheres. He was an advisor and legislative coordinator in the Senate and Deputy Director in the Legal Affairs Unit of the Federal District Electoral Institute.