



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

+41 22 919 41 50
+41 22 919 41 60
postbox@ipu.org

Chemin du Pommier 5
Case postale 330
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex
Geneva – Switzerland
www.ipu.org

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Dear Madam Speaker,
Dear Madam President,

It is our great pleasure to invite you to the Tenth Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament, which will be held in New York on 29 and 30 August 2015. This Meeting, organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, will precede the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, due to take place from 31 August to 2 September.

At their Ninth Meeting held last year in Geneva, the Women Speakers expressed their wish to focus on the Beijing +20 review and the next steps for the years to come. They also expressed the wish to ensure that the meeting in New York provides substantive input to the Conference of Speakers of Parliament.

With this in mind, it is proposed that this year's Meeting focus on "Innovating for gender equality: Making development, peace and democracy a reality for women and men". The meeting will identify new and concrete strategies to speed up the process of achieving gender equality and thus contribute to progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to making societies more democratic and peaceful.

We propose an action-oriented and forward-looking meeting. Women Speakers of Parliament have a paramount role to play not only in ensuring the achievement of equality and empowerment of women and girls as promoters of change and leaders in settings where they are usually a minority. Women Speakers are resourceful innovators and have a lot to contribute to the transformative change required in the field of gender equality.

We attach the draft agenda of the Meeting, a registration form and an information note.

Discussions will centre on three main themes. We would be honoured to have you make a three to four-minute presentation on any of them. In your presentation, you may wish to set the tone for the subsequent interactive debate and pave the way for the input of other women Speakers. In this way, we hope to have constructive interactive discussions. We would be grateful if you could let us know on which theme you intend to make your presentation. You may indicate your preference in the relevant section of the attached registration form.

We sincerely hope you will be able to participate in this important event.

Yours sincerely,

Saber Chowdhury
President

Martin Chungong
Secretary General