



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

T +41 22 919 41 50
F +41 22 919 41 60
E postbox@ipu.org
www.ipu.org

Chemin du Pommier 5
Case postale 330
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex
Geneva – Switzerland

Parliamentary engagement in State CEDAW reporting

IPU webinar for parliaments of States recently reviewed or scheduled for review by the CEDAW Committee in 2025 and subsequent sessions

**Monday, 26 May 2025 on Zoom
09:30–11:00 and 15:00–16:30 CEST**

Concept note and provisional programme

Concept note

Ensuring gender equality and full respect for women’s human rights is a key commitment of the international community. It is recognized as essential to making democracies strong, as well as to achieving sustainable development and peace.

The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)¹ provides valuable guidance on the achievement of gender equality in all areas, ranging from within the family and education to economic and political life.

All States Parties have the obligation to present a report on the implementation of CEDAW at regular intervals to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (the CEDAW Committee). This is a key opportunity to take stock of advances made and priorities that need to be addressed to implement CEDAW.

The IPU and the CEDAW Committee have built a long-standing cooperation designed to promote the implementation of the Convention through the action of parliaments around the world. This includes the promotion of parliamentary engagement in the State reporting process before the Committee. This engagement is a key success factor in leading the required legal reforms, providing resources, and changing mentalities – all necessary elements for the realization of women’s rights.

The IPU regularly holds webinars to support members and staff of parliament in their efforts to implement the CEDAW Convention. The next webinar, to be held on Monday, 26 May 2025, will be open to parliaments whose countries are tentatively scheduled for review by the CEDAW Committee in June-July and October 2025 and in subsequent sessions, as well as those that have recently engaged in their country’s CEDAW review.

Following up on the first cycle of webinars held between 2022 and 2023, as well as the second edition of the handbook for parliamentarians on CEDAW, the May 2025 webinar aims to provide targeted support and practical guidance to strengthen parliamentary engagement within the CEDAW review process. It will also seek to assist parliaments to operationalize CEDAW General recommendation No 40 on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems, integrating its guidance into national legislative frameworks and oversight mechanisms, in line with the plan of action outlined in the Outcome document adopted on the occasion of the IPU Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians held in Mexico in March 2025.

¹ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

Objectives and expected results

Objectives

The webinar is aimed at accompanying parliaments through the reporting process and supporting them in taking action for enhanced implementation of CEDAW. It will serve to provide information on the Convention and State reporting process; facilitate peer-to-peer exchanges among MPs and their interaction with CEDAW Committee members; and identify any targeted support that might be required from the IPU.

Expected results

- Men and women participants understand the CEDAW reporting procedure, and are aware of their State's report and expected outcomes of their country review.
- Male and female members of parliament engage in CEDAW reporting and promote CEDAW implementation through parliamentary work.
- Participating parliaments engage in implementation of the CEDAW Committee's General recommendation No 40.

Participation

The following parliaments are invited to the webinar:

- Parliaments from **countries tentatively scheduled for review by the CEDAW Committee in June-July and October 2025²** as follows:
 - **91st CEDAW Committee session, June-July 2025**
Afghanistan, Botswana, Chad, Fiji, Ireland, Mexico, San Marino, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tuvalu
 - **92nd CEDAW Committee session, October 2025**
Cabo Verde, Czechia, El Salvador, Iraq, Lesotho, Lithuania, Netherlands, Viet Nam
- Parliaments from **countries whose review by the CEDAW Committee has yet to be scheduled** as follows:
Angola, Argentina, Australia, Cook Islands, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Monaco, Paraguay, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo
- Parliaments that have engaged in the **recent review of their country by the CEDAW Committee** as follows:

² Situation at 17 April 2025. The list is subject to change. See: [Sessions for CEDAW](#).

Benin, Central African Republic, Chile, Cuba, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Italy, Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, Montenegro, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan

Members and staff from other parliaments are welcome to attend as observers.

Any interested parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from the countries concerned may register to attend. Members and staff whose work and responsibilities in parliament link to CEDAW are particularly encouraged to attend. These may include chairpersons, members and clerks of gender and/or human rights committees, chairpersons, members and clerks of gender equality caucuses and/or caucuses of women parliamentarians, and gender focal points. **Both men and women parliamentarians are encouraged to attend.**

Date and format

To be able to accommodate parliaments from different time zones, **two identical 1.5-hour sessions** of the webinar will be held on **Monday, 26 May 2025** as follows:

Monday, 26 May 2025 – 09:30–11:00 CEST (AR/EN/FR)

Afghanistan, Australia, Benin, Central African Republic, Chad, Cook Islands, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Monaco, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Solomon Islands, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Viet Nam.

The **registration form for this session** can be found [here](#) (EN) and [here](#) (FR)

Monday, 26 May 2025 – 15:00–16:30 CEST (EN/SP)

Angola, Argentina, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Chile, Cuba, Czechia, Cyprus, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Lesotho, Lithuania, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherlands, Paraguay, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino.

The **registration form for this session** can be found [here](#).

Follow-up

The IPU will prepare and disseminate a report of the webinar. It will also disseminate the concluding observations to the parliaments concerned as soon as they are adopted by the CEDAW Committee. In addition, targeted support may also be provided for the realization of activities ensuring CEDAW implementation through parliamentary work, including in the form of capacity-building activities and/or counselling in legal review or legal drafting.

Provisional programme

Opening (10 min)

Part 1: The CEDAW Convention, the CEDAW Committee and the role of parliaments (30 min)

This session will give participants an overview of the rights entrenched in the Convention and of the mandate of the CEDAW Committee. State reporting obligations and the corresponding country review process will also be outlined.

It will also focus on the role of parliaments in ratifying the CEDAW Convention and its Optional Protocol, withdrawing reservations and implementing the Convention.

This session will include a presentation of the handbook for parliamentarians on CEDAW and of CEDAW General recommendation No 40 on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems.

Presentations followed by a Q&A session.

Part 2: Parliamentary engagement in CEDAW implementation, reporting and follow-up (40 min)

Participants will hear about good practices in advancing the CEDAW Convention through parliamentary work, including by engaging with the CEDAW Committee.

Particular emphasis will be placed on sharing of experiences about the role of parliaments in: the process of reporting to the CEDAW Committee; national-level implementation of the Convention, including through follow-up to the CEDAW Committee's observations and recommendations, such as General recommendation No 40 on the equal and inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems.

Presentations followed by input from participants on the following:

- How is CEDAW integrated into the work of your parliament?
- More precisely, to what extent does your parliament participate in CEDAW reporting? What are the challenges in this regard and how can parliament's engagement be enhanced?
- How is your parliament implementing CEDAW? What priorities are being addressed to eliminate discrimination against women?
- How can the IPU support your parliament's CEDAW engagement and implementation, in particular in relation to General recommendation No 40?

Wrap-up (10 min)