



Eighteenth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

22 March 2013

I. PRACTICAL AND PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS

Schedule and Rules

The Eighteenth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will take place on the premises of the San Francisco Convention Centre in Quito and will comprise two sittings, which will be held on Friday, 22 March, from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 2.30 to 6.00 p.m. at the latest.

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 of Women Parliamentarians 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 128th Assembly.

Participation and speaking rights

Women members of parliament who are part of their delegation as delegates to the 128th Assembly 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 discussion 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. These documents cannot be translated and reproduced by the Secretariat.

II. ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of the President of the Meeting (FEM/18/1-Inf.1)

2. Adoption of the agenda (FEM/18/A.1)

3. Gender activities at the Inter-Parliamentary Union

(a) (i) Work of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians at the sessions held in Kampala and Quebec and recommendations (FEM/18/3(a)i)-Inf.1)

Participants will be informed of the Coordinating Committee's deliberations at its sittings of 31 March 2012 in Kampala and 21 October 2012 in Quebec.

(ii) Elections to the Coordinating Committee (FEM/18/3(a)ii)-Inf.1)

The 18th Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will be called upon to fill vacancies that were not filled during the elections held in Kampala in March 2012 (see annex). The Geopolitical Groups concerned are invited to submit candidatures (in English and/or French **only**) by 21 March 2013.

(b) Work and recommendations of the Gender Partnership Group

Participants will be informed of the work of the Gender Partnership Group.

(c) Follow-up to the adoption of the Plan of Action on Gender-sensitive parliaments (Plan of Action on Gender-sensitive Parliaments (www.ipu.org/english/surveys.htm#action-gender))

Participants will be informed of the follow-up to the Plan of Action undertaken by the IPU Secretariat.

(d) 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 128th Assembly (FEM/18/4-Inf.1, C-I/128/R-rev, C-I/128/DR-rev, C-II/128/R-rev and C-II/128/DR-rev)

At its 29th session (Quebec, 2012), the Coordinating Committee decided to invite women parliamentarians to discuss the following items of the agenda of the 128th Assembly:

- Enforcing the responsibility to protect: The role of parliament in safeguarding civilians' lives (First Standing Committee);
- Fair trade and innovative financing mechanisms for sustainable development (Second Standing Committee).

The Meeting will split into two discussion groups, one per topic. On the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee, it will elect a moderator and a rapporteur for each of the discussion groups. Each group will agree on the key ideas to be presented by the rapporteur to the afternoon plenary of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.

The rapporteur of each group will be in charge of drafting amendments to the draft resolution submitted to the First and Second Standing Committees 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 to introduce a gender perspective to the two resolutions.

Each group will meet from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Meeting will adjourn from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

5. Debate on women in politics

Participants will be briefed on progress and setbacks in representation of women in parliament in 2012. The presentations will be followed by a debate.

6. Dialogue session between men and women on violence against women, in particular sexual violence

Violence against women is a scourge that spares no country. This human rights violation is one of the most common throughout the world, and clearly attests to the inequality that exists between men and women.

Many parliaments have decided to make this a political priority. More and more of them are tackling the problem by enacting laws to prevent and abolish the most common forms of violence and to protect and assist victims. The results are very telling. These laws help inter alia to change mentalities and the way violence against women is perceived.

Everywhere, sexual violence is among the most frequent forms of violence inflicted upon women, be it in the public or private sphere. It is estimated that, worldwide, one in five women will become a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime, and this form of violence is magnified in countries prone to conflict.

While almost all countries criminalize rape, penal codes often define sexual violence very narrowly, with many still framing the problem in terms of indecency or immorality, or as a crime against the family or society, rather than a violation of an individual's bodily integrity. Furthermore, in a number of countries, rape committed in the context of an intimate relationship or marriage is not criminalized and certain countries even allow rapists to be exonerated from their crime by marrying their victim.

During this dialogue session, men and women parliamentarians will be able to debate the challenges and strategic directions needed to strengthen legislation and policies aimed at combating violence against women, in particular sexual violence.

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 (afternoon of Sunday, 24 March) and the Second Standing Committee (morning of Saturday, 23 March), in accordance with the modalities specified under item 4.

8. Action by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen the parliamentary dimension of United Nations efforts to promote partnership between men and women

Participants will discuss follow-up of the 57th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and parliaments' contribution to the CEDAW reporting process.

9. Future IPU Assemblies

The Meeting will be informed of gender activities planned for future IPU Assemblies, including the 129th Assembly in Geneva (October 2013).

**COMPOSITION AND OFFICERS OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE
OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS
(JANUARY 2013)**

BUREAU (2012-2014)

<i>President</i>	Dr. N. Assegaf (Indonesia)
<i>First Vice-President</i>	Ms. S. Fernández (Ecuador)
<i>Second Vice-President</i>	Ms. B. Amongi (Uganda)

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Expiry of term

African Group

<i>Titular:</i>	<i>Substitute:</i>	
Ms. F. Mukakalisa (Rwanda)	Ms. M. Semetta (Mauritania)	April 2016
Ms. Z. Drabo (Burkina Faso)	Ms. S. Shope-Sithole (South Africa)	April 2014

Arab Group

<i>Titular:</i>	<i>Substitute:</i>	
Ms. M. Albahar (United Arab Emirates)	Ms. A. Talabani (Iraq)	April 2016
Ms. Z. Bouayad (Morocco)	Ms. I. Al Wazir (Palestine)	April 2014

Asia-Pacific Group

<i>Titular:</i>	<i>Substitute:</i>	
Ms. E. Abdulla (Maldives)	Ms. D. Aziz (Pakistan)	April 2016
Dr. N. Assegaf (Indonesia)	Dr. K. Ghosh Dastidar (India)	April 2014

Eurasia Group

<i>Titular:</i>	<i>Substitute:</i>	
Ms. E. Semenova (Russian Federation)	<i>Vacant</i>	April 2016
Ms. A. Naumchik (Belarus)	<i>Vacant</i>	April 2014

Group of Latin American and the Caribbean

<i>Titular:</i>	<i>Substitute:</i>	
<i>Vacant</i>	Ms. S. M. Escudero (Argentina)	April 2016
Ms. S. Fernández (Ecuador)	Ms. R. González (Cuba)	April 2014

Twelve Plus Group

<i>Titular:</i>	<i>Substitute:</i>	
Ms. U. Karlsson (Sweden)	Ms. M. André (France)	April 2016
Ms. F. Dağci Çiğlik (Turkey)	Ms. A. Krüger-Leissner (Germany)	April 2014

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Expiry of term

(ex officio, for the duration of their term on the Executive Committee)

Ms. N. Motsamai (Lesotho)	October 2015
Ms. R. Kadaga (Uganda)	October 2015
Ms. I. Passada (Uruguay)	October 2015
Ms. S. Moulengui-Mouélé (Gabon)	October 2014

CHAIRPERSONS OF THE MEETING OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

Expiry of term

(ex officio for two years)

Ms. B. Amongi (Uganda)	April 2014
Ms. D. Castañeda (Panama)	April 2013