



# The Role of Parliaments in promoting equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men

New York City, 4 March 2009

A parliamentary event organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women on the occasion of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Room 4, UN Headquarters, New York



## INFORMATION NOTE

During the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which will consider as its priority theme *The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS*, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (UNDAW) are organising a parliamentary event entitled "The Role of Parliaments in promoting equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men".

The meeting will take place on Wednesday **4 March 2009**, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in **Room 4** at UN Headquarters in New York.

### Objectives

In keeping with its policy of contributing to major international forums by seeking to introduce a parliamentary dimension into the proceedings of intergovernmental organisations, the IPU is organising this one-day event with UNDAW in order to provide a forum for debate between parliamentarians from all over the world, and to contribute to the deliberations of the 53<sup>rd</sup> CSW.

The meeting will place particular emphasis on the role of parliament and the contribution it can make in promoting a more balanced sharing of responsibilities between women and men, especially in the field of care giving. According to the Beijing Declaration, this balanced sharing is fundamental to the well-being of both men and women and of their families, and is central to the consolidation of democracy. The parliamentary event will therefore focus on what difference parliaments can make, in particular with regard to legislation, and how this can contribute to supporting a more balanced participation of women in politics.

### Expected outcome

At the close of the meeting, a brief message to the CSW will be issued, stressing areas for future priority action, with particular emphasis on how parliaments can and should contribute to financing gender equality and women's empowerment.

### Relevant documents

Background documents to be used throughout the meeting include:

- Written contributions of the panellists, when available;
- Documents of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the CSW;
- The IPU/ILO publication *Women and Work*

### Participants

The participants in the parliamentary event will include:

- Parliamentarians present in New York for the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the CSW as members of their respective ~~national~~ delegations. A letter of invitation will be sent by the IPU Secretary General to all Member and non-member parliaments of the IPU. Efforts will be made to encourage the participation of chairpersons and members of gender equality parliamentary committees.
- Representatives of governments, relevant organisations and funds of the UN system, and civil society will also be invited.

## Programme

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Registration of participants and distribution of documents
10:00 – 10.15 a.m.	Inaugural session
10.15 - 10.30 a.m.	Overview of the priority theme of the 53 <sup>rd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women: Equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS
10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Theme 1: The intersection of paid and unpaid work Theme 2: Building a protective and supportive framework for workers with family responsibilities
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Lunch break
3:00 - 5.45 p.m.	Theme 3: Changing mindsets and behaviours Theme 4: Men and Women in Politics: Balancing public and private life responsibilities
5.45 – 6:00 p.m.	Closing session

## Languages

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the four languages customarily used at IPU Assemblies, namely English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

## Access badges for United Nations Headquarters

As is customary during General Assembly sessions, security arrangements are very strict and no one may enter the United Nations premises without a special badge (for delegates and visitors). In keeping with normal practice, ~~national~~ delegations and diplomatic missions in New York will be invited to attend to all matters relating to visas, UN Badges, hotel reservations and transportation. Participants must therefore request their badge from their country's permanent mission to the United Nations.

## Registration

Persons wishing to participate in this meeting are urged to register as soon as possible using the attached form. Once this form has been filled out, it should be sent directly to IPU Headquarters (Fax: +41 22 919 41 60; e-mail: [postbox@mail.ipu.org](mailto:postbox@mail.ipu.org)).

## Special events

The IPU and other partners are organising two side events.

- ❖ iKNOW Politics Partners present *GETTING AHEAD: Testimonials from women political leaders* (4 March, 1:15-2:45 p.m., Room 4);
- ❖ *Gender Equality and Political Accountability: Recent Findings from IPU and UNIFEM Publications* (6 March, 1:14-2:45 p.m., Room 7).