



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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## The power of legislation for women's empowerment and sustainable development

A parliamentary event organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and UN Women on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women  
**15 March 2016, ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York**

### INFORMATION NOTE

During the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) - whose priority theme is *Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development* -, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women are organising a parliamentary meeting entitled **The Power of Legislation for Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Development**.

The meeting will take place on **15 March 2015**, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
in the ECOSOC Chamber at 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 organisations, 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 60<sup>th</sup> CSW.

The event will focus on key forms of discrimination in laws which hamper the sustainable development agenda, drawing on evidence-based global research and policymakers' practical experiences of enacting, implementing and enforcing equality and non-discrimination laws.

#### Expected outcome

At the close of the meeting, 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 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the CSW.

#### Participants

The participants in the parliamentary event will include:

- Parliamentarians present in New York for the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the CSW as members of their respective delegations. A letter of invitation will be sent by the IPU Secretary General to all Member and non-member parliaments of the IPU.
- Representatives of governments, relevant organisations and funds of the UN system, and civil society will also be invited.

#### 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**

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 the Office of the Permanent Observer of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the United Nations (Fax: + 1 212 557 39 54; e-mail: [ny-office@ipu.org](mailto:ny-office@ipu.org) and [postbox@ipu.org](mailto:postbox@ipu.org)).

### **Informal side-events**

- ❖ *Panel on Implementing UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security in Arab countries* (14 March 2016 6:30 – 7:45 p.m., Ex-Press Bar – General Assembly Building).

**N.B. The meeting rooms of the side events do not have interpretation facilities and this meeting will be held in English only.**