

AGENDA

11 March 2014

10:00 - 10:30am

Welcome remarks

- IPU
- UN Women

10:30am – 1pm

Session 1: Women in decision-making: Tracking progress over 10 years of MDGs

Today, there are more women in political decision-making positions than ever before. International and national commitments have helped advance women's participation over the past decades and MDG Goal 3 includes an indicator on women's representation in national parliaments. Women are less present in decision-making positions across the corporate, judicial and civil society sectors, however, and progress at this level is not as easily tracked. While the adoption of temporary special measures such as quotas is increasingly used in the political sphere, some countries are taking steps to apply these to the corporate and other sectors. Increasing the number of women in decision-making positions whether in public or private sectors requires change in law and in practice, and in the work environment of those institutions.

- What is the status of women in parliament and the executive? And at the local level?
- What is the current status of women in corporate, judicial and other sectors?
- What are the most recent international and national trends, and are there any lessons learned?
- What measures have been taken to address gender inequality in these areas?
- How can the work environment of these institutions be reformed to encourage more women into decision-making positions?
- What should future strategies focus on?

1 - 2:45 pm

Lunch break

2:45 - 4:30pm

Session 2: The role of parliaments in implementation and accountability of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

MDGs have framed national policy-making for the past ten years. In preparation of the next generation of development goals, it is important to assess the role played by parliaments in overseeing the implementation of MDGs from a gender perspective, identify challenges faced and canvass good practices.

- What lessons have been learned from the implementation of the MDGs from a parliamentary perspective?
- How have parliaments ensured women's contribution to the debate on implementation and accountability?
- What parliamentary mechanisms and tools were used?
- What national capacities and financial resources were required?
- What are some lessons learned to ensure an effective participation of parliaments in the implementation of the next set of development goals?

Presentations will be followed by an open debate.

4:30 - 5:45pm

Session 3: The place of gender equality in the next set of development goals

The transformation of the MDGs into a new global development agenda beyond 2015 offers a significant opportunity to ensure that gender equality is central to the new framework. Discussions have been underway about priorities in the new development framework, particularly as women still do not enjoy basic rights and freedoms and are deprived of economic opportunities across the globe. Parliaments are now widely recognized as a key stakeholder in these discussions, not only in terms of framing the new set of development goals, but in ensuring governments are held accountable on their implementation.

- As gender equality is central to sustainable development, how should it be framed within the sustainable development goals (SDGs)?
- What would a stand-alone goal on gender equality include?
- Is a stand-alone goal sufficient? What strategies and requirements are needed to mainstream gender equality into all SDGs?
- What discussions are taking place in parliaments on the SDG framework, particularly on the inclusion of gender equality?

Presentations will be followed by an open debate.

5:45 – 6:00pm

Concluding remarks