



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
122nd Assembly and related meetings
Bangkok (Thailand), 27th March - 1st April 2010



FEM/15/C.1
28 January 2010

CONVOCAATION OF THE
FIFTEENTH MEETING OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

Centara Bangkok Convention Centre (CBCC), Saturday, 27 and Wednesday, 31 March 2010

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

I am pleased to inform you that the Fifteenth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will be held at the Centara Bangkok Convention Centre (CBCC), in Bangkok (Thailand), on Saturday, 27 March 2010 from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2.30 to 6.30 p.m., at the latest. The provisional agenda, drawn up by the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians at its session in Geneva in October 2009, is appended hereto.

As can be seen from the provisional annotated agenda, the Meeting in Bangkok will be required to renew part of the membership of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians in order (i) to replace the regional representatives whose term has expired, (ii) to elect the President of the Coordinating Committee and (iii) to elect the two Vice-Presidents of the Committee.

The Meeting will therefore hold a special sitting on 31 March to conduct elections. During a first segment (from 2.00 to 3.00 p.m.), the Meeting will elect the titular and substitute regional representatives to the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, on the basis of candidatures submitted by the corresponding geopolitical groups. It will then briefly reconvene at 4 p.m. to elect the Bureau of the Coordinating Committee, on the basis of nominations submitted by the latter. An explanatory note on the subject is included in the annotated agenda of the Meeting.

As you know, Article 10.1 of the Statutes provides that each national delegation to the meetings organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union shall include at least one man and one woman parliamentarian. I therefore wish to urge you to make a special effort to ensure that one or more women parliamentarians represent your Parliament at the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.

The discussions at the Meeting are public and men MPs wishing to follow or contribute to them are cordially invited to do so. Furthermore, as you will note from the agenda, a special segment of dialogue between men and women on **Combating Violence against Women, with a particular focus on women held in places of detention and imprisonment** will take place during the Meeting, on 27 March, at 2.30 p.m. The special segment will be introduced by a key note address by Her Royal Highness, Princess Bajrakitiyabha, UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador on violence against women. I hope that men and women parliamentarians from your Parliament will take part in the dialogue.

Yours sincerely,

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General

Encl: Annotated provisional agenda



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Meeting of Women Parliamentarians
Agenda

FEM/15/A.1
28 January 2010

Fifteenth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

27 and 31 March 2010

PRACTICAL AND PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS

Schedule and Rules

The Fifteenth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will take place on the premises of the Centara Bangkok Convention Centre (CBCC) in Bangkok and will comprise four sittings:

- Two regular sittings on Saturday, 27 March, from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 2.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. at the latest, to consider all the agenda items except item 3(b);
- One special sitting on Wednesday, 31 March, from 2 to 3 p.m., to elect new titular and substitute regional representatives to the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians (agenda item 3(b));
- A second special sitting on Wednesday, 31 March, from 4 to 4.30 p.m., to elect the President and two Vice-Presidents of the Coordinating Committee.

The proceedings will be governed by the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.

President of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

In accordance with Rule 8, the Meeting will be opened by the President of the Coordinating Committee who shall conduct the election of the President of the Meeting. As per Rule 7, the Meeting will be chaired by a woman member of the host Parliament of the 122nd Assembly.

Participation and speaking rights

Women members of parliament who are part of their delegation as delegates to the Bangkok Meetings can take the floor. Those who accompany the delegation in a capacity other than that of delegate can observe the proceedings of the Meeting but cannot take part in them (Rule 3 of the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians).

The debates are also open to men parliamentarians. Only those who form part of their delegation as delegates can take the floor (Rule 4.2 of the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians).

Representatives of international parliamentary assemblies that are Associate Members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and representatives of international organizations that enjoy observer status may also ask to take the floor.

Debating arrangements

The work of the Meeting will be carried out partly in plenary and partly in working groups. The debates will be conducted in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

The President will seek to promote an active and spontaneous dialogue. Interventions should therefore be **brief** and **not exceed three minutes**. Participants are urged to refrain from reading out prepared statements and are encouraged to debate ideas, illustrating their comments, where appropriate, with examples from their country.

No list of speakers will be drawn up in advance. In plenary, participants will be able to indicate their wish to take the floor by completing the registration form they will find on their desks and handing it to the ushers who will pass them on to the President. This procedure will be optional in the discussion groups.

Documents

The Secretariat will make available in the meeting room sets of official session documents, in English and French only, and various IPU publications.

Participants wishing to present developments in their country with regard to issues on the agenda or general gender issues can display documents on tables outside the meeting room. Prior to that, two copies of the documents should be given to the Secretariat. It must also be noted that these documents cannot be translated and reproduced by the Secretariat.

II. ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

At its sitting on Saturday, 27 March, the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will consider all items on its agenda except item 3(b)¹.

1. **Election of the President of the Meeting** (FEM/15/1-Inf.1)
2. **Adoption of the agenda** (FEM/15/A.1)
3. **Gender activities at the Inter-Parliamentary Union**
 - (a) **Work of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians at the sessions held in Addis Ababa, Geneva and Bangkok and recommendations** (FEM/15/3(a)-Inf.1)
Participants will be informed of the Coordinating Committee's deliberations at its sittings of April 2009, in Addis Ababa, of 18 October 2009, in Geneva, and of 27 March 2010, in Bangkok.
 - (b) **Elections to the Coordinating Committee** (FEM/15/3(b)-Inf.1)
The 15th Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will be called upon to renew half of the membership of its Coordinating Committee, to replace those titular and substitute representatives whose term expires in April 2010, as well as those members of parliaments that have lost their seat.
The Meeting of Women will hold elections to the Coordinating Committee on Wednesday, 31 March. The electoral process is detailed in Annex I.
Geopolitical groups are requested to submit candidatures in writing by Monday, 29 March by 6 p.m. at the latest. Candidatures should be accompanied by a brief curriculum vitae (3 paragraphs maximum) of the candidates in English and/or French only, for distribution to participants.
 - (c) **Work and recommendations of the Gender Partnership Group** (FEM/15/3(c)-Inf.1)
Participants will be informed of the work of the Gender Partnership Group.
 - (d) **Questions relating to the panel discussion *The Role of Parliaments in Fulfilling the Convention on the Rights of the Child* organised during the 122nd IPU Assembly** (FEM/15/3(d)-Inf.1)
The panel will take place on Tuesday, 30 March (9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.).
 - (e) **Recent IPU Specialised meetings and other initiatives**
Participants will be briefed on the results of activities and meetings carried out by the IPU concerning gender issues.

¹ The only documents distributed on 27 March are those relating to the items to be discussed at the sitting. Documents relating to item 3(b) will be made available on 31 March.

(f) **Any other business**

The discussion on Gender activities at the Inter-Parliamentary Union will conclude by 11 a.m.

4. **Contribution to the work of the 122nd Assembly** (C-I/122/R-rev, C-I/122/DR-rev, FEM/15/4-Inf.1)
The Coordinating Committee decided to invite women parliamentarians to discuss item 4 of the agenda of the 122nd Assembly entitled *Cooperation and shared responsibility in the global fight against organized crime, in particular drug trafficking, illegal arms sales, human trafficking and cross-border terrorism*, according to the following procedure:

Participants will split into two groups to discuss the following sub-themes:

Theme 1: Trafficking of women

The group will be invited to discuss concrete ways and means to prevent trafficking of women, punish perpetrators and secure support to and ensure rehabilitation of women victims of trafficking.

Theme 2: The role of women in combating drug trafficking

The group will discuss the significant contribution of women and families to finding solutions to the global drug problem. It will look at the impact of drugs on women and families and the role of women in terms of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

Beforehand, the participants will elect, on the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee, a moderator and a rapporteur for each of the working groups formed. At the end of the discussion, each group will agree on the key ideas to be presented by the rapporteur to the afternoon plenary Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.

The rapporteur of each discussion group will be in charge of drafting amendments to the draft resolution submitted to the First Standing Committee for discussion. These amendments will be drafted in consultation with the President of the Coordinating Committee and the President of the Meeting and submitted on behalf of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians. The amendments will aim at introducing a gender perspective to the resolution.

Each discussion group will debate from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Meeting will adjourn for lunch from 1 to 2.30 p.m.

5. **Dialogue session between men and women on “Combating Violence against Women, with a particular focus on women held in places of detention and imprisonment”**

The dialogue session will be introduced by a **key note address by Her Royal Highness, Princess Bajrakitiyabha, UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador** on violence against women. The address will be followed by two interventions on violence against women in jails and detention centers.

Debates will focus on the general role of parliaments in combating violence against women. Particular emphasis will be placed on the situation of women in prisons and immigration detention centers, where women find themselves in dependency situations, which heightens their vulnerability to abuse, discrimination and violence. The dialogue session will therefore examine what members of parliament can do to prevent, punish perpetrators and support victims of such abuse and violence.

The debate will be launched by two keynote speakers and will take place from **2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.**

6. **Debate on women in politics**

Participants will be presented with the latest Map on Women in Politics: 2010, jointly produced by the IPU and the United Nations. They will also be briefed on progress and setbacks of women in parliament in 2009. The presentations will be followed by a debate.

7. Report of the discussion group rapporteurs

The rapporteurs of the discussion groups will present their reports. The Meeting will then ask them to prepare, in consultation with the President of the Coordinating Committee and the President of the Meeting, amendments to be presented during the general debate of the First Standing Committee on Sunday, 28 March 2010.

8. Place and date of the Sixteenth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

The 16th Meeting will take place in April/May 2011, during the 124th IPU Assembly.

In accordance with the provisions of Rule 11 of the Rules of the Meeting, the Coordinating Committee will draw up the provisional agenda of the Meeting.

Procedure for Elections to the Coordinating Committee to be held during the 15th Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

The 15th Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will be called upon to renew half of the membership of its Coordinating Committee, to replace those titular and substitute representatives whose term expires in April 2010 (the list of Coordinating Committee members is annexed).

Elections of the regional representatives and their substitutes: rules and procedure

Rule 31.1(c) of the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians provides that one representative from each of the IPU geopolitical Groups be elected for a four-year term of office and that a substitute for each regional representative shall be elected at the same election. The IPU Geopolitical Groups are the following:

- African Group
- Arab Group
- Asia and Pacific Group
- Eurasian Group
- Latin American Group
- Twelve Plus Group

The geopolitical groups should submit candidatures in writing. Individual IPU Members wishing to submit candidatures should submit them only to their geopolitical group. Each candidature should be accompanied by a brief curriculum vitae (3 paragraphs maximum) of the candidate in English and/or French only, for distribution to participants. Geopolitical groups are requested to submit candidatures in writing by Monday, 29 March by 6 p.m. at the latest.

Women MPs who are finishing their term as members of the Coordinating Committee are ineligible for re-election as titular regional representatives. Similarly, women MPs who are finishing their term as substitute regional representatives are also ineligible for re-election as substitute regional representative; they are, however, eligible for the position of titular representatives.

Schedule

In accordance with the provisions of the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, the elections will be held during two special sittings:

- The first sitting will elect the titular and substitute regional representatives. Immediately following this election, the newly constituted Coordinating Committee will meet *in camera* to nominate candidates for the offices of President and First and Second Vice-Presidents of the Committee.
- The second sitting will approve these candidatures

Election of the President and the First and Second Vice-Presidents of the Coordinating Committee: Rules and procedure

Rule 32 of the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians stipulates that "after each renewal of the regional representatives, every two years, the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians shall, on the proposal of the Coordinating Committee, elect the President, First Vice-President and Second Vice-President of the Coordinating Committee from among parliamentarians of different regions".

COMPOSITION AND OFFICERS OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS
(JANUARY 2010)

| | | Expiry of term |
|---|---|----------------|
| President | Ms. P. Cayetano (Philippines) | April 2010 |
| First Vice-President | Vacant | April 2010 |
| Second Vice-President | Ms. M. Mensah-Williams (Namibia) | April 2010 |
| Regional representatives (elected for four years) | | |
| Titular: | Substitute: | |
| Group of African countries: | | |
| Ms.M. Mensah-Williams (Namibia) | Ms. S. A. Lyimo (United Republic of Tanzania) | April 2012 |
| Group of Arab countries: | | |
| Ms. A.A. Al Qubaisi (United Arab Emirates) | Ms. A. Mubarak (Bahrain) | April 2012 |
| Group of Asia and Pacific countries: | | |
| Ms. J. Hall (Australia) | Ms. F. Ajorloo (Iran, Islamic Rep. of) | April 2012 |
| Eurasia Group: | | |
| Ms. V. Petrenko (Russian Federation) | Ms. E. Semenova (Russian Federation) | April 2012 |
| Group of Latin American countries: | | |
| Ms. L. Menchaca (Mexico) | Vacant | April 2012 |
| Twelve Plus Group: | | |
| Ms. C. Markwalder Bär (Switzerland)) | Ms. G. Gautier (France) | April 2012 |
| Regional representatives (elected for two years) | | |
| Titular: | Substitute: | |
| Group of African countries: | | |
| Ms. L. S. Changwe (Zambia) | Ms. M. G. Chetima (Niger) | April 2010 |
| Group of Arab countries: | | |
| Vacant | Ms. S. Greiss (Egypt) | April 2010 |
| Group of Asia and Pacific countries: | | |
| Ms. P. Cayetano (Philippines) | Ms. P. Kaur (India) | April 2010 |
| Eurasia Group: | | |
| Ms. B. Baimagambetova (Kazakhstan) | Vacant | April 2010 |
| Group of Latin American countries: | | |
| Ms. M. Xavier (Uruguay) | Vacant | April 2010 |
| Twelve Plus Group: | | |
| Ms. A. Clywd (United Kingdom) | Vacant | April 2010 |
| Members of the Executive Committee (ex officio, for the duration of their term on the Executive Committee) | | |
| Ms. Z. Drif Bitat (Algeria) | | October 2011 |
| Ms. J. Fotso (Cameroon) | | October 2010 |
| Ms. D. Stump (Switzerland) | | October 2013 |
| Chairpersons of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians (ex officio for two years) | | |
| Ms. G. Mahlangu-Nkabinde (South Africa) | | April 2010 |
| Ms. S. Minale (Ethiopia) | | April 2011 |