



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
112th Assembly and related meetings
Manila, 31 March to 8 April 2005



FEM/10/C.1
21 February 2005

**CONVOCAATION OF THE
TENTH MEETING OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS**

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

I am pleased to inform you that the Tenth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will be held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) on Sunday, 3 April 2005 from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2.30 to 6.30 p.m. The provisional agenda, drawn up by the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, is appended hereto.

As you know, Article 10.1 of the Statutes provides that Members shall include male and female parliamentarians in their delegation and shall strive to ensure equal representation of men and women at the Assemblies of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. May I therefore urge you to ensure that one or more women parliamentarians are included in your parliament's delegation to the 112th Assembly and can thus participate in the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians. Needless to say, male parliamentarians wishing to follow or contribute to the discussions are cordially invited to do so.

As can be seen from the provisional agenda, the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will celebrate its twentieth anniversary in Manila. A special item on the agenda has been dedicated to commemorating this anniversary.

Yours sincerely,

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General

Encl: Annotated provisional agenda



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Meeting of Women Parliamentarians
Agenda

FEM/10/A.1
21 February 2005

Tenth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

Philippine International Convention Center (PICC)
3 April 2005

I. PRACTICAL AND PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS

Schedule and Rules

The Tenth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will take place on the premises of the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) and will comprise two sittings, on Sunday, 3 April, from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 2.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. at the latest, to consider all the agenda items

The proceedings will be governed by the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.

President of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

In accordance with Rule 8, the Meeting will be opened by the President of the Coordinating Committee who shall conduct the election of the President of the Meeting. As per Rule 7, the Meeting will be chaired by a woman member of the host Parliament of the 112th Assembly.

Participation and speaking rights

Women members of parliament who are part of their delegation as delegates to the 112th Assembly Meetings can take the floor. Those who accompany the delegation in a capacity other than that of delegate can observe the proceedings of the Meeting but cannot take part in them (Rule 3 of the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians).

The debates are also open to men parliamentarians. Only those who form part of their delegation as delegates can take the floor (Rule 4.2 of the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians).

Representatives of international parliamentary assemblies that are Associate Members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and representatives of international organizations that enjoy observer status may also ask to take the floor.

Debating arrangements

The work of the Meeting will be carried out partly in plenary and partly in working groups.

The debates in plenary and working groups will be conducted in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. The debates in the working groups will be held from 11 am to 1 p.m.

The President will seek to promote an active and spontaneous dialogue. Interventions should therefore be brief and not exceed three minutes. Participants are urged to refrain from reading out prepared statements and are encouraged to debate ideas, illustrating their comments, where appropriate, with examples from their country.

No list of speakers will be drawn up in advance. In plenary, participants will be able to indicate their wish to take the floor by completing the registration forms they will find on their desks and handing it to the ushers who will pass them on to the President. This procedure will be optional in the discussion groups.

Documents

The Secretariat will make available in the meeting room a set of official documents, in English and French only, prepared for the session and various IPU publications.

Participants wishing to present developments in their country with regard to issues on the agenda or general gender issues can display documents on tables outside the meeting room. Prior to that, two copies of the documents should be given to the Secretariat. It must also be noted that these documents cannot be translated and reproduced by the Secretariat.

II. ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

The following provisional agenda was prepared by the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians at its last session held on the occasion of the 111th Assembly of the IPU (October 2004).

1. Election of the President of the Meeting

2. Adoption of the agenda

The Meeting will be required to adopt its agenda at the beginning of its proceedings.

3. Report on gender activities at the Inter-Parliamentary Union

(a). Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians

i. Report on activities in Mexico and Geneva, and recommendations

Participants will be informed of the Coordinating Committee's deliberations during its sittings on 18, 22 and 23 April 2004, in Mexico City, and of 27 September 2004, in Geneva.

ii. By-elections to the Coordinating Committee

Several titular and substitute regional representatives of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians having lost their parliamentary mandate, the Meeting will be called to elect new members to complete the terms ending in April 2006. Elections will take place according to Rule 31.1(c) of the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians. Candidatures from geopolitical groups must be received by Saturday, 2 April 2005 at the latest, accompanied by a short curriculum vitae (200 words) in English and/or French. The current composition of the Coordinating Committee of Women MPs is annexed.

(b) Work and recommendations of the Gender Partnership Group

Participants will be informed of the work of the Gender Partnership Group.

(c) Questions relating to the panel discussion on "Violence against Women and Children in situation of conflict" organised on the occasion of the 112th IPU Assembly

Participants will be informed of the arrangements made for the panel discussion on "Violence against Women and Children in situation of conflict" scheduled for Wednesday, 6 April, (9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.). An information note on this event will be made available.

(d) Briefing on Specialised meetings and other initiatives

Participants will be informed of the results of activities and meetings carried out by the IPU concerning gender issues.

(e) Any other business

The discussion of the work of the IPU will conclude by 11 a.m.

4. Contribution of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians to the work of the 112th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The Coordinating Committee decided to invite women parliamentarians to discuss Item 6 of the agenda of the 112th Assembly on "The role of parliaments in advocating and enforcing observance of human rights in the strategies for the prevention, management and treatment of the HIV/AIDS pandemic", according to the following procedure:

Participants will split into two groups to discuss the following sub-themes:

Theme 1: The role of parliaments in ensuring that the human rights of women and the girl-child are observed in strategies for the prevention, management and treatment of the HIV/AIDS pandemic

Theme 2: The role of the international community in ensuring that the human rights of women and the girl-child are recognized in bilateral and multilateral aid efforts to combat HIV/AIDS

Beforehand, the participants will elect, on the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee, a General Rapporteur as well as a moderator and a rapporteur for each of the working groups formed. At the end of the discussion, each group will agree on the key ideas to be presented by the moderator or the rapporteur to the afternoon plenary Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.

The General Rapporteur and the moderator and/or the rapporteur of each discussion group will be in charge of drafting amendments to the draft resolution submitted to the Third Standing Committee for discussion. These amendments will be drafted in consultation with the President of the Coordinating Committee and the President of the Meeting and submitted on behalf of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians. The amendments will aim at introducing a gender perspective to the resolution.

Each discussion group will debate from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Meeting will adjourn for lunch until 2.30 p.m.

5. Celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

In Manila, the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will celebrate its 20th anniversary. Indeed, the very first Meeting of Women Parliamentarians to be officially organised within the IPU took place in April 1985, in Lomé, Togo, on the occasion of the 73rd Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The Meeting will pay tribute to the women who fought for the creation of this space of dialogue within the IPU and will take stock of achievements and challenges ahead.

6. Special segment of dialogue between men and women on "Domestic Violence"

This year, the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians invites men and women to discuss the challenging and difficult issue of domestic violence. This debate will serve as a complement to the panel on "Violence against Women and Children in situation of conflict" (scheduled for Wednesday 6 April 2005). The debate will be introduced by two keynote speakers and will take place from 3.30 to 5 p.m.

7. Report of the rapporteurs of the discussion groups

Each of the two rapporteurs of the discussion groups will present their reports. The Meeting will then ask its General Rapporteur to prepare, in consultation with the President of the Coordinating Committee and the President of the Meeting, the amendments to the resolution discussed by the Third Standing Committee. Submission of amendments is authorised till the end of the first sitting of the Standing Committee (i.e. Tuesday, 4 April at 6.30 p.m.).

8. Progress and Setbacks of Women in National Parliaments

The Meeting will be briefed on the status of women in national parliaments worldwide.

9. Action by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen the parliamentary dimension of United Nations efforts to promote partnership between men and women

The Meeting will be briefed on activities carried out by the IPU to provide a parliamentary contribution to the work of the United Nations in the field of gender equality. In particular, work carried out for the implementation of the CEDAW will be discussed. Contribution to the review and appraisal of the progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, ten years after its adoption will also be addressed.

10. Place, date and agenda of the 11th Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

The Eleventh Meeting will take place in May 2006, during the 114th IPU Assembly (Nairobi, Kenya).

In accordance with the provisions of Rule 11 of the Rules of the Meeting, the Coordinating Committee will draw up the provisional agenda at its next session on the occasion of the 113th IPU Assembly in October 2005.

Composition of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians
(at 21 February 2005)

		Expiry of term
President	Ms. J. Fraser (Canada)	April 2006
First Vice-President	Mrs. S. Damen-Masri (Jordan)	April 2006
Second Vice-President	Ms. L. Madero (Mexico)	April 2006

Elected Members

Regional representatives (elected for two years)

Group of African countries

Titular:	Substitute:	
Mrs. B. Henrique da Silva (Angola)	Mrs. O.T. Ascofaré (Mali)	April 2006
Mrs. E. Beyene (Ethiopia)	Mrs. S. Moulengui-Mouele (Gabon)	April 2006

Group of Arab countries

Titular:	Substitute:	
Mrs. S. Damen-Masri (Jordan)	Mrs. K. Al-Nattah (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)	April 2006
Vacancy	Ms. M. Osman Gaknoun (Sudan)	April 2006

Group of Asia and Pacific countries

Titular:	Substitute:	
Mrs. M. Singh (India)	Vacancy	April 2006
Vacancy	Mrs. J. Ferris (Australia)	April 2006

Eurasia Group

Titular:	Substitute:	
Mrs. H. Hakobian (Armenia)	Vacancy	April 2006
Vacancy	Mrs. N. Narotchnitskaia (Russian Federation)	April 2006

Group of Latin American countries

Titular:	Substitute:	
Ms. L. Madero (Mexico)	Mrs. V. Mata (Venezuela)	April 2006
Mrs. I. Allende (Chile)	Mrs. M. Müller (Argentina)	April 2006

Twelve Plus Group

Titular:	Substitute:	
Mrs. P. Ernstberger (Germany)	Mrs. G. Gautier (France)	April 2006
Mrs. J. Fraser (Canada)	Mrs. D. Stump (Switzerland)	April 2006

Ex-officio Members

Members of the Executive Committee (ex officio, for the duration of their term on the Executive Committee)

Mrs. M. Mensah (Namibia)	September 2007
Mrs. K. Komi (Finland)	April 2006
Mrs. K. Serrano Puig (Cuba)	September 2008
Mrs. A. Vadai (Hungary)	September 2008

Chairperson of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians (ex officio for two years)

Mrs. D.M. Sauri Riancho (Mexico)	April 2006
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