



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 2026 and subsequent sessions*

**Wednesday, 2 September 2026 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) 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) which is a key opportunity to take stock of advances made and of 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 Wednesday, 2 September 2026, will be open to parliaments whose countries are scheduled for review by the CEDAW Committee in October 2026 and tentatively scheduled for review in subsequent sessions, as well as those that have recently engaged in their country's CEDAW review.

Following up on the series of webinars held since 2022, as well as the 2023 edition of the handbook for parliamentarians on CEDAW, the September 2026 edition 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 upcoming CEDAW General recommendation No. 41 on gender stereotypes and 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 IPU Plan of action for gender parity in parliaments endorsed by the IPU Governing Council in October 2025.

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 and upcoming General recommendation No. 41.

Participation

The following parliaments are invited to the webinar:

- Parliaments from **countries scheduled for review by the CEDAW Committee in October 2026¹ and tentatively scheduled for review in February 2027** as follows:
 - **93rd CEDAW Committee session, October 2026:** *Angola, Cabo Verde, Cook Islands, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Paraguay, Republic of Moldova, Togo*
 - **94th CEDAW Committee session, February 2027:** *Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Cyprus, Israel, Malta, Mauritius, Monaco, Romania*
- Parliaments from **countries whose review by the CEDAW Committee has yet to be scheduled** as follows: *Algeria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Egypt, Ghana, Grenada, Indonesia, Qatar, Russian Federation, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Yemen, Zambia*
- Parliaments that have engaged in the **recent review of their country by the CEDAW Committee** as follows: *Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, San Marino, Viet Nam*
- **Other parliaments that enjoy IPU technical support in the area of gender equality, including in CEDAW implementation:** *Armenia, Bhutan, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Ecuador, Gabon, Maldives, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania*

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

¹ Situation at 18 August 2026. The list is subject to change. See: [Sessions for CEDAW](#).

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 **Wednesday, 2 September 2026** as follows:

Wednesday, 2 September 2026 – 09:30–11:00 CEST (AR/EN/FR)

Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cook Islands, Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mauritius, Monaco, Mongolia, Qatar, Russian Federation, San Marino, South Africa, Togo, Türkiye, Yemen.

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

Wednesday, 2 September 2026 – 15:00–16:30 CEST (EN/SP)

Angola, Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cabo Verde, Cyprus, Ecuador, Ghana, Grenada, Israel, Kenya, Lithuania, Malta, Mexico, Namibia, Nigeria, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Paraguay, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zambia.

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.

Participants will also be briefed about the theme of upcoming CEDAW General recommendation No. 41 on gender stereotypes and exchange with CEDAW Committee members on their role in future implementation.

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, in particular in relation to General recommendation No. 40 and the IPU Plan of action for gender parity in parliaments?
- How can parliaments address gender stereotypes and harmful social norms that lead to discrimination against women and their underrepresentation in decision-making?
- How can the IPU support your parliament's CEDAW engagement and implementation?

Wrap-up (10 min)