



111<sup>ème</sup> ASSEMBLEE DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE  
111<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Genève / Geneva, 28.09 – 01.10.2004

Standing Committee III -  
Democracy and Human Rights

C-III/111/DR-am  
22 September 2004

**BEIJING + 10: AN EVALUATION FROM A PARLIAMENTARY PERSPECTIVE**

**Amendments to the Draft Resolution presented by Belgium, Canada, Cuba, Egypt, India, Japan, Norway, Romania, Sweden and United Kingdom**

**PREAMBLE**

**Insert the following new paragraph before paragraph (1) of the preamble:**

(..) ***Recognising*** the fundamental importance of the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), its Optional Protocols, and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,  
(Sweden)

**Paragraph (1)**

Amend paragraph (1) as follows:

(1) ~~Mindful of~~ ***Reaffirming*** the Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in September 1995, and of the outcome document adopted at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session, Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Beijing+5),  
(Canada)

**Paragraph (4)**

Amend paragraph (4) as follows:

(4) ***Reaffirming*** the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals contained therein, in particular, the goal of gender equality and the empowerment of women, without which development cannot be sustained, **and noting that, among those Goals, the elimination of gender disparity in primary and secondary education has been designated a most urgent objective to be achieved by 2005,**  
(Japan)

(4) *Reaffirming* the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals contained therein, in particular, the goal of gender equality and the empowerment of women, without which development cannot be sustained, **and also noting that the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action is an essential prerequisite for meeting all the Millennium Development Goals,**  
(United Kingdom)

**Add a new paragraph after paragraph (4), which reads as follows:**

( ) ***Recognising* that the outcome document of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children adopted in May 2002, entitled "A world fit for children", designated the above goal as a crucial factor in creating a world fit for children,**  
(Japan)

#### **Paragraph (9)**

Amend paragraph (9) as follows:

(9) *Noting* that ten years after the Beijing Conference, women continue to be underrepresented in decision-making positions in **parliament**, government, public administration, justice systems and the economy, and that an equal participation of both **women and men genders** in positions of power is urgently needed for reasons of human rights, justice, democratic legitimacy and efficacy of public policy,  
(Sweden)

**After paragraph (9), add the following new paragraph:**

(.) ***Extremely worried* about the level of domestic violence, and seeing this as a main issue in the struggle for the protection of women, gender equality, empowerment of women and human rights,**  
(Norway)

#### **Paragraph (10)**

Amend paragraph (10) as follows:

(10) *Dismayed* that ten years after the Beijing Conference, effective **gender** equality is still far from being a reality: women continue to be paid less for work of equal value, more often than men are victims of poverty and unemployment, and are more frequently subjected to **male** violence, and *further dismayed* by discrimination faced by the girl child in the fields of education, health and personal development,  
(Sweden)

Add a new paragraph after paragraph (10), which reads as follows:

(..) **Noting that the Forty-Ninth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, to be held next year, is an important conference for the review and appraisal of the decade since the Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing, (Japan)**

#### **Paragraph (11)**

Amend paragraph (11) as follows:

(11) **Stressing the key role of parliaments and parliamentarians in promoting gender equality through their legislative, budgetary, policy and oversight functions and by mobilising public opinion and support, (Sweden)**

### **OPERATIVE PART**

Replace existing paragraph 1 with the following text:

1. **Reaffirms its commitment to the objectives set out in the Beijing Platform for Action and the Outcome of the Twenty-third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (2000); (United Kingdom)**

Add a new paragraph after paragraph 2., as follows:

.... **Calls upon governments and parliaments to promote efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including the promotion of gender equality, the empowerment of women, and the reduction of the maternal mortality rate; (Japan)**

Add a new paragraph after paragraph 3, as follows:

... **Recommends that there should be a stronger presence of women in the decision-making structures within national parliaments and inter-parliamentary forums, as well as a gender-balanced national representation in foreign parliamentary relations, at both the bilateral and multilateral levels; (Romania)**

**Paragraph 4:** Amend as follows:

4. **Encourages parliaments to implement measures aimed at ensuring gender equality in representation, become more gender sensitive by establishing temporary parliamentary committees on gender equality, if possible, issues composed of equal numbers of both**

men and women, implementing the tools of gender budgeting analysis **and gender mainstreaming of all decisions and legislation**, and allocating sufficient resources to these activities;

(Sweden)

4. *Encourages* parliaments to become more gender-sensitive by establishing parliamentary committees on gender issues composed of both men and women, **promoting cooperation among such bodies, including through the IPU**, implementing the tools of gender budgeting analysis, and allocating sufficient resources to these activities;

(Romania)

4. *Encourages* parliaments to ~~become more gender-sensitive~~ **play an active and positive role in the promotion of gender equality** by establishing parliamentary committees on gender issues composed of both men and women, implementing the tools of gender budgeting analysis, and allocating sufficient resources to these activities;

(Canada)

**Paragraph 5:** Amend as follows:

5. *Recommends* that **parliaments strive for equal representation and participation of women and men in their parliamentary work, and implement parity in all parliamentary committees**; ~~the number of women in committees dealing with foreign affairs, the budget, security, and justice increase, aiming for a target of at least 30 per cent, so that women can bring about changes in the approaches to these subjects and the legislation prepared, and also, but not solely, incorporate their specific perspectives and concerns;~~

(Sweden)

5. *Recommends* that the number of women in committees dealing with foreign affairs, the budget, security, and justice increase, aiming for a target of **50 per cent in accordance with the outcome document adopted at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session, Women 2000 (Beijing + 5)**, or at least 30 per cent, so that women can bring about changes in the approaches to these subjects and the legislation prepared, and also, but not solely, incorporate their specific perspectives and concerns;

(Norway)

5. *Recommends* that the number of women in committees dealing with foreign affairs, the budget, security, and justice increase, aiming for a target of at least 30 per cent, so that women can bring about changes in the approaches to these subjects and the legislation prepared, and also, but not solely, incorporate their ~~specific~~ **diverse** perspectives and concerns;

(Canada)

**Paragraph 7:** Amend as follows:

7. *Calls upon* men to play a more active role in the process of gender mainstreaming in every area of life **and in promoting gender equality**;

(Canada)

**Paragraph 8:** Amend as follows:

8. *Further encourages* national parliaments as well as governments, in the framework of systematic gender mainstreaming efforts, to ensure that all government policies and programmes are analysed from a gender **equality** perspective, for example, through the use of gender impact statements for proposed legislation; and *also calls upon* legislatures to adopt the practice of reviewing all legislation, including the budget, from a gender **equality** perspective, and to this end, to ensure that sex-disaggregated data is collected, ~~and analysed~~ **and used as a reference in policy-making and legislative affairs;**

(Sweden)

**Paragraph 9:** Amend as follows:

9. *Calls upon* parliamentarians, as overseers of their governments, to ensure that international commitments are upheld and implemented, particularly those that fall under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) **and its Protocols;**

(Sweden)

**Paragraph 10:** Amend as follows:

10. *Invites* all parliamentarians, men and women, to establish strong links with existing institutions, **NGOS** and mechanisms working for women's rights and women's organisations in finding innovative solutions **based on an analysis of male power,** to the problems of gender inequality;

(Sweden)

**Paragraph 11:** Amend as follows:

Divide this paragraph into two paragraphs as follows:

11. *Calls upon* heads of State and Government as well as leading figures in political parties to make strong, public commitments to gender equality and to make gender issues a permanent priority,

(..) ***Calls upon* leaders to increase the proportion of women in positions of decision-making at all levels;** ~~as having more women in all positions of decision making will draw attention to the impact of public policies on women's diverse situations in life;~~

(Canada)

11. *Calls upon* heads of State and Government as well as leading figures in political parties to make strong, public commitments to gender equality and to make gender issues a permanent priority, as having more women in all positions of decision-making will **ensure the establishment of modern democracies and democratic development in our States;** ~~draw attention to the impact of public policies on women's diverse situations in life;~~

(Sweden)

**Paragraph 12:** Amend as follows:

12. *Calls upon* parliamentarians to ~~address~~ **challenge** the social construction of gender-specific roles with a view to improving policies for women and men;  
(Canada)

**Paragraph 13:** Amend as follows:

13. *Strongly urges* parliamentarians to promote a stronger presence of women in political parties and at all levels of decision-making through the adoption of ~~quota systems or other~~ **various** forms of affirmative action; and *also urges* parliamentary committees to hold public inquiries to determine why women are underrepresented in electoral politics and to devise recommendations for their governments;

(Canada)

13. *Strongly urges* parliamentarians to promote a stronger presence of women in political parties and at all levels of decision-making through the adoption of, **for example**, quota systems or other forms of affirmative action; and *also urges* parliamentary committees to hold public inquiries to determine why women are underrepresented in electoral politics and to devise recommendations for their governments;

(Sweden)

**After paragraph 13, add a new paragraph as follows:**

- .. ***Stresses the need to ensure the full and equal access of women to civic education, information and training as voters and candidates, and to combat negative societal attitudes that discourage women's political participation;***

(Romania)

**Paragraph 15:** Amend as follows:

15. *Emphasises* the need to create a more supportive environment for women in parliament through an examination and, where required, a revision of standing orders and rules of debate and the establishment of gender-sensitive codes of conduct; and *encourages* the development of more family-friendly ~~sitting~~ **working** hours;

(Belgium)

**Insert new paragraph before paragraph 18, which reads as follows:**

- ... ***Calls upon* parliaments and governments to ensure that national laws provide for equal access to the education system and the labour market for both women and men;**

(Sweden)

**Paragraph 18:** Amend as follows:

18. *Calls upon* national parliaments to ensure that national laws enable women to participate in the economy **on equal footing with men**, for example by ensuring **separate taxation of income that they and by ensuring that women** can freely purchase, ~~and sell~~ **and inherit** property, own and manage business enterprises, and have access to loans;  
(Sweden)

**Paragraph 20:** Amend as follows:

20. *Encourages* governments and intergovernmental organisations, in particular the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to promote the independence of women entrepreneurs in small enterprises, by providing them with micro credits **and other financial assistance**;  
(Sweden)

**Paragraph 22:** Amend as follows:

22. *Urges* parliaments and governments to promote the equality of women on the basis of the following supplementary measures:

- passing comprehensive anti-discrimination laws;
- broadening the spectrum of training opportunities available to women and girls;
- supporting business start-ups for women;
- guaranteeing equal pay for equal work; ~~as well as promoting gender partnership on the basis of relevant public information efforts at schools and in the media;~~
- **promoting gender partnership on the basis of relevant public information efforts at schools and in the media;**
- developing legislation governing **to address** gender issues in the private sector;
- ~~linking public contract awards to compliance with gender equality criteria;~~

(Canada)

22. *Urges* parliaments and governments to promote the equality of women on the basis of the following supplementary measures:

- passing comprehensive anti-discrimination laws;
- broadening the spectrum of **education and** training opportunities available to women and girls, **particularly in business, administration and information and communication technologies**;
- supporting business start-ups for women;
- guaranteeing equal pay for equal work, **removing stereotypical attitudes to gender equality at work**, as well as promoting gender partnership on the basis of relevant public information efforts at schools and in the media;
- developing legislation governing gender issues in the private sector;
- linking public contract awards to compliance with gender equality criteria;
- **addressing and supporting the empowerment of rural women and their specific needs**;

(Romania)

22. *Urges* parliaments and governments to promote equality of women on the basis of the following supplementary measures:

- passing **and ensuring effective implementation of** comprehensive anti-discrimination laws **and laws against sexual harassment**;
- broadening the spectrum of training opportunities available to women and girls;
- supporting business start-ups for women;
- guaranteeing equal pay for equal work, as well as promoting gender partnership on the basis of relevant public information efforts at schools and in the media;
- developing legislation governing gender issues, **inter alia to ensure gender equality and equal participation at the management level and on boards of directors** in the private sector;
- linking public contract awards to compliance with gender equality criteria;

(Sweden)

22. *Urges* parliaments and governments to promote the equality of women on the basis of the following supplementary measures:

- passing ~~comprehensive~~ anti-discrimination laws;
- broadening the spectrum of training opportunities available to women and girls;
- supporting business start-ups for women;
- guaranteeing equal pay for equal work, as well as promoting gender partnership on the basis of relevant public information efforts at schools and in the media;
- developing legislation governing gender issues in the private sector;
- **introducing in laws governing linking** public contract awards, **respect for to** ~~compliance with~~ gender equality criteria;

(Belgium)

22. *Urges* parliaments and governments to promote the equality of women on the basis of the following supplementary measures:

- passing comprehensive anti-discrimination laws;
- broadening the spectrum of training opportunities available to women and girls;
- supporting business start-ups for women;
- guaranteeing equal pay for **work of equal work, value**, as well as promoting gender partnership on the basis of relevant public information efforts at schools and in the media;
- developing legislation governing gender issues in the private sector;
- linking public contract awards to compliance with gender equality criteria;

(Norway)

**After paragraph 22, delete the heading "Human security" and place paragraphs 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 at the end of the resolution.**

(Cuba)

**After paragraph 22, replace the heading "Human security" with "Human well-being"**

(India)



**Paragraph 23:** Amend as follows:

23. *Underscores* the need for parliaments and governments to ensure the protection of everyone ~~especially women and children,~~ from any threats to their survival, dignity, and livelihood, particularly in the form of poverty, hunger, **male violence, sexual exploitation and trafficking in human beings**, infectious diseases including HIV/AIDS, and a lack of education;  
(Sweden)

**Paragraph 24:** Amend as follows:

24. *Strongly endorses and encourages* further implementation of national reforms to broaden women and girls' access to education and literacy programmes, **ensure the right and access to improve reproductive and sexual** health services, reduce poverty, and combat all forms of **male violence against women and girls, including prostitution and trafficking in human beings**, including through programmes emphasising the **responsibility** ~~critical role~~ of men;  
(Sweden)

**Paragraph 25:** Amend as follows:

25. *Calls upon* parliaments **to pass laws aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence, sexual abuse and harassment, incest, sexual exploitation, forced prostitution, murder, systematic rape, female genital mutilation and crimes against women committed in the name of honour**, to ensure that the laws they pass protect victims and punish perpetrators of violence against women, to monitor the implementation and enforcement of such legislation, and to allocate resources to programmes targeted at eradicating violence against women;  
(United Kingdom)
25. *Calls upon* parliaments to ensure that the laws they pass protect victims and punish perpetrators of **male** violence against women, to monitor the implementation and enforcement of such legislation and to allocate resources to programmes targeted at eradicating violence against women;  
(Sweden)

**After paragraph 25, add the following paragraphs:**

- (..) *Recognises* that women and girls are frequently victims of gender-based violence, including rape and sexual abuse, during armed conflict;
- (..) *Urges* governments and parties in armed conflict to respect fully the norms of international humanitarian law and take all measures required for the protection of women and children, in particular to put an end to sexual violence against women and girls, and to ensure that perpetrators of such violence are prosecuted;

(..) ***Calls upon governments, parliaments and international and regional organisations to identify and condemn the systematic practice of rape and other forms of inhuman and degrading treatment of women as a deliberate instrument of war and ethnic cleansing, and to take steps to ensure that full assistance is provided to the victims of such abuse for their physical and mental rehabilitation;***

(..) ***Stresses the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, including those relating to sexual violence against women and girls;***

(Norway)

**Paragraph 29:** Amend as follows:

29. *Recognises* the key role played by women as peace educators and caretakers of families and communities in conflict resolution and reconciliation; and *calls for* their ~~active involvement~~ **full and equal participation** in the development of democratic institutions once conflicts cease and during reconstruction processes with a view to ensuring that sustainable peace can be built based on mutual respect, cultural diversity and gender equality;

(Canada)

29. *Recognises* the key role played by women as peace educators and caretakers of families and communities in conflict **prevention**, resolution and reconciliation; and *calls for* their active involvement in the development of democratic institutions once conflicts cease and during reconstruction processes with a view to ensuring that sustainable peace can be built based on mutual respect, cultural diversity and gender equality;

(Sweden)

**Paragraph 30:** Amend as follows

30. **Strongly urges** all parliamentarians to ensure that where stringent laws protecting children and their rights do not yet apply, such legislation is enacted, **and calls upon governments and parliaments to take every appropriate measure, including the enactment of legislation, to end violence committed against girl children;**

(Japan)

**After paragraph 32, add a new paragraph:**

(..) ***Encourages the IPU to continue its work against female genital mutilation and other harmful traditions and practices with increased force;***

(Norway)

**Paragraph 35:** Amend as follows:

35. *Calls upon* parliaments of States that have not yet done so to ensure ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and its Optional Protocol, and *encourages* the IPU **Executive Committee** to continue promoting

the role of parliament in the CEDAW process through its awareness campaigns and seminars;  
(Sweden)

**Paragraph 36:** Amend as follows:

36. *Calls upon* governments as well as international organisations, including the IPU **through its Secretariat**, to collect and distribute sufficient statistical data to be able to analyse the gender-specific distribution of power – both in quantitative and qualitative terms – and to disaggregate all statistical data by gender, providing gender breakdowns;  
(Sweden)

## **COMMENTS OF THE EGYPTIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON THE REVISED DRAFT RESOLUTION:**

The preliminary draft resolution contains many positive points that deal with how the condition of women is addressed politically, economically, culturally, socially and from the point of view of health, as well as in respect of other fields of interest to women, and that highlight the importance of their role in society. However, we believe that it omitted certain points that should be raised, and gave short shrift to others. This comment is intended to shed light on the evolution of the role of women in recent times.

### **Role of women in politics and as it relates to democracy**

The discussion of the role on women in the political arena and of their political and civil rights is closely related to their political development, which is considered one of the components of social development. In fact, the preliminary draft resolution does not underscore the relationship between the political role of women and democracy. Without women, the democratic process loses a great deal of its essence and its effectiveness.

### **The impact of education on women's behaviour**

The preliminary draft resolution should emphasise the impact of education on women's behaviour, both in society and in politics. It should emphasise that despite the prevailing rhetoric in favour of women and their promotion, a lack of education is the foremost cause of women's indifference to public and political action, in particular in rural areas.

### **The media and the development of the role of women**

The preliminary draft resolution should highlight the role of the media in women's development and their integration in society. It is for us to ask the media to stop dealing with women's issues in a stereotypical manner, as this later manifests itself in numerous ways.

### **Impact of illiteracy on the role of women in society**

Illiteracy is always among the first challenges facing women, especially in developing countries. The preliminary draft resolution does not emphasise the need to bring together efforts to resolve this serious problem.

### **Role of non-governmental organisations in developing the role of women**

The preliminary draft resolution did not at all address the mission of non-governmental organisations in developing the role of women. They can carry out a media campaign drawing attention to the need to have women participate in political life, which is an integral part of the process to strengthen democracy. They can also support women in establishing bodies to defend women's rights.

### **Women and elections**

The preliminary draft resolution should show more interest in women's participation in the electoral process, which has a direct effect on their participation in decision-making in society. We would like to highlight the need to overcome the obstacle of campaign funding so as to ensure a balanced representation of women and men in legislatures. We would also like to draw attention to a number of proposals, such as the proposed establishment of a national fund to support marginalised groups in elections, including women candidates.