



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

Empowering parliaments to empower women Making the economy work for women

A parliamentary event organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and UN Women
at the 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

17 March 2017, ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York

INFORMATION NOTE

During the 61st Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) - whose priority theme is "[Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work](#)"-, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women are organising a parliamentary meeting entitled *Empowering parliaments to empower women; Making the economy work for women*.

The meeting will take place on **17 March 2017**, from 10 a.m. to 5.40 p.m.
in the ECOSOC Chamber 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 organizing this one-day meeting with UN Women in order to provide a forum for debate between parliamentarians from all over the world, and to contribute to the deliberations of the 61st CSW.

The event will focus on the paramount role parliaments can play in identifying and addressing obstacles to women's economic empowerment, in ensuring that social and economic policies answer men and women's needs, and in monitoring their implementation and actual impact. The financial inclusion of women and gender equality at work will be the main focuses of the meeting.

Expected outcome

A brief message to the CSW will be issued, stressing areas for future priority action, with particular emphasis on the role of parliaments.

Relevant documents

Background documents to be used throughout the meeting include:

- Written contributions of the panellists, when available;
- Documents of the 61st Session of the CSW, when available.

Participants

The participants in the parliamentary event will include:

- Parliamentarians present in New York for the 61st 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.	Arrival of delegates
10 - 10.30 a.m.	Welcome remarks
10.30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Session 1: Lifting the barriers to women's economic empowerment
1 - 2:30 p.m.	Lunch break

2:30 – 4 p.m.	Session 2: Empowering working women
4 - 5:30 p.m.	Session 3: Promoting the financial inclusion of women
5:30 – 5:40 p.m.	Concluding remarks

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 for the meeting

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@ipu.org and vs@ipu.org).

Informal side-events

In addition to the annual parliamentary meeting, the IPU is inviting you to participate in the following **side events**:

- *Sexism, harassment and violence against women MPs* on 14 March 2017, 3-5 p.m., at Uganda House, 336 E 45th St, New York, organized by IPU and the Permanent Mission of Canada
- *Rising Extremism, Macro-Economic Policies, and the Relevance of Gendered Analysis* on 16 March 2017, 9 to 10:45 a.m., at Uganda House, 336 E 45th St, New York, organized by UNDP, IPU, the Permanent Mission of Denmark and ICAN
- *Equality in politics: another 50 years to reach 50-50?* on 16 March 1:15 to 2:30 p.m., in Conference Room A - Conference Building, United Nations Headquarters, New York, organized by the IPU and Un Women
- *Gender Equality in Nationality Laws* on 16 March 2017, 2:45-4:15 p.m., at Uganda House, 336 E 45th St, New York, NY 10017, organized by IPU and UNHCR
- *Violence against women in politics and in parliament* on 16 March, 4:45 to 6 p.m., Conference Room A - Conference Building, United Nations Headquarters, organized by the IPU

N.B. The conference rooms do not have interpretation facilities and these meetings will be held in English only.

Registration for side events held at UN Headquarters

Persons wishing to attend the side events held at UN Headquarters and who do not have a **valid UN ground pass** will receive, upon request, a side event ticket (SET). These tickets can be obtained through IPU's Office in New York:

Office of the Permanent Observer of the IPU to the United Nations
 336 East 45th Street, Tenth Floor
 New York
 NY, 10017
 Phone: +1 212 557 58 80
 Fax: +1 212 557 39 54
 Email: ny-office@ipu.org

Please note that all SET requests must be submitted to the IPU Office no later than 72 hours before the event in order for the UN Pass and ID Unit to issue the tickets. SETs will be available for pick-up at

the IPU premises **one** day ahead of the event. Entry to UN by SET holders is advised 30 minutes before start of event.