



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

134th IPU Assembly

Lusaka (Zambia), 19 - 23 March 2016



23rd MEETING OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

Lusaka, 19 and 22 March 2016

Meeting of Women Parliamentarians
Agenda

FEM/23/A.1
15 January 2016

I. SCHEDULE OF MEETING AND DEBATING ARRANGEMENTS

The 23rd Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will be held at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre (MICC), in Lusaka (Zambia). The Meeting will hold two sessions as follows: on Saturday, 19 March 2016 from 9.30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Tuesday, 22 March, from 12 noon to 1 p.m. and from 3.30 to 4 p.m.

The Meeting should provide an opportunity for 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.

II. ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

*First session
Saturday, 19 March 2016
Mosi-o-Tunya, New Wing, MICC*

1. **Election of the President of the Meeting** (FEM/23/1-Inf.1)
2. **Adoption of the agenda** (FEM/23/A.1)
3. **Gender activities at IPU 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 session of 21 October 2015, in Geneva and its session of 19 March, in Lusaka;
 - 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
4. **Amendments to the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians**
Participants will be invited to take a decision on the proposed amendments in view of their submission to the Governing Council for approval.

The discussion will conclude by 11 a.m.

#IPU134

5. Contribution to the work of the 134th Assembly with a view to making an input from a gender perspective

Participants will be invited to discuss the following item on the agenda of the 134th Assembly:

- Terrorism: The need to enhance global cooperation against the threat to democracy and individual rights (*Standing Committee on Peace and International Security*)

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

Theme 1: Protection of the individual rights of women and girls in the context of terrorism and violent extremism: Freedom from violence and discrimination

Theme 2: Global cooperation to prevent terrorism and violent extremism: Women's and girl's empowerment as a means of action

On the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee, the Meeting will elect a moderator and a rapporteur for each group, who will agree on the key ideas to be submitted to the afternoon plenary sitting of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.

Each group will meet from 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

6. Panel discussion on Women's participation in politics and young women's political empowerment

The main findings and conclusions of this discussion will feed in the 134th Assembly's General Debate on the theme: *Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth*

7. Report of the rapporteurs of the discussion groups

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 debate of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security on Sunday, 20 March 2016.

8. Venue and date of the 24th Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and other future meetings related to gender equality

*Second session
Tuesday, 22 March 2016
Room 1, Old Wing, MICC*

9. Elections to the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians (12 noon to 1 p.m.)

The 23rd 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 terms expire in March 2016, as well as those members of parliaments that have lost their seat in parliament.

After the elections, the Meeting will be suspended until 3.30 p.m. to allow the newly-constituted Coordinating Committee to meet *in camera* and select candidates for its Bureau (President, First Vice-President and Second Vice-President).

10. Elections to the Bureau of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians (3.30 to 4 p.m.)

The 23rd Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will resume its sitting to approve the candidatures for the offices of President and First- and Second Vice-Presidents of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians.

Procedure for Elections to the Coordinating Committee to be held during the 23rd Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

The 23rd 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 terms expire in March 2016.

The Meeting will also be called upon to replace members who have lost their parliamentary seats (Annex II contains the list of the current Coordinating Committee members).

Elections of the regional representatives and their substitutes: rules and procedure¹

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. A retiring member shall not be eligible for re-election for two years.

The IPU has the following geopolitical groups:

- African Group
- Arab Group
- Asia-Pacific Group
- Eurasia Group
- Group of Latin America and the Caribbean
- Twelve Plus Group

Only candidatures submitted in writing by the geopolitical groups will be accepted. 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 French only, for distribution to participants. Geopolitical groups are requested to submit candidatures in writing by Monday, 21 March by 12 noon latest.

Schedule

In accordance with the provisions of the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, the elections will be held during two special sittings, which will take place on Tuesday, 22 March:

- During the first part of the sitting, the Meeting will elect the titular and substitute regional representatives. Immediately after 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.
- During the second part of the sitting, the Meeting will approve these candidatures to the Bureau of the Coordinating Committee.

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*".

¹ The Meeting of Women Parliamentarians is in the final stages of amending its Rules, including those governing membership of the Coordinating Committee. The new rules provide for only one category of members and no more substitutes. The new rules will apply immediately upon their approval by the Governing Council. Hence, the women elected as substitute members on 22 March 2016 will automatically become full-fledged members.

**COMPOSITION AND OFFICERS OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE
OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS
(14 January 2016)**

BUREAU (March 2014-2016)

President	Ms. M. Mensah-Williams (Namibia)
First Vice-President	Ms. U. Karlsson (Sweden)
Second Vice-President	<i>Vacancy</i>

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Expiry of term

African Group:

<i>Titular:</i>	<i>Substitute:</i>	
Ms. B. Amongi (Uganda)	Ms. M. Semetta (Mauritania)	March 2016
Ms. M. Mensah-Williams (Namibia)	Ms. J. Nze Mouenidiambou (Gabon)	March 2018

Arab Group:

<i>Titular:</i>	<i>Substitute:</i>	
Ms. A. Al-Garageer (Jordan)	Ms. A. Talabani (Iraq)	March 2016
<i>Vacancy</i>	Ms. S. Kousantini (Tunisia)	March 2018

Asia-Pacific Group:

<i>Titular:</i>	<i>Substitute:</i>	
Ms. E. Abdulla (Maldives)	Ms. E. Ershad (Afghanistan)	March 2016
Ms. W. A. Khan (Bangladesh)	Ms. A. Khalid Parvez (Pakistan)	March 2018

Eurasia Group:

<i>Titular:</i>	<i>Substitute:</i>	
Ms. H. Bisharyan (Armenia)	Ms. O. Timofeeva (Russian Federation)	March 2016
Ms. V. Petrenko (Russian Federation)	Ms. E. Shamal (Belarus)	March 2018

Group of Latin American and the Caribbean:

<i>Titular:</i>	<i>Substitute:</i>	
Ms. M. Padierna Luna (Mexico)	Ms. M. Higonet (Argentina)	March 2016
Ms. A. Ocles Padilla (Ecuador)	Ms. L. Arias Medrano (Dominican Rep.)	March 2018

Twelve Plus Group:

<i>Titular:</i>	<i>Substitute:</i>	
Ms. U. Karlsson (Sweden)	Ms. S. Atallahjan (Canada)	March 2016
Ms. M. André (France)	Ms. P. Ernstberger (Germany)	March 2018

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Expiry of term

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

Ms. C. Cerqueira (Angola)	October 2019
Ms. A. Habibou (Niger)	October 2019
Ms. G. Eldegard (Norway)	October 2019

CHAIRPERSON OF THE MEETING OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS

Expiry of term

(ex officio for two years)

Ms. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan (Viet Nam)	March 2017
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