



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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## The role of parliaments in achieving parity in decision-making and ensuring gender-responsive access to justice for women and girls

Wednesday, 11 March 2026  
ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York

Geneva, 22 January 2026

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

The Parliamentary Meeting at the 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70) will be held in New York on Wednesday, 11 March 2026. It is hosted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). This year's Parliamentary Meeting will be in line with the CSW70 priority theme *Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including by promoting inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, and addressing structural barriers*.

The theme of this year's Parliamentary Meeting is *The role of parliaments in achieving parity in decision-making and ensuring gender-responsive access to justice for women and girls*. The aim of the meeting is to bring a parliamentary perspective into the CSW70 discussions by providing a platform to examine the role of parliaments in advancing access to justice for women and girls through intersectional approaches and parliamentary action, while also exploring how gender-sensitive, parity parliaments can serve as institutions of change. I enclose the concept note, provisional agenda and other relevant documents.

I wish to strongly encourage your Parliament to request that your country's delegation to the 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women includes both male and female members of parliament, notably chairpersons and members of gender equality, social and/or legal affairs, judiciary committees. This would ensure their attendance and contribution to the IPU-UN-Women Parliamentary Meeting. It would also facilitate the inclusion of a parliamentary perspective in the CSW70 that will take place from 9 to 19 March 2026.

In addition to the Parliamentary Meeting, the IPU will be organizing side events during the first week of the CSW70. Additional information will be provided soon.

Registration can be completed [here](#). Additional information related to the Parliamentary Meeting, including relevant documents, is available on the IPU dedicated webpage [here](#). We would be grateful if you could complete your registration **by Monday, 2 March 2026**.

We look forward to welcoming a delegation of your Parliament to the annual Parliamentary Meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Chungong  
Secretary General