BEYOND BEIJING:
TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITY IN POLITICS

New York, 3 March 2005

A parliamentary event organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union
and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women
on the occasion of the 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

INVITATION

Geneva, 21 December 2004

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

The forthcoming 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will be an
opportunity to review progress made towards gender equality since the Fourth World Conference on
Women, held ten years ago in Beijing. The meeting's primary objective is to bring a strong message of
renewed and enhanced commitment to the Beijing process.

On this occasion, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Division for the
Advancement of Women are holding a one-day parliamentary event entitled Beyond Beijing: Towards
gender equality in politics. Its purpose is to provide a forum for debate by parliamentarians from all over
the world, and to contribute to the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing
Declaration and the Platform for Action. This meeting will take place on 3 March 2005,
from 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., in the Trusteeship Council Room at UN Headquarters in
New York.

We write to invite your parliament to send women and men representatives to this
parliamentary event. The IPU encourages your parliament to request that both men and women
members of parliament be included in your country's delegation to the CSW Session. Not only would
this ensure their attendance and contribution to the parliamentary event, but it would also facilitate
parliamentary involvement in the continuing follow-up to the Beijing process.

Please find attached an explanatory note concerning the meeting and other relevant
documents. We look forward to hearing from you, at your earliest convenience and preferably before 31
January 2005.

Yours sincerely,

Carolyn Hannan
Director
UN Division for the
Advancement of Women

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General
Inter-Parliamentary Union