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Statement by the Permanent Observer Hon. Patricia Torsney

Briefing on the methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

**United Nations
23 January 2015**

Chairwoman,

I appreciate this very useful briefing as an opportunity to strengthen the work of the Commission.

There have been many references to the importance of NGO input to the CSW. As a representative of the parliamentary community, let me note that an innovation of the last ten years has been the strong engagement of parliamentarians in the work of the Commission, particularly with the support of the IPU.

This engagement includes a regular one-day parliamentary meeting – jointly organized with UN Women – during the first week of each session. The IPU also makes sure that MPs are informed of the agenda and indeed attend each session as part of national delegations. As a result, well over one hundred MPs attend each session of the Commission as well as the joint parliamentary meeting.

This practice helps build awareness of gender issues and more specifically of the decision of the Commission among parliamentarians. At the same time, it facilitates a parliamentary input to the work of the Commission.

However, we need to improve the way this parliamentary meeting and its outcome are reflected in the work of the Commission in a way that has more impact. This is why GA resolution 68/272 on “Interaction between the UN, parliaments and the IPU” of May 2014 encourages member States to consider a way for the outcome of the parliamentary meeting at the CSW to be reflected as a “formal contribution” to the process (OP 8).

We look forward to exploring possibilities with Commission members as to *how* we may be able to achieve what we know to be a shared objective.

Thank you for your attention.