



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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Office of the
Secretary General

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**INVESTING IN GENDER EQUALITY:
PARLIAMENTS ENSURING SOCIAL PROTECTION, PUBLIC SERVICES
AND INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVER FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS**
New York, 13 March 2019

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

The Parliamentary Meeting at the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women will be held in New York on 13 March 2019. 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, *Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls*.

The theme of the Parliamentary Meeting is *Investing in gender equality: Parliaments ensuring social protection, public services and infrastructure deliver for women and girls*. The event will focus on the vital role parliaments have to play in ensuring adequate resources are allocated and policies adopted in pursuit of gender equality, in particular in the areas of social protection schemes, public services and infrastructure. Participants will share good practices and discuss mechanisms to ensure that all women are accounted for in social protection schemes and have effective access to public services and infrastructure. The meeting will also explore how to ensure the money allocated to social protection, public services and infrastructure advances gender equality. I enclose the agenda of the meeting and other relevant documents, which are also available at (<https://www.ipu.org/events/new-events>).

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 deliberations that will take place from 11 to 22 March 2019.

In addition to the Parliamentary Meeting, the IPU is organizing three side events on 12 and 14 March 2019. On 12 March, the side-event will be held **from 11.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m.** in Conference Room 1 of the UN Headquarters. On 14 March, the first side event will be held from **10 to 11.15 a.m.**, the second one, from **3 to 4.15 p.m.** The venue for both of these side events will be at the Ex-Press Bar, of the GA Building, at the United Nations Headquarters, in New York. Additional information is available in the attached information note. 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