



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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135th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 23 – 27.10.2016

FEM/24/C.1
29 July 2016

Convocation of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians 24th session

Geneva, 23 October 2016

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

The 24th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians will be held as part of the 135th Assembly at the Centre International de Conférences de Genève (CICG) in Geneva (Switzerland). The Forum will meet on Sunday 23 October 2016, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. The provisional annotated agenda, drawn up by the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians at its session in Lusaka in March 2016, is appended.

At its first sitting, the Forum will discuss its contribution to the work of the 135th Assembly. It will provide gender-related input by debating item 4 of the Assembly agenda, *The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective*. The second sitting will include a debate on safeguarding women's and girls' rights in times of conflict.

The Forum will fill the seats on the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians that remain vacant: one regional representative for the Asia-Pacific Group, one regional representative for the Eurasia Group and one regional representative for the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean. Elections will be held on the basis of candidatures submitted by the corresponding geopolitical groups.

The Forum will also organize a parity debate on the theme *Harassment and violence against parliamentarians: Means of protection*, on 26 October 2016 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. This initiative is part of the Forum's effort to enhance dialogue between women and men within the IPU, and encouraging male parliamentarians' participation in gender-related debates. Delegations are invited to be represented at this important debate by both male and female participants.

Article 10.1 of the Statutes of the IPU provides that each national delegation to the meetings organized by the IPU shall include at least one man and one woman parliamentarian. I therefore urge you to ensure the delegation of your Parliament is in compliance with this requirement in order to allow it to be represented at the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Chungong
Secretary General

encl: Annotated provisional agenda

#IPU135