



**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 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

**INVITATION**

Geneva, 21 December 2004

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

The forthcoming 49<sup>th</sup> 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