



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
107th Conference and related meetings
Marrakech, 17 - 23 March 2002



FEM/7/C.1
31 January 2002

**CONVOCAATION OF THE
SEVENTH MEETING OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS**

Palais des Congrès, Marrakech (Morocco), Sunday, 17 and Friday, 22 March 2002

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

I am pleased to inform you that the seventh¹ Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will be held at the Palais des Congrès in Marrakech, on Sunday, 17 March, and Friday, 22 March 2002.

The provisional agenda, drawn up by the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians at its session in Ouagadougou, in September 2001, is appended hereto. The annotations to the items have the dual purpose of facilitating the work of the Meeting and helping delegations to prepare for it.

As can be seen from the provisional annotated agenda, the Marrakech session will be of particular importance since the Meeting will be requested to renew part of the membership of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians in order (i) to replace the regional representatives whose two-year term has expired, (ii) to elect the President of the Coordinating Committee who in that capacity will also have an *ex-officio* seat on the Executive Committee (see Article 24 of the Statutes), and (iii) to elect the two Vice-Presidents of the Committee.

On 22 March, the Meeting will hold, in two stages, a special sitting to conduct elections. During the first segment (9.30 to 10.30 a.m.), the Meeting will elect the titular and substitute regional representatives to the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, on the basis of candidatures submitted by the corresponding groups; it will then briefly reconvene at 11.30 a.m. to elect the President and Vice-Presidents of the Coordinating Committee, on the basis of nominations submitted by the latter. The elections will be governed by Rules 31 and 32 of the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians and an explanatory note on the subject is included in the annotated agenda.

../..

¹ The number of the session is calculated with effect from the date on which the Meeting was officially recognised in the Statutes of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, i.e. in September 1998. In reality, the first Meeting of Women Parliamentarians was held in Bonn in 1978.

I hope that your Parliament can be represented at the Meeting by one or more women parliamentarians. As you know, Article 11.1 of the Statutes provides that each national delegation to the meetings organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union should if possible include at least one woman MP, and the Gender Partnership Group has submitted to the IPU Council various options designed to ensure a better gender balance in the composition of national delegations. Accordingly, I wish to urge you to make a special effort to ensure that your parliament's delegation to the Marrakech Meetings includes one or more women MPs.

The discussions at the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians are public and men MPs wishing to follow or even contribute to them are cordially invited to do so.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anders B. Johnsson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General

Annex: Provisional annotated agenda



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
107th Conference and related meetings
Marrakech, 17 - 23 March 2002



Meeting of Women Parliamentarians
Agenda

FEM/7/A.1
January 2002

Seventh Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

Palais des Congrès, Marrakech (Morocco), 17 and 22 March 2002

A. *Practical and procedural arrangements*

➤ **Inaugural ceremony of the 107th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**

The Inaugural Ceremony of the 107th Conference and related meetings, including the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, will take place on the premises of the Palais des Congrès on Sunday, 17 March, at 7 p.m.

➤ **Schedule**

The Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will comprise four sittings:

- Two regular sittings on Sunday, 17 March, 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 except item 2(ii);
- One special sitting on Friday, 22 March, from 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., to elect new titular and substitute regional representatives to the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians: see below.
- Another special sitting on Friday, 22 March, will be held as of 11.30 a.m. to elect the President and two Vice-Presidents of the Coordinating Committee: see below.

➤ **Rules**

The proceedings will be governed by the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, as adopted by the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union at its 164th session (Brussels, April 1999). The text of the Rules, as well as those of the Coordinating Committee, will be made available to the participants.

➤ **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 the current President of the Committee, Mrs. Viola Furubjelke (Sweden), is no longer a parliamentarian, Mrs. Zury Ríos Montt, First Vice-President of the Coordinating Committee, will open the Meeting. As per Rule 7, the Meeting will be chaired by a woman Member of the host Parliament of the 107th Conference.

➤ **Participation and speaking rights**

Women members of parliament who are part of their delegation as delegates to the Marrakech Meetings can take the floor. Any woman Member of Parliament who accompanies 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, as per 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 organisations that enjoy observer status may also ask to take the floor.

➤ **Working languages**

The debates in plenary will be conducted in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. The debates in two of discussions groups will be held with the assistance of available interpreters, while in the other group, women MPs will have to make their own arrangements due to the shortage of interpreters.

Documents will be available only in English and French.

➤ **Debating arrangements**

The work of the Meeting will be carried out partly in plenary and partly in discussion groups. Notwithstanding time constraints and those imposed by the number of speakers, the President will seek to promote an active and spontaneous dialogue. Statements should therefore be brief (from one to three minutes).

Whether in plenary or in the discussion groups, participants are urged to refrain from reading out prepared statements and reporting on the situation in their own country. They 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 form they will find on their desks and handing it to the ushers who will pass it 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 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 such documents cannot be translated and reproduced by the Secretariat.

B. Annotated provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda

In accordance with Rule 11, the provisional agenda was drawn up by the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians during the Inter-Parliamentary Meetings held in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) in September 2001.

2. Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians

(i) Work at Ouagadougou and Marrakech, and recommendations

The participants will be informed of the Coordinating Committee's deliberations during its sittings on 9 September 2001 in Ouagadougou and on the morning of 17 March 2002, in Marrakech.

(ii) Elections to the Coordinating Committee

➤ *Schedule*

As the term of office of the Coordinating Committee's regional representatives and of its President and two Vice-Presidents expires on Friday, 22 March 2002, the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will be required to hold elections.

A special session of the Meeting will be held for that purpose on Friday, 22 March. In accordance with the provisions of the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, this session will consist of two sittings, as follows:

The first meeting will be held from 9.30 to 10.30 a.m. to elect the titular and substitute regional representatives. Immediately following the first election, the newly constituted Coordinating Committee will meet *in camera* to nominate candidates for the offices of President and First and Second Vice-Presidents of the Committee. These candidatures will be put to vote during the second sitting, to be held at 11.30 a.m. Immediately after the vote, the Coordinating Committee will meet once again to carry out its business.

➤ *Elections of the regional representatives and their substitutes: rules and procedure*

Rule 31.1(c) of the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians provides for the election of two titular and two substitute representatives from each of the geopolitical groups as established by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, which, to date, are as follows:

- African Group
- Arab Group
- Asia and Pacific Group
- Eurasian Group
- Latin American Group
- Twelve Plus Group

This rule also stipulates that the regional representatives shall be elected *ad personam* for a two-year term of office and shall be eligible for re-election for a further two-year period.

Candidatures should be submitted in writing by the geopolitical groups by Tuesday, 19 March, at 5 p.m. at the latest. Candidatures should be accompanied by a brief curriculum vitae of the candidates in English and/or French only, for distribution to participants.

To date, the composition of the Coordinating Committee is as follows:

		Expiry of term
President	Vacancy	March 2002
First Vice-President	Mrs. Z. Ríos-Montt (Guatemala)	"
Second Vice-President	Mrs. G. Mahlangu (South Africa)	"
Members		
Members of the Executive Committee (ex officio, for the duration of their term on the Executive Committee)		
	Mrs. Joan Fraser (Canada), substitute of Mrs. Finestone on the Executive Committee	Oct. 2003
	Mrs. Z. Ríos-Montt (Guatemala)	Oct. 2004
Chairpersons of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians (ex officio for two years)		
	Mrs. M.M. Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso)	Sept. 2003
	Mrs. V. Espin Guillois (Cuba)	April 2003
	Mrs I. Murti (Indonesia)	Oct. 2002
Regional representatives (elected for two years)		
Titular representatives		Substitute representatives
<i>Group of African countries</i>		
	Mrs. G. Mahlangu (South Africa)	Mrs. F.D.Aya (Nigeria) March 2002
	Mrs. M.M. Ouedraogo (Burkina Faso)	Mrs. J. Nsabimana (Burundi) March 2002
<i>Group of Arab countries</i>		
	Mrs. N. Djaafar (Algeria)	Mrs. F. Zaghrat (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) March 2002
	Mrs. B. Allaw (Iraq)	Mrs. W. Khaddam (Syrian Arab Republic) March 2002
<i>Group of Asia and Pacific countries</i>		
	Mrs. J. Crosio (Australia)	Mrs. Dr. Y. K. Tan (Malaysia) March 2002
	Mrs. M. Alva (India)	Mrs. K. Silpa-Archa (Thailand) March 2002
<i>Eurasia Group</i>		
	Mrs. H. Hakobyan (Armenia)	Mrs. N. Kayupova (Kazakhstan) March 2002
	Mrs. Y. Grigorovich (Belarus)	Mrs. F. Ziatdinova (Russian Federation) March 2002
<i>Group of Latin American countries</i>		
	Mrs. Z. Ríos-Montt (Guatemala)	Mrs. L. Pavón (Mexico) March 2002
	Mrs. M. Xavier (Uruguay)	Mrs E. Brockmann (Bolivia) March 2002
<i>Twelve Plus Group</i>		
	Vacancy	Mrs. O. Starrfelt (Norway) March 2002
	Vacancy	Mrs. Z. Busic (Croatia) March 2002

N.B. The first official elections to the Coordinating Committee, (according to the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians adopted in 1999), took place in April 2000, in Amman, on the occasion of the 103rd IPU Conference. All current regional representatives have therefore only served one mandate and are eligible for re-election.

➤ *Election of the President and the First and Second Vice-Presidents of the Coordinating Committee: Rules and procedure*

Rule 32 of the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians stipulates that *"after each renewal of the regional representatives, every two years, the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians shall, on the proposal of the Coordinating Committee, elect the President, First Vice-President and Second Vice-President of the Coordinating Committee from among parliamentarians of different regions"*.

Any titular member of the Coordinating Committee may be elected to one of these three posts. The President of the Coordinating Committee will become an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

(iii) Questions relating to panel discussions organised during IPU Conferences

(a) *Follow-up to the panel discussion on "Violence against women: Female Genital Mutilation" organised on the occasion of the 106th IPU Conference*

Participants will discuss measures taken to follow-up on the panel and will be informed by Mr. Ibrahima Fall, Secretary General of the Union of African Parliaments, of the initiatives taken by the African Group in Marrakech.

(b) *Questions relating to the panel discussion on the "Worst Forms of Child Labour" organised on the occasion of the 107th IPU Conference*

Participants will be informed of the arrangements made for the panel discussion on "The Worst Forms of Child Labour" which will take place on Wednesday 20 March, from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (informal meeting room). An information note on this event will be distributed during the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.

(iv) Any other business

4. Amendment to the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

At its last sitting in Ouagadougou, the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians initiated a debate on possible amendments to the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, taking into account the report submitted to the Council of the Gender Partnership Group regarding equal participation of men and women in the IPU. The outcome of this debate will be presented to participants.

5. Contribution of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians to the work of the 107th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The Coordinating Committee decided to invite women parliamentarians to discuss three different themes all linked to the Conference agenda and its work, according to the following procedure:

- Participants will split into three discussions group, in three different rooms which will be indicated on the spot.
- Beforehand, the participants will elect, on the recommendation of the Coordinating Committee, 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 moderator and/or the rapporteur of each discussion group will be in charge of drafting, if need be, in consultation with the President of the Coordinating Committee and the President of the Meeting, elements for a draft resolution to be submitted, on behalf of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, to the relevant Study Committees.
- Each discussion group can debate until 1 p.m. The interpreters' teams available for the plenary session can work with two groups only. Any other group will have to deliberate in English only, without the assistance of interpreters.

Theme 1: Promoting women's involvement and a gender perspective in multilateral negotiations

In discussing this item, participants will aim at contributing to the debates of the First Study Committee and to the resolution which will be adopted on Item 4 of the Conference Agenda by the 107th Conference at its closing sitting, on 22 March 2002. The deadline for submission of resolutions or contributions for this item is **Tuesday, 19 March, at 2.30 p.m.**

Theme 2: Impact of the environmental degradation on women and children

In discussing this item, participants will aim at contributing to the debates of the Fourth Study Committee and to the resolution which will be adopted on Item 5 of the Conference Agenda by the 107th Conference at its closing sitting, on 22 March 2002. The deadline for submission of resolutions or contributions for this item is **Wednesday, 20 March, at 2.30 p.m.**

Theme 3: Role of women parliamentarians in averting national and international terrorism and building peace

This topic is not formally on the Conference Agenda. However, in the light of the events which have occurred over the past few months, the Coordinating Committee felt that the subject was of great relevance and that it would be appropriate for the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians to speak out on this matter.

6. Action by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to promote partnership between men and women

(i) Work and recommendations of the Gender Partnership Group

Participants will be informed of the stage reached in the work of the Gender Partnership Group. The briefing on the proceedings of the Group will be followed by a debate.

(ii) Matters relating to the reform of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Participants will be informed of the stage reached in the work of the Executive Committee on this subject, based on the views expressed by the IPU members and on the recommendations of the Gender Partnership Group.

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

Participants will be briefed on the status of cooperation between the IPU and the United Nations in this field.

(i) CEDAW and its Optional Protocol: launching of a Handbook for parliamentarians

The Handbook for Parliamentarians on the CEDAW and its Optional Protocol, prepared in collaboration with the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, will be presented to participants.

Further to that, a debate on ways and means of ensuring universal ratification and efficient implementation of the CEDAW and its Optional Protocol will be discussed.

(ii) Other issues and initiatives

Debates could furthermore focus on (a) National, regional and international follow-up to the Beijing Platform for Action and the Final Document of the "Beijing+5" Special Session of the UN General Assembly, (b) Ratification and implementation of other treaties on the status of women.

8. Place, date and agenda of the Eighth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

The Eighth Meeting will take place during the 108th IPU Statutory Conference (Santiago, Chile, April 2003). The presidency of the Meeting will be subject to the provisions of Rule 7 of the Rules of the Meeting.

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 sitting on Friday, 22 March 2002 "in the light of the work and proposals of the previous Meeting of Women Parliamentarians" and the recommendations of the Executive Committee for the agenda of the 108th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.