



Gender Equality: Making a Difference through Parliament

New York, 1 March 2006



A parliamentary event organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union
and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women
on the occasion of the 50th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

INVITATION

Geneva, 16 December 2005

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

We write to encourage your parliament to participate in a one-day parliamentary event entitled *Gender Equality: Making a Difference through Parliament*. The event, hosted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, is being convened on the occasion of the forthcoming 50th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March 2006.

The parliamentary meeting will take place on **1 March 2006**, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 6 p.m., in the ECOSOC chamber at UN Headquarters in New York.

The IPU strongly encourages your parliament to request that both male and female members of parliament be included in your country's delegation to the CSW Session, including chairpersons or members of gender equality committees. Not only would this ensure their attendance and contribution to the parliamentary event, but it would also facilitate parliamentary inclusion in the CSW discussions.

The 2006 parliamentary event will place particular emphasis on the institution of parliament, and how MPs are contributing to the goal of reaching gender equality. In so doing it will provide an opportunity to consider the "equal participation of women and men in decision-making bodies," which is one of the themes being reviewed at the CSW session. One of the meeting's primary objectives is therefore to bring a strong message of renewed and enhanced commitment to women's participation in decision-making forums.

Please find attached an information note, the provisional annotated agenda concerning the meeting and a registration form. We look forward to hearing from you, at your earliest convenience and preferably before **30 January 2006**.

Yours sincerely,

Carolyn Hannan
Director
UN Division for the
Advancement of Women

Anders B. Johansson
Secretary General
Inter-Parliamentary Union