



# Eighth Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament

## **GENDER EQUALITY: A SINE QUA NON FOR SDGS**

Venue: Ballroom, ONE UN New York Hotel  
New York City  
12-13 November 2013

### **DRAFT PROPOSED AGENDA**

<b>Tuesday, 12 November - ONE UN New York Hotel, Landmark Room</b>	
6:30 p.m.	Arrival of delegates
7 p.m.	<b>Dinner in honour of Women Speakers of Parliament</b>
<b>Wednesday, 13 November – ONE UN New York Hotel, Ballroom</b>	
8.45 a.m.	<b>Opening - Welcome remarks and key note address</b>  <b>Sustainable Development Goals and gender equality - Lessons learned from the MDGs and new opportunities for progress</b>
9.00 – 11.00 a.m.	<b>Theme I: Gender equality: A stand-alone goal?</b>  <i>Women, more than half of the world's population, remain by far the most disadvantaged group in all spheres of life. They also constitute the largest untapped potential for progress.</i>  <i>In many countries, women still do not enjoy basic rights and freedoms. Discriminatory laws and cultural norms deprive women of economic opportunities, with lower access to credit and lower wages. In most countries, barriers still exist, preventing women from entering politics or corporate boardrooms. Violence against women remains pervasive and further underscores women's vulnerability in most of our societies.</i>  <i>If indeed gender equality is central to sustainable development, how should it be framed within the SDGs? What would a stand alone goal for gender equality include? What lessons can be learned from the MDGs and which best practices should be included in the next generation of Sustainable Development Goals? What are priorities and new challenges for women and the achievement of gender equality?</i>  <i>Furthermore, is a stand-alone goal sufficient? What strategies and requirements are needed to mainstream gender equality into all SDGs?</i>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>The introductory statement by an external panelist and formal presentations by Women Speakers will be followed by an open debate.</i></li></ul>
11.00 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<b>Theme 2: Economic growth and human well-being: The perspective of women</b>  <i>As the 128<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Quito helped highlight, sustainable development should more explicitly focus on human well-being.</i>  <i>While the debate is on-going regarding the links between economic growth and the well-being of populations, several questions arise: What is the role of women in economic growth? What would women's economic empowerment bring to economic growth and sustainable development? What are the main challenges faced today by women? What type of economic growth would women's empowerment help advance?</i>  <i>Economic growth may not be sufficient for human well-being. In fact, under current</i>

	<p><i>conditions, it may even be detrimental. Should women contribute a specific perspective to this debate, and if so, what? Should women’s demands for equal rights and opportunities as economic and social actors go beyond the prevailing growth model? How can women contribute to a new paradigm of sustainable development that has human well-being at its centre?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The introductory statement by an external panelist and formal presentations by Women Speakers will be followed by an open debate.</i></li> </ul>
<p>1 - 2.30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Hosted lunch</b></p>
<p>2.30 - 4.30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Theme 3: How can democratic governance deliver for gender equality?</b></p> <p><i>There is little question about the direct link between democratic governance and gender equality.</i></p> <p><i>The importance of ensuring greater participation of women in decision-making and leadership positions is indispensable for achieving more representative, transparent and effective democratic governance, i.e., a political, legal and administrative system that will be responsive to the specific needs of women in society. What are the challenges still faced by women today in decision-making? What priorities and strategies?</i></p> <p><i>Less obvious is the opposite question: How can democratic governance be held accountable for gender equality? How do governance deficits in both developed and developing countries affect women? What governance reforms are needed at all levels, including in the corporate world, to ensure that women’s concerns are heard and addressed? Can democratic governance be measured by its degree of delivery for gender equality?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The introductory statement by an external panelist and formal presentations by Women Speakers will be followed by an open debate.</i></li> </ul>
<p>4.30 – 5.30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Theme 4: Looking ahead and taking the lead: engendering implementation of the SDGs</b></p> <p><i>What is needed to ensure that the SDGs will be implemented in a gender-sensitive way? What are the lessons learned from the implementation of the MDGs? What national capacities are required? What financial requirements? What national structures?</i></p> <p><i>What is the role of women Speakers? What is the role of the IPU?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Formal presentations by Women Speakers will be followed by an open debate.</i></li> </ul>
<p>5.30 -6.30 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Conclusions and input to the Parliamentary Hearing</i></p>