



Seventh Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament Gender-sensitive Parliaments

Parliament House Complex, New Delhi, 3-4 October 2012

Organized by the Parliament of India and the Inter-Parliamentary Union



NEW DELHI INITIATIVE FOR GENDER-SENSITIVE PARLIAMENTS

We, women Speakers of parliament, *recognizing* the vital role of women Speakers in spearheading the movement for establishing gender-sensitive parliaments and societies, gathered at the 7th Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliaments in New Delhi on 3 and 4 October 2012,

Commit to:

1. Promoting women's representation in parliament and other elected bodies -

By supportive electoral laws and temporary special measures, mentoring other women in parliament, sensitizing men and women, advocating with our political parties and other stakeholders, and promoting women's political participation in international, regional and national forums.

2. Bringing women's participation to its utmost potential -

By enabling women's participation in all parliamentary committees, forums and groups and in other elected that women are nominated and/or elected to effective leadership positions in all parliamentary structures.

3. Placing gender equality higher on the parliamentary agenda -

By ensuring that debates on gender equality issues take place in parliament, by mainstreaming gender through the establishment of specialized committees on gender, and through empowered gender or women's caucuses and gender units in parliament.

4. Sharing the responsibility for gender equality with men -

By raising their awareness and knowledge and associating them in legislative initiatives, debates and events on women's rights and gender equality and by raising gender capacities in parliament and other elected bodies through training, gender analysis tools and checklists that are systematically used throughout the work of the institution.

5. Enhancing gender sensitivity in the working environment in parliament -

By focusing on ensuring that the internal policies of parliament respond to the needs of women and men by reviewing from a gender perspective the internal rules, codes of conduct and communication strategies of parliament and by adopting and enforcing anti-harassment and anti-discrimination policies.

6. Assessing, monitoring and planning for gender-sensitive parliaments and other elected bodies –

By carrying out gender assessments of parliament and by strengthening or formulating initiatives/action plans for gender sensitive parliaments, with regular monitoring.

7. Supporting IPU initiatives to make parliaments more gender sensitive –

By contributing expertise to the assistance IPU provides to parliaments to become gender-sensitive and recommending that IPU develops options for gender-sensitive communication strategies for parliaments.

8. Ensuring follow-up

Taking stock of achievements, challenge and lessons learned in making gender-sensitive parliaments for gender-sensitive societies at future meetings of women Speakers of parliament.

Participating in the formulation of a strong Action Plan for Gender-sensitive Parliaments taking into consideration the draft Plan of Action prepared by IPU.

9. Future agenda item

Take stock of the achievements of women Speakers of parliament and Presidents of Senate, the challenges they face and share lessons learned from their individual experiences.