



The Role of Parliaments in Financing for Gender Equality



New York, 27 February 2008

A parliamentary event organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union
and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women
on the occasion of the 52nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women
Room 4 – UN Headquarters, New York

ANNOTATED AGENDA

10.00 - 10.30 a.m. *Inaugural session*
Inter-Parliamentary Union
United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women

Chairperson
of the Meeting: Ms. Mónica Xavier, Senator (Uruguay) and President of the IPU Coordinating
Committee of Women Parliamentarians

10.30- 1 p.m. **Session one: Maximising national wealth in favour of women and gender equality**

The session will look at ways and means of making the best of national wealth and potential so as to support women and gender equality initiatives. It will in particular look at Parliament's role in public finance management, with a particular focus on gender-sensitive budgets as a means to ensure better allocation of resources in favour of gender equality. It will also discuss what policies and mechanisms can be developed or strengthened to maximise women's economic input and participation.

10.30- 11.45 **Theme 1: Parliaments and gender sensitive budgeting**
What are gender sensitive budgets? What is Parliament's role in this process? How can gender sensitive budgeting provide an opportunity for an effective means of responding to the needs of women?

11.45- 1 p.m. **Theme 2: National mechanisms to support women's economic input**
What policies can Parliament support and develop to maximise women's economic input and participation? How to assess women's economic input and address the question of unpaid work? What public policies are needed to facilitate women's economic participation: social security, infrastructures, education? What mechanisms should be further developed? Is micro-credit an answer?

1.00 – 3.00 p.m. *Lunch break*

3.00- 5.45 p.m.

Session two: Financing gender equality in politics

The session will focus on gender equality in the political field and financial requirements to achieve that objective. It will look at, in particular, financial challenges faced by women in politics, whether as candidates or as members of parliament; it will discuss the respective roles of various stakeholders in reallocating or enhancing financial support to women; it will also look at political institutions and raise the question of how to fund an effective mainstreaming of gender.

Theme 3: Financing women's political participation

What are the funding challenges faced by women running for election? What financial assistance could be provided, and by whom? What is the role of public funding? What is the role of political parties?

Theme 4: Financial support for gender-sensitive institutional building

How to effectively mainstream gender in public institutions, such as parliaments? How to provide support to women in Parliament? How to finance gender mainstreaming mechanisms? What is needed? What are possible financial supports? Is the budget of parliament analysed from a gender perspective?

5.45– 6.00 p.m.

Closing Session