



The Role of Parliaments in promoting access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology

A parliamentary event organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and UN Women on the occasion of the 55th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women
23 February 2011, UN Headquarters, New York



INFORMATION NOTE

During the 55th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) - whose priority theme is the *Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work* the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the UN Women are organising a parliamentary event entitled *The Role of Parliaments in promoting access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology*.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday **23 February 2011**, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
in the **Room 6** 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 55th CSW.

The meeting will take stock of the situation, identify challenges faced by women and girls in accessing education and training, science and technology and highlight parliamentary mechanisms and actions parliaments can take to overcome these barriers. In so doing, the meeting will provide an opportunity to contribute to the debates at the CSW.

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 do to facilitate girls' and women's access to education, science and technology.

Relevant documents

Background documents to be used throughout the meeting include:

- Written contributions of the panellists, when available;
- Documents of the 55th Session of the CSW;

Participants

The participants in the parliamentary event will include:

- Parliamentarians present in New York for the 55th Session of the CSW as members of their respective delegations. A letter of invitation will be sent by the IPU Secretary General to all Member and non-member parliaments of the IPU.
- Representatives of governments, relevant organisations and funds of the UN system, and civil society will also be invited.

Programme

9:30 – 10 a.m.	Registration of participants and distribution of documents
10 – 10.15 a.m.	Welcome remarks
10.15 - 10.45 a.m.	Keynote address
10:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Theme 1: Girls' education- a prerequisite to access to science and technology
1 - 3 p.m.	Lunch break
3 - 4 p.m.	Theme 2: Women's employment in science and technology Session 4: Building partnerships to achieve gender equality
4 - 5:30 p.m.	Theme 3: How can ICT support women in politics? Presentation of the International Knowledge Network on Women in Politics Website (iKNOW Politics)
5.30 – 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, 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).

Informal side-events

- ❖ *Parliaments and MDGs 4 and 5* (25 February, Conference Room A, 10:00-11:15 a.m.), organized by the IPU.
- ❖ *Political Violence against Women* 25 February, (Conference Room A, 3 to 4.15 p.m.), organized by the IPU.

N.B. Due to ongoing renovations, Conference Room A does not have interpretation facilities and the meetings will be held in English only.