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### **The Role of Parliaments in Promoting Access and Participation of Women and Girls to Education, Training, Science and Technology**

New York, 23 February 2011

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

We are pleased to announce that the annual parliamentary event on the occasion of the 55<sup>th</sup> session of Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will be held in New York on 23 February 2011. The event, hosted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), will focus on *The Role of Parliaments in promoting access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology*. The meeting will be held for half a day, though we hope to receive in January confirmation from the United Nations that rooms will be available for a full day meeting.

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 whose priority theme this year 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 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, education or science 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 22 February to 4 March 2011. A copy of the agenda of the 55<sup>th</sup> session of the CSW is available at [www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/55sess.htm](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/55sess.htm). Please also note that the IPU will be organizing two informal one hour side-events on women in politics and on maternal and child health on 25 February 2010.

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](http://www.ipu.org/strct-e/futrmets.htm). Meanwhile, we are pleased to attach the registration form.

Yours sincerely,

Anders B. Johnsson  
Secretary General