Despite the fact that most parliaments have adopted laws addressing all forms of violence against women, there are often gaps between de jure and de facto equality and between legislation and effective implementation. Responsibility for bridging these gaps also lies with parliaments, as they can use their oversight power to monitor and facilitate the implementation of laws, governmental policies and programmes to ensure that they meet the standards and goals that have been set.

Drawing on examples of parliamentary mechanisms and other initiatives, this event will discuss parliamentarians’ role and the tools at their disposal, including their budgetary powers and parliamentary committees, to ensure better application of laws on violence against women.

**PANEL DISCUSSION**

Format: Panellists will make a presentation focusing on parliamentary examples. Presentations will be followed by a discussion.

**Mr. José Mendes Bota**
Chairperson of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE)

**Ms. Mercé Pigem Palmés**
Member of the Spanish Chamber of Deputies Member of the Sub-Committee to Follow up the Gender Violence Act

**Ms. Ludivina Menchaca**
Senator, Mexico