



## Empowering rural women: What role for parliaments?

A parliamentary event organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and UN Women on the occasion of the 56<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women  
29 February 2012, UN Headquarters, New York



### AGENDA

**29 February 2012**

**10.00- 10.30 a.m.**      **Welcome remarks**

**10.30 -10.45 a.m.**      **General introduction - Rural women today: Progress and challenges ahead**

**10.45 a.m.- 1 p.m.**      **Theme 1: Political empowerment of rural women**

The session will discuss rural women's involvement in the political process. How active and represented are rural women? What is their role in national politics? What measures can be taken to enhance their political participation in parliament? at local level?

The session will also discuss how responsive Parliaments are to rural women's needs and interests. How do members of parliament take into account rural women's needs into their work? How are rural women consulted? What visibility and attention is given to rural women's needs in the work of parliament? What partnership between parliaments and rural organizations, such as farmers' organizations and rural women's organizations?

Presentations will be followed by an open debate.

---

**1 p.m. - 3 p.m.**      **Lunch break**

---

**Theme 2: Strategic objectives for the empowerment of rural women**

**3 p.m.– 4 p.m.**      **Addressing discrimination in the law**

The session will examine discriminatory provisions in the law that limit rural women's empowerment. It will in particular touch upon discrimination related to access to land, property and credit as well as to inheritance.

Presentations will be followed by an open debate.

**4 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.**      **Ensuring access to health**

The session will discuss existing gaps in the provision of health services to rural women. It will highlight parliamentary initiatives that can be taken, based on current good practices. Particular attention will be placed on access to health as a right and the link between rural women's empowerment and the achievement of the health Millennium Development Goals.

Presentations will be followed by an open debate.

**5.30 p.m. – 6 p.m.**      **Closing session**