



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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150th IPU Assembly

Tashkent, Uzbekistan (5–9 April 2025)

Forum of Women Parliamentarians
Item 5

FEM/39/5-Inf.1
21 February 2025

Panel discussion

Women shaping politics – Women’s global networking

**What can be learned from global forums and networks of women in politics
A conversation drawing on 40 years of experience of the IPU Forum of Women
Parliamentarians and other global networks of women in politics**

*5 April 2025, 14:30–16:30
Opera Hall*

In 1985, in Lomé, a small group of women parliamentarians convened their first global meeting as part of the 73rd IPU Assembly. This landmark event established the world’s first Forum of Women Parliamentarians – a space for women parliamentarians to come together, to connect and amplify their voices and action within the IPU and beyond.

The IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians embodies and promotes women's participation and leadership in political and parliamentary decision-making, and has become a leading platform advocating for women’s rights, women’s empowerment and inclusive leadership. It has profoundly changed the IPU by making gender equality one of its top priorities, its principle, and an integral part of its structures and work.

Other networks of women parliamentarians and women leaders emerged globally, regionally, nationally, and locally, united by a commitment to advancing women’s participation and leadership, women’s rights and gender equality. The networks offered solidarity and sisterhood, supported learning and experience sharing, and built a collective influence of women, for the good of all.

At a time when gender equality faces persisting and emerging challenges worldwide – including pushbacks threatening women’s and girls’ rights and freedoms, a stronger anti-rights narrative, and further harassment and violence against women online – the time is right to reflect on the role and power of women’s networks and explore strategies to strengthen their influence for gender equality and women’s rights and empowerment.

As we mark collectively the thirty anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and as the IPU prioritizes gender equality on its 2025 agenda and celebrates the fortieth anniversary of its Forum of Women Parliamentarians, the panel discussion will bring together diverse networks of women leaders to join in a special conversation aimed at:

- Taking stock of the effect that the association, solidarity and collective experience of networks of women parliamentarians and women leaders has on women’s political participation and leadership, women’s and girls’ rights and empowerment, and gender equality more generally.
- Showcasing success stories that highlight how these networks have concretely impacted women’s and girls’ lives.
- Identifying ways in which networks of women leaders can increase their influence on advancing gender equality, including by harnessing men’s support and building partnerships with multiple stakeholders.
- Fostering dialogue, peer learning, knowledge sharing and collaboration among networks of women parliamentarians and women leaders, including towards collective action against pushbacks.

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#IPU150

Agenda

Let's celebrate!

40 years of action, 40 years of impact (20 minutes)

Conversation between Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), President of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, the former Presidents of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and past Presidents of the Forum.

Contributions from members of the Forum

This segment will focus on the impact that the IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians has had on its members and on their actions for women's participation and leadership and/or women's and girls' rights and empowerment.

Participants interested in contributing are requested to register using the form in annex and to send their contribution of 2 minutes maximum, in writing, in advance. A selection of six testimonials will be made based on geographical balance, focus, and complementarity.

Let's learn from each other!

Achievements and impact of global and regional networks of women parliamentarians (40 minutes)

This segment will focus on the following questions:

- *What are the key achievements of global and regional networks of women parliamentarians?*
- *How have these global and regional networks fostered knowledge exchange and mutual empowerment among women parliamentarians?*
- *Have global networks of women parliamentarians cooperated among themselves?*
- *What are the upcoming priorities and projects of global and regional networks of women parliamentarians?*

Objectives, achievements and upcoming priorities of global and regional networks of women parliamentarians

Conversation with and contributions from global and regional networks of women parliamentarians.

Contributions from the floor

Participants will be asked to share in response to the following question: what is their main priority they would like to achieve through their work with networks of women parliamentarians?

Let's connect and lead together!

Connecting the dots, working together, expanding influence in a changing global political landscape (40 minutes)

This segment will focus on the following questions:

- *How can dialogue, peer learning and knowledge sharing within and between networks of women parliamentarians and women leaders be strengthened?*
- *How can these networks enhance solidarity and collective action against pushbacks to gender equality?*
- *What common strategies are needed to accelerate parity in political participation?*
- *How can networks effectively mobilize men's support? Examples of good practices.*

Conversation with other global networks of women in politics.

Contributions from the floor

Participants will be invited to intervene by outlining specific initiatives they will champion within their respective networks, parliaments and communities. This will serve to mobilize collective action, collaboration, and sustained advocacy in advancing women's political participation and leadership.

Conclusions and the way forward (20 minutes)

- Final remarks by panellists and invited guests
- Closing remarks

SIGN-UP FORM

The panel discussion on *Women shaping politics – Women’s global networking* will be divided into three conversation segments on the following topics:

- (1) Let’s celebrate!
40 years of action, 40 years of impact
- (2) Let’s learn from each other!
Achievements and impact of global and regional networks of women parliamentarians
- (3) Let’s connect and lead together!
Connecting the dots, working together, expanding influence in a changing global political landscape

The three segments will focus on a conversation between invited guests and representatives of networks of women in politics. Limited time will be set aside for contributions from Forum members and the audience. Participants wishing to contribute are therefore asked to register here and submit their contribution in writing in advance. Contributions from participants in each segment will be limited to two (2) minutes.

Where possible, slots will be allotted according to preferences stated below, but the need to have a balanced mix of participants from across the world will also be taken into account. Only live contributions will be allotted slots.

Please return this sign-up form by 2 April 2025.

Sign-up	
Country	
Chamber	
First name	
Last name	

Please indicate the segment(s) you would like to make a two-minute live contribution to.

	Segment 1: Let’s celebrate 40 years of action, 40 years of impact
	I wish to contribute to this segment
	I do not wish to contribute
<p>Question: What impact has the IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians had on you and on your actions for women’s participation and leadership in decision-making and/or women’s and girls’ rights and empowerment? Please submit your 2-minute written contribution here:</p>	

	Segment 2: Let's learn from each other! Achievements and impact of global and regional networks of women parliamentarians
	I wish to contribute to this segment
	I do not wish to contribute
Question: What is the main priority you would like to achieve through your work with networks of women parliamentarians? Please submit your 2-minute written contribution here:	

	Segment 3: Let's connect and lead together! Connecting the dots, working together, expanding influence in a changing global political landscape
	I wish to contribute to this segment
	I do not wish to contribute
Question: Can you outline specific initiatives you will champion within your respective networks, parliaments and communities? This will serve to mobilize collective action, collaboration and sustained advocacy in advancing women's political participation and leadership. Please submit your 2-minute written contribution here:	

Please return this form to:
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