



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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**THE POWER OF LEGISLATION FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**
New York, 15 March 2016

**Office of the
Secretary General**

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

I am pleased to announce that the Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the 60th session of Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will be held in New York on 15 March 2016. It will be hosted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and will contribute to the CSW's main theme, [Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development](#).

The parliamentary meeting, on *The power of legislation for women's empowerment and sustainable development*, will focus on key forms of discrimination in laws that hamper the sustainable development agenda. It will draw on evidence-based global research and policymakers' practical experiences of enacting, implementing and enforcing equality and non-discrimination laws. You will find enclosed the agenda of the meeting and other relevant documents that are also available at www.ipu.org/splze/csw16.htm.

The IPU strongly encourages your parliament to request the inclusion of both male and female members of parliament in your country's delegation to the CSW session, including chairpersons or members of gender equality, legal affairs or human rights committees. Not only would this ensure their attendance and contribution to the parliamentary event, but it would also facilitate the inclusion of a parliamentary perspective in the CSW discussions that will take place from 14 to 25 March 2016.

In addition to the parliamentary meeting, the IPU is organizing an informal side-event that will focus on implementing UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security in Arab countries. The side-event will take place on 14 March (6.30 to 7.45 p.m.), in the Ex-Press Bar of the General Assembly Building. As the United Nations does not have interpretation facilities in the informal meeting rooms, the debates for this side event will be held in English only.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Chungong
Secretary General