



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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Office of the
Secretary General

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PARLIAMENTS DELIVER FOR RURAL WOMEN AND GIRLS
New York, 13 March 2018

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

The Parliamentary Meeting at the 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women will be held in New York on 13 March 2018. It will be hosted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). The Meeting will contribute to the Commission's main theme, *Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls*.

The Parliamentary Meeting will focus on *Parliaments deliver for rural women and girls*. It will examine the paramount role parliaments can play in identifying and addressing obstacles to rural women and girls' empowerment, in ensuring and implementing social and economic policies that will include them in decision-making process at all levels, and in addressing the multiple forms of discrimination that they are facing. The meeting will also explore how to mitigate the impact of climate change on rural women and girls. I enclose the agenda of the meeting and other relevant documents, which are also available at (<https://www.ipu.org/event/parliamentary-meeting-occasion-62nd-session-commission-status-women>).

I wish to strongly encourage your parliament to request that your country's delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women include both male and female members of parliament, notably chairpersons and members of gender equality, legal affairs or human rights 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 Commission's discussions that will take place from 12 to 23 March 2018.

In addition to the Parliamentary Meeting, the IPU is organizing two side events on 14 March 2018. The first will be held from **10 to 11.15 a.m.**, the second, from **3 to 4.15 p.m.** The venue will be in **Conference Room D** of the Conference Building, at the United Nations Headquarters, in New York. Additional information will be made available in due course. As the United Nations do not have interpretation facilities in the informal meeting rooms, the debates for these side events will be held in English only.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Chungong
Secretary General