



WORKSHOP ON ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH

26 March 2013 (2 – 4 p.m.)
San Francisco Convention Centre, Quito
Salón Landáburo, level -2

Concept note

Over the past few years, significant progress has been made worldwide in reducing maternal and child deaths. However, the overall decrease in disease and death is not fast enough for many countries to meet the health-related Millennium Development Goals by the target date of 2015.

Under the leadership of the United Nations Secretary-General, the global community has given priority to women's and children's health, in particular by enhancing accountability for the measures undertaken in this area. This encompasses accountability for the way in which resources are used, and accountability for delivering expected results.

Parliaments are already making a robust contribution to these global efforts. At its 126th Assembly in Kampala, the IPU adopted a resolution on Access to health as a basic right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children. The resolution highlights the concerns of parliaments and articulates their commitment to accelerate progress in their countries' performance on women's and children's health by 2015. The resolution also proposes to strengthen accountability for women's and children's health by central governments, donors and the development community, and requests that the IPU devise an accountability mechanism to track implementation of the resolution itself.

One year later, on the occasion of its 128th Assembly in Quito, the IPU will convene a workshop aimed at showcasing good practices developed by parliaments to implement the IPU resolution and thus promote women's and children's health. The findings of a new IPU Report, assessing the impact of these measures, will also be presented. The Report demonstrates how, by taking a series of priority actions prescribed in the IPU resolution, parliaments can help advance women's and children's health as a fundamental human right.

Participants will be invited to discuss the Report and address a number of related questions:

- Does the extent of parliamentary action today on maternal, newborn and child health meet the needs and expectations on the ground?
- To what extent do national legal and institutional frameworks currently enable or hinder the efforts of parliamentarians in exercising their oversight function to ensure accountability for women's and children's health? What more needs to be done?
- How is parliamentary action on maternal, newborn and child health organized? What are the priorities and key partners?
- What should be the emerging priorities in the implementation of the IPU resolution as the target date for the MDGs approaches?
- How can the IPU operationalize the accountability mechanism for monitoring the implementation of its 2012 resolution?