



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

131st IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 12 - 16.10.2014

20th MEETING OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

Geneva, 12 October 2014

Meeting of Women Parliamentarians
Agenda

FEM/20/A.1-REV.3
9 October 2014

I. Schedule and meeting arrangements

The 20th Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will take place on the premises of the CICG and will comprise two sittings on Sunday 12 October, from 9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. at the latest.

The work of the Meeting will be carried out in accordance with the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.

The President of the Meeting will seek to promote an active and spontaneous dialogue. Interventions should therefore be brief and not exceed three minutes. 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.

II. Annotated provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Gender activities at the Inter-Parliamentary Union Assemblies

- (a) Work of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians at its previous sessions and elections to fill vacant posts on the Committee
 - Participants will be informed of the Coordinating Committee's deliberations at its extraordinary session of 29 June 2014 and its session of 12 October 2014, in Geneva;
 - Participants will be called upon to elect one titular regional representative for the Asia-Pacific Group (end of term March 2018) and one substitute regional representative for the Twelve Plus Group (end of term March 2016), and one substitute member for the Africa Group (end of term March 2018) to fill posts that are currently vacant.
- (b) Work and recommendations of the Gender Partnership Group
Participants will be informed of the work of the Gender Partnership Group.
- (c) Briefing on recent IPU activities in the area of gender equality
- (d) Briefing on the 131st Assembly and related events
 - Information on the general debate – Achieving gender equality, ending violence against women
 - Information on the Future Policy Award ceremony jointly organised by the World Future Council, IPU and UN Women.

The discussion will conclude by 10 a.m.



3. Special debate on electoral quotas for women in politics

Recent years have experienced a growing trend of use of gender quotas as a policy tool for increasing women's political participation and representation.

The adoption of such measures is still the object of much debate though. The meeting will set aside some time to discuss the findings of a new publication: the "Atlas of Gender Quotas". The publication is based on country-specific information contained in the Global Database of Quotas for Women (www.quotaproject.org), a joint initiative of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), IPU and Stockholm University.

Presentations by Mr. Martin Chungong, IPU Secretary General, and Mr. Yves Leterme, IDEA Secretary-General, will address gender quota regulations and their effects on women's representation in parliament. The presentations will be followed by a debate that will provide an opportunity to exchange views and experiences on quotas for women.

The special debate will be held from 10 to 11 a.m.

4. Future of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and celebrations of its 30th anniversary

- a) Participants will be informed about the results of the consultation held in March on the nature, structure and objectives of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, as well as the Coordinating Committee's proposed recommendations on the subject.
- b) Participants will be informed of initiatives planned or encouraged for the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Meeting of Women MPs in 2015.

The discussion will conclude by 11:30 a.m.

5. Contribution to the work of the 131st Assembly

Women parliamentarians will be invited to discuss the following item of the agenda of the 131st Assembly: *International law as it relates to national sovereignty, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and human rights* (Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights).

The participants will elect, on the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee, a rapporteur who will present the main elements of the discussion to the afternoon plenary Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.

The rapporteur will also be in charge of drafting the proposed amendments to the draft resolution submitted to the Standing Committee. These amendments will be drafted in consultation with the President of the Coordinating Committee and submitted on behalf of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians. The amendments will aim to introduce a gender perspective to the resolution.

The discussion will take place from 11.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

6. Panel debate "Women's influence on Parliament"

The question of women's political participation is, for the IPU, first and foremost a question of rights and democratic functioning. Men and women should have the same political opportunities and say in political decisions-making processes. But one cannot avoid the question: what is the influence of women on parliament?

In this panel discussion parliamentarians will discuss the difference women make in Parliament and how this can be made more visible. Tangible results of women's presence and work in parliaments will be presented. Specific attention will be placed on the political and social contexts and their capacity to limit or facilitate the ability of women parliamentarians to cultivate change. Ultimately, the debate will try and identify what can women parliamentarians do to have more influence?

The panel debate will be moderated by:

Ms. G. von Hall, journalist for Svenska Dagbladet

Panellists:

Ms. L. Alansari, Member of the Consultative Council (Saudi Arabia)

Ms. M. Andrée, Senator, Member of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians (France)

Dr. F. Bustamante, Member of the National Assembly (Ecuador) - TBC

Ms. M.L. Krook, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University

The discussion will conclude by 4:15 p.m.

7. Cooperation with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Ms. Patricia Schulz, Swiss member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, will inform the Meeting on recent developments in the work of the Committee and its cooperation with parliaments and the IPU. The briefing will be followed by a question and answer session.

8. Hearing of the candidates for the post of IPU President

The Meeting will have an opportunity to hear the candidates for the post of IPU President. The hearing will begin at 4.45 pm.

9. Report of the rapporteur

The rapporteur of the discussion on the contribution to the work of the 131st Assembly will present her report. The Meeting will then ask her to prepare, in consultation with the President of the Coordinating Committee, amendments to be presented during the general debate of the Third Standing Committee (Monday, 13 October), in accordance with the modalities specified under item 4.

10. Future Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

The next Meeting of women parliamentarians will be held on 28 March 2015, in Hanoi (Vietnam) on the occasion of the 132nd IPU Assembly.