



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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## Investing in gender equality: Parliaments ensuring social protection, public services and infrastructure deliver for women and girls

A parliamentary event organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and UN Women  
at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

13 March 2019, Trusteeship Council Room, UN Headquarters, New York

### INFORMATION NOTE

During the 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), whose priority theme is *Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls*, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women are organizing a parliamentary meeting entitled *Investing in gender equality: Parliaments ensuring social protection, public services and infrastructure deliver for women and girls*.

The meeting will take place on **13 March 2019**, from 10 a.m. to 5.45 p.m.  
in the Trusteeship Council Room at the UN Headquarters in New York.

#### Objectives

In keeping with its policy of contributing to major international forums by seeking to introduce a parliamentary dimension into the proceedings of intergovernmental organizations, the IPU is organizing this one-day meeting with UN Women in order to provide a forum for debate between parliamentarians from all over the world, and to contribute to the deliberations of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of the CSW.

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.

#### Expected outcome

A brief message to the CSW will be issued, stressing areas for future priority action, with particular emphasis on the role of parliaments.

#### Relevant documents

Background documents to be used throughout the meeting include:

- Written contributions of the panellists, when available;
- Documents of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of the CSW, when available.

#### Participants

The participants in the parliamentary event will include:

- Parliamentarians present in New York for the 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of the CSW as members of their respective delegations. A letter of invitation is sent by the IPU Secretary General to all Member and non-member parliaments of the IPU.
- Representatives of governments, relevant organizations and funds of the UN system, and civil society will also attend the event.

## Programme

9.30 - 10 a.m.	Arrival of delegates
10 – 10.30 a.m.	Welcome remarks
10.30 – 12.30 p.m.	Session 1: What do gender-responsive social protection policies look like?
12.30 p.m. – 1 p.m.	Presentation on “Women in Parliament”
1 – 2.30 p.m.	Lunck break
2.30 – 4.15 p.m.	Session 2: Ensuring public services and infrastructure are responsive to the needs of and accessible to all women
4.15 – 5.30 p.m.	Session 3: Parliament’s role in ensuring the money allocated to social protection, public services and infrastructure advances gender equality
5.30 – 5.45 p.m	Concluding remarks

## Languages

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the four languages customarily used at IPU Assemblies, namely English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

## Access badges for United Nations Headquarters

As is customary during General Assembly sessions, security arrangements are very strict and no one may enter the United Nations premises without a special badge (for delegates and visitors). In keeping with normal practice, delegations and diplomatic missions in New York will be invited to attend to all matters relating to visas, UN Badges, hotel reservations and transportation. Participants must therefore request their badge from their country’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations.

## Registration for the meeting

Persons wishing to participate in this meeting are urged to register as soon as possible using the attached form. Once this form has been filled out, it should be sent directly to IPU Headquarters (Fax: +41 22 919 41 60; e-mail: [postbox@ipu.org](mailto:postbox@ipu.org) and [mgn@ipu.org](mailto:mgn@ipu.org)).

## Informal side-events

In addition to the annual parliamentary meeting, the IPU is inviting you to participate in the following side events on:

- *Side-event on Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament* on 12 March 2019, 11.30 a.m. to 12.45 p.m., Conference room 1, Conference building, United Nations Headquarters, organized with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the Permanent Mission of Finland
- *Side event on Critical Mass to Gender Parity: Women in Decision-Making Do Make a Difference!* on 14 March 2019, 10 – 11.15 a.m., Ex-Press Bar, General Assembly building, United Nations Headquarters, organized with the Permanent Mission of Trinidad-and-Tobago, the League of Women Voters and UN Women
- *Side event on Women in Politics* (co-sponsors will be made available in due course), 14 March 2019, 3 – 4.15 p.m., Ex-Press Bar, General Assembly building, United Nations Headquarters.

**N.B. The conference rooms do not have interpretation facilities and these meetings will be held in English only.**

**Registration for the side events held at UN Headquarters**

Persons wishing to attend the side events held at UN Headquarters and who do not have a **valid UN ground pass** will receive, upon request, a side event ticket (SET). These tickets can be obtained through the IPU's Office in New York:

Office of the Permanent Observer of the IPU to the United Nations  
336 East 45th Street, Tenth Floor

New York  
NY, 10017

Phone: +1 212 557 58 80

Fax: +1 212 557 39 54

Email: [ny-office@ipu.org](mailto:ny-office@ipu.org)

Please note that all SET requests must be submitted to the IPU Office before **Thursday 7 March 2019** in order for the UN Pass and ID Unit to issue the tickets. SETs will be available for pick-up at the IPU premises **one** day ahead of the event. Entry to UN by SET holders is advised 30 minutes before start of event.