



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and the Permanent Mission of Trinidad-and-Tobago to the United Nations, in collaboration with UN Women, are pleased to invite you to a side event at the 63rd Session on the Commission on the Status of Women:

Data on Women in Politics: Getting to Equal?

**Thursday 14 March 2019, 3:00p.m. – 4:15p.m.
Ex-Press Bar¹, United Nations, New York**

Women have equal political rights. Women's equal political participation is essential to sustainable development. But women's voices are missing at every decision-making level in the world. Member States are committed to "ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making" in political and public life through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG Target 5.5). They agreed to track progress through two markers: the proportion of women in national parliaments (SDG Indicator 5.5.1a), long tracked by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the proportion of women in local governments (SDG Indicator 5.5.1b), recently developed by UN Women.

So, how are Member States measuring up? Data on women in politics shows the world is far from equal. In 1995, the share of women represented in national parliaments was 10%. That figure has grown each year by less than 1 percentage point. As of 1 January 2019, women hold 24% of parliamentary seats, according to the IPU. Three countries have 50% or more women in parliament (single/lower chamber). Women still comprise under 20% of parliamentary speakers. While the global share of women elected to local governments is currently unknown, UN Women's early research suggests that here women are also underrepresented.

Gathering women's political participation experts and gender equality advocates from around the world, this event will highlight findings from IPU's [Women in Parliament 2018: Year in Review](#), the IPU-UN Women *Map of Women in Politics: 2019* and UN Women's local government research, taking a deep dive into women in politics data and trends as they reflect on the following questions:

- *The highlights* – where have women seen the biggest gains in national parliaments this year?
- *The setbacks* – where is women's political representation stagnating or reversing and why?
- *The barriers* – to what extent do electoral systems and gender-based violence impede progress?
- *The opportunities* – what are we learning about women's representation in local government?

Interactive discussion to follow.

Chair/Moderator: H.E. Ms. Pernelle Beckles, Ambassador of the Republic of Trinidad-and-Tobago

Presenters: Hon. Paddy Torsney, Permanent Observer to the United Nations, IPU
Ms. Julie Ballington, Global Policy Advisor on political participation, UN Women

Responders: Ms. Nathalie Amoratti-Blanc, MP, Monaco
Ms. Susan Kihika, Senator (Kenya) and IPU President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

¹ The room does not have interpretation facilities and the side event will be held in English only.