



CHEMIN DU POMMIER 5
CASE POSTALE 330
1218 LE GRAND-SACONNEX / GENEVE (SUISSE)

TELEPHONE (41.22) 919 41 50
FAX (41.22) 919 41 60
E-MAIL postbox@mail.ipu.org
ADR. TELEGR. INTERPARLEMENT GENEVE

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The Role of Parliaments in Enforcing Women's Rights, 15 Years after Beijing

New York, 2 March 2010

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

We are pleased to announce that the annual parliamentary event on the occasion of the 54th session of Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will be held in New York on 2 March 2010. The event, hosted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, will focus on *The Role of Parliaments in Enforcing Women's Rights, 15 Years after Beijing*.

The meeting will discuss achievements made at the national level in terms of women's rights, fifteen years after the Fourth World Conference in Beijing. It will focus in particular on how parliaments have supported change at the national level and what parliamentary mechanisms have been used and can be used to pursue enforcement of commitments made at Beijing. In so doing, the meeting will provide an opportunity to contribute to the debates at the CSW whose priority theme this year is the *15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000) and the links with achieving the Millennium Development Goals*.

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 which will take place from 1 to 12 March 2010. A copy of the agenda of the 54th session of the CSW is available at www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/54sess.htm.

We will be sending the agenda of the event and other pertinent documents as soon as they are finalized. These documents will also soon be available at www.ipu.org/strct-e/futrmets.htm. Meanwhile, we are pleased to attach the registration form.

Yours sincerely,

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General