



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
110th Assembly and related meetings
Mexico City, 15 - 23 April 2004



FEM/9/C.1
1 March 2004

**CONVOCAION OF THE
NINTH MEETING OF WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS**

Sheraton Centro Histórico Hotel, Mexico City (Mexico), Sunday, 18 and Thursday, 22 April 2004

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

I am pleased to inform you that the Ninth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will be held at the Sheraton Centro Histórico Hotel in Mexico City, Mexico, on Sunday, 18 April 2004 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 at its session in Geneva in September 2003, is appended hereto.

As can be seen from the provisional annotated agenda, the Meeting in Mexico will be required 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, and (iii) to elect the two Vice-Presidents of the Committee.

On 22 April, the Meeting will hold a special sitting to conduct elections. During a 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 geopolitical 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. An explanatory note on the subject is included in the annotated agenda.

As you know, Article 10.1 of the Statutes provides that each national delegation to the meetings organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union shall include at least one woman MP and I wish to urge you to make a special effort to ensure that one or more women parliamentarians represent your Parliament at the Meeting.

The discussions at the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians are public and men MPs wishing to follow or contribute to them are cordially invited to do so. Furthermore, as you will note from the agenda, a special segment of dialogue between men and women on "Gender-sensitive national budgets: A question of women's rights and economic efficiency?" will take place during the Meeting, at 3 p.m. I hope that men and women MPs from your Parliament will take part in the dialogue.

Yours sincerely,

Anders B. Johnsson
Secretary General

Encl: Annotated provisional agenda



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Meeting of Women Parliamentarians
Agenda

FEM/9/A.1
1 March 2004

Ninth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

Centro de Convenciones del Hotel Sheraton Centro Histórico de la Ciudad de México
18 and 22 April 2004

I. PRACTICAL AND PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS

Schedule and Rules

The Ninth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will take place on the premises of the Centro de Convenciones (Convention Centre) Sheraton Centro Histórico de la Ciudad de México and will comprise four sittings:

- Two regular sittings on Sunday, 18 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 except item 2(c);
- One special sitting on Thursday, 22 April, 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.
- Another special sitting on Thursday, 22 April, will be held as of 11.30 a.m. to elect the President and two Vice-Presidents of the Coordinating Committee.

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 110th Assembly.

Participation and speaking rights

Women members of parliament who are part of their delegation as delegates to the Mexico 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 will be conducted in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. The debates in the working groups will be held with the assistance of available interpreters.

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 109th Assembly of the IPU (September/October 2003).

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. Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians

(a) Work at the sessions held in Santiago de Chile and Geneva, and recommendations

Participants will be informed of the Coordinating Committee's deliberations during its sittings on 11 April 2003, in Santiago, and of 30 September 2003, in Geneva.

Attention will be given to the issue of reform of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians currently under consideration by the Coordinating Committee.

(b) Questions relating to the panel discussion on "Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children" organised on the occasion of the 110th IPU Assembly

Participants will be informed of the arrangements made for the panel discussion on "Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children" scheduled for Wednesday, 21 April, (9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.). An information note on this event will be made available.

(c) General elections to the Coordinating Committee

➤ Schedule

The term of office of the Coordinating Committee's regional representatives and of its President and two Vice-Presidents expires at the 110th Assembly. The Meeting of Women Parliamentarians will therefore hold elections to the Coordinating Committee on Thursday, 22 April. 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 sitting 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 of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, to be held at 11.30 a.m.

➤ *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, 20 April, at 6 p.m. at the latest. Candidatures should be accompanied by a brief curriculum vitae (3 paragraphs maximum) of the candidates in English and/or French only, for distribution to participants.

Women MPs who have already served two terms as titular regional representatives are therefore ineligible for re-election as titular regional representatives. Similarly, women MPs who have served two terms as substitute regional representatives are also ineligible for re-election as substitute regional representatives.

The current composition of the Coordinating Committee is annexed.

➤ *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*".

The President of the Coordinating Committee will become an *ex-officio* member of the Executive Committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

(d) Any other business

The discussion on the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians will conclude by 10.30 a.m.

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

(a) Work and recommendations of the Gender Partnership Group

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

- (b) Specialised meetings and other initiatives

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

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

5. Contribution of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians to the work of the 110th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The Coordinating Committee decided to invite women parliamentarians to discuss item 4 of the agenda of the 110th Assembly on "Promoting international reconciliation, helping to bring stability to regions of conflict, and assisting with post-conflict reconstruction", according to the following procedure:

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

Theme 1: The role of women in international reconciliation processes

Theme 2: Institution building and addressing the special needs of women in post-conflict reconstruction

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, on behalf of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, a report to the First Standing Committee.

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

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

6. Special segment of dialogue between men and women on "Gender-sensitive national budgets: A question of women's rights and economic efficiency?"

In Santiago, the Meeting of Women Parliamentarian, held for the first time ever, a one-hour debate between men and women parliamentarians on "*The best ways to account for women's contribution to the economy and the general welfare of society, and to assess it at its full value*". This year, it is proposed that men and women parliamentarians pursue the debate on a similar and connected theme, namely "Gender-sensitive national budgets: A question of women's rights and economic efficiency?". The debate will be introduced by two keynote speakers and will take place from 3 to 4 p.m.

On that occasion a Handbook for Parliamentarians on *Parliament and the Budgetary Process, Including from a Gender Perspective*, prepared in collaboration with the World Bank, UNDP and UNIFEM, will be presented to participants.

7. Report of the Working Groups' Rapporteurs

Each of the two rapporteurs of the working 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 general report to be presented during the general debate of the First Standing Committee on Monday, 19 April.

8. Progress and Setbacks of Women in National Parliaments

The Meeting will be briefed on the status of women in national parliaments worldwide. A discussion of mechanisms to improve women's presence in politics is encouraged.

9. Cooperation with the United Nations on gender issues

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

- (a) CEDAW and its Optional Protocol: launching of a Handbook for parliamentarians
The French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Chinese versions of the Handbook will be launched.
- (b) Other issues and initiatives

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

The Tenth Meeting will take place in March/April 2005, during the 112th IPU Assembly (Manila, Philippines).

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, 23 April 2004.

Composition of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians
(as at 1 March 2004)

		Expiry of term
President	Mrs. G. Mahlangu (South Africa)	April 2004
First Vice-President	Ms. Y. Kamikawa (Japan)	"
Second Vice-President	Vacant	
Members		
<i>Members of the Executive Committee (ex officio, for the duration of their term on the Executive Committee)</i>		
	Mrs. P. Larsen (Denmark)	April 2004
	Mrs. Z. Ríos-Montt (Guatemala)	October 2004
	Mrs. M. Mensah (Namibia)	September 2007
<i>Chairperson of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians (ex officio for two years)</i>		
	Mrs. I. Allende (Chile)	April 2005
<i>Regional representatives (elected for two years)</i>		
<i>Group of African countries</i>		
Titular:	Substitute:	
Mrs. G. Mahlangu (South Africa)	Vacant	April 2004
Mrs. J. Nsabimana (Burundi)	Mrs. Aïssata Karidio Mounkaila (Niger)	April 2004
<i>Group of Arab countries</i>		
Titular:	Substitute:	
Mrs. K. Kaabi (Tunisia)	Mrs. Kamila Nattah (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)	April 2004
Mrs. S. Damen-Masri (Jordan)	Mrs. M. Osman Gacknoun (Sudan)	April 2004
<i>Group of Asia and Pacific countries</i>		
Titular:	Substitute:	
Mrs. Y. Lee (Republic of Korea)	Mrs. I.I. Murti (Indonesia)	April 2004
Mrs. Y. Kamikawa (Japan)	Mrs. M. Alva (India)	April 2004
<i>Eurasia Group</i>		
Titular:	Substitute:	
Mrs. F. Ziatdinova (Russian Federation)	Mrs. H. Hakobyan (Armenia)	April 2004
Mrs. Y Grigorovich (Belarus)	Mrs. N. Kayupova (Kazakhstan)	April 2004
<i>Group of Latin American countries</i>		
Titular:	Substitute:	
Vacant	Mrs. D. Arellano Sandoval (Nicaragua)	April 2004
Mrs. M. Xavier (Uruguay)	Mrs. J. Valenzuela C. de Zea (Peru)	April 2004
<i>Twelve Plus Group</i>		
Titular:	Substitute:	
Mrs. P. Ernstberger (Germany)	Mrs. G. Gautier (France)	April 2004
Vacant	Mrs. T. Heberlein (Switzerland)	April 2004