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Parliamentary Strategies for Tackling Violence against Women and Girls

New York, 5 March 2013

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

We are pleased to announce that the annual parliamentary event on the occasion of the 57th session of Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will be held in New York on 5 March 2013. 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 *Parliamentary Strategies for Tackling Violence against Women and Girls*.

The meeting will focus on strategies to prevent, protect against and prosecute all forms of violence against women and girls. It will provide an opportunity to contribute to the debates at the CSW whose priority theme this year is *Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls*.

The morning session will discuss how parliamentarians' motivation and responsibilities create and sustain the political will necessary to address the issue. The afternoon session will be dedicated to discussing violence against women in politics. It will focus on measures that can be put forward to eliminate such acts of violence against women for political reasons, for their link to political activities or for their involvement in politics.

The IPU strongly encourages your parliament to request the inclusion of both male and female members of parliament in your country's delegation to the CSW session, including chairpersons or members of gender equality, legal affairs or human rights 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 that will take place from 4 to 15 March 2013. A copy of the agenda of the 57th session of the CSW is available at www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/57sess.htm. Please also note that the IPU will be organizing two informal one hour side-events on 6 and 7 March 2013. Since the United Nations does not have interpretation facilities in the informal meeting rooms, the debates for these side events will be held in English only.

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