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INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

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INVITATION

Geneva, 18 January 2008

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

We are pleased to write to invite your parliament to participate in a one-day parliamentary event entitled *The role of parliaments in financing for gender equality*. The event, hosted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, is being convened on the occasion of the forthcoming 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in February-March 2008.

The parliamentary meeting will take place on **27 February 2008**, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 6 p.m., in Room 4 at UN Headquarters in New York.

The IPU strongly encourages your parliament to request that both male and female members of parliament be included in your country's delegation to the CSW Session, including chairpersons or members of gender equality committees. Not only would this ensure their attendance and contribution to the parliamentary event, but it would also facilitate parliamentary inclusion in the CSW discussions which will take place from 25 February to 7 March 2008. A copy of the agenda of the 52<sup>nd</sup> session of the CSW can be found on the following website: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/52sess.htm>

The 2008 parliamentary event will place particular emphasis on the role of parliament and the difference it can make in securing financial support for the empowerment of women and the achievement of gender equality. In so doing, it will provide an opportunity to contribute to the debates at the CSW which has as its priority theme "The Financing for gender equality and empowerment of women". One of the meeting's primary objectives is therefore to bring a parliamentary perspective and input to the CSW's deliberations.

Please find attached additional information on the event. We look forward to hearing from you, at your earliest convenience and preferably before **13 February 2008**.

Anders B Johnsson  
Secretary General  
Inter-Parliamentary Union

Pier Ferdinando CASINI  
Président  
de l'Union interparlementaire



# The Role of Parliaments in Financing for Gender Equality

New York, 27 February 2008



A parliamentary event organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union  
and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women  
on the occasion of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Room 4 – UN Headquarters, New York

## INFORMATION NOTE

During the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which will consider as its priority theme *Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women*, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (UNDAW) are organising a parliamentary event entitled: The role of parliament in financing for gender equality.

The meeting will take place on **Wednesday 27 February**, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
in **Room 4** at UN Headquarters in New York.

### Objectives

In keeping with its policy of contributing to major international forums by seeking to introduce a parliamentary dimension into the proceedings of intergovernmental organisations, the IPU is organising this one-day event with UNDAW in order to provide a forum for debate between parliamentarians from all over the world, and to contribute to the deliberations of the 52<sup>nd</sup> CSW.

In cooperation with partner organisations, the event will aim to highlight the specific contribution of parliaments and the difference they can make in securing adequate financial support to women's empowerment and the implementation of policies and programmes in favour of gender equality. Parliamentarians will therefore be invited to address this objective from two angles: (1) parliament's role in maximising national wealth in favour of women and gender equality and (2) financing gender equality in politics.

### Expected outcome

At the close of the meeting, a brief message to the CSW will be issued, stressing areas for future priority action, with particular emphasis on how parliaments can and should contribute to financing gender equality and women's empowerment.

### Relevant documents

Background documents to be used throughout the meeting include:

- Written contributions of the panellists;
- Documents of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the CSW;
- Report on the UN Expert Group Meeting on Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women (Oslo, September 2007)
- The UN Secretary General's Report on Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

### Participants

The participants in the Parliamentary Event will include:

- Parliamentarians present in New York for the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the CSW as members of their respective national delegations. A letter of invitation will be sent by the IPU Secretary General to all Member and non-member parliaments of the IPU. Efforts will be made to encourage the participation of chairpersons and members of gender equality parliamentary committees.

- Representatives of governments, relevant organisations and funds of the UN system, and civil society will also be invited.

### **Program**

9 – 10 a.m.	Registration of participants and distribution of documents
10 – 10.30 a.m.	Inaugural session
10.30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Session 1: Maximising national wealth in favour of women and gender equality
1 - 3 p.m.	Lunch break
3 - 5.30 p.m.	Session 2: Financing financing gender equality in politics
5.30 – 6 p.m.	Closing session

### **Languages**

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the four languages customarily used at IPU Assemblies, namely English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

### **Access badges for United Nations Headquarters**

As is customary during General Assembly sessions, security arrangements are very strict and no one may enter the United Nations premises without a special badge (for delegates and visitors). In keeping with normal practice, national delegations and diplomatic missions in New York will be invited to attend to all matters relating to visas, UN Badges, hotel reservations and transportation. Participants must therefore request their badge from their country's permanent mission to the United Nations.

### **Registration**

Persons wishing to participate in this meeting are urged to register as soon as possible using the attached form. Once this form has been filled out, it should be sent directly to IPU Headquarters (Fax: +41 22 919 41 60; e-mail: [postbox@mail.ipu.org](mailto:postbox@mail.ipu.org)), copy to the Office of the Permanent Observer (Fax: 1 212 557 39 54 or e-mail: [ny-office@mail.ipu.org](mailto:ny-office@mail.ipu.org)).



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New York, 27 February 2008



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and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women  
on the occasion of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women  
Room 4 – UN Headquarters, New York

## ANNOTATED AGENDA

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**10.00 - 10.30 a.m.** *Inaugural session*  
Inter-Parliamentary Union  
United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women

Chairperson  
of the Meeting: Ms. Mónica Xavier, Senator (Uruguay) and President of the IPU Coordinating  
Committee of Women Parliamentarians

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**10.30- 1 p.m.** **Session one: Maximising national wealth in favour of women and gender equality**

The session will look at ways and means of making the best of national wealth and potential so as to support women and gender equality initiatives. It will in particular look at Parliament's role in public finance management, with a particular focus on gender-sensitive budgets as a means to ensure better allocation of resources in favour of gender equality. It will also discuss what policies and mechanisms can be developed or strengthened to maximise women's economic input and participation.

**10.30- 11.45** **Theme 1: Parliaments and gender sensitive budgeting**  
What are gender sensitive budgets? What is Parliament's role in this process? How can gender sensitive budgeting provide an opportunity for an effective means of responding to the needs of women?

**11.45- 1 p.m.** **Theme 2: National mechanisms to support women's economic input**  
What policies can Parliament support and develop to maximise women's economic input and participation? How to assess women's economic input and address the question of unpaid work? What public policies are needed to facilitate women's economic participation: social security, infrastructures, education? What mechanisms should be further developed? Is micro-credit an answer?

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**1.00 – 3.00 p.m.** *Lunch break*

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3.00- 5.45 p.m.

**Session two: Financing gender equality in politics**

The session will focus on gender equality in the political field and financial requirements to achieve that objective. It will look at, in particular, financial challenges faced by women in politics, whether as candidates or as members of parliament; it will discuss the respective roles of various stakeholders in reallocating or enhancing financial support to women; it will also look at political institutions and raise the question of how to fund an effective mainstreaming of gender.

**Theme 3: Financing women's political participation**

What are the funding challenges faced by women running for election? What financial assistance could be provided, and by whom? What is the role of public funding? What is the role of political parties?

**Theme 4: Financial support for gender-sensitive institutional building**

How to effectively mainstream gender in public institutions, such as parliaments? How to provide support to women in Parliament? How to finance gender mainstreaming mechanisms? What is needed? What are possible financial supports? Is the budget of parliament analysed from a gender perspective?

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5.45- 6.00 p.m.

**Closing Session**



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Room 4 – UN Headquarters, New York

## REGISTRATION FORM

To be completed and returned by **Wednesday, 13 February 2008** at the latest

PARLIAMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANISATION: \_\_\_\_\_

A. Members of the delegation

1. Family name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mr., Mrs., Ms. - please specify)

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

2. Family name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mr., Mrs., Ms. - please specify)

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

3. Family name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mr., Mrs., Ms. - please specify)

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

4. Family name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mr., Mrs., Ms. - please specify)

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

B. Secretaries / Advisers / Accompanying persons

1. Family name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mr., Mrs., Ms. - please specify)

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

2. Family name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mr., Mrs., Ms. - please specify)

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

3. Family name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mr., Mrs., Ms. - please specify)

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

4. Family name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Mr., Mrs., Ms. - please specify)

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form

**To:**

The Secretariat  
Headquarters of the Inter-Parliamentary Union  
Chemin du Pommier 5  
Case postale 330  
1218 Le Grand Saconnex/GE  
(Switzerland)  
Telephone: (41 22) 919 41 50  
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E-mail: [postbox@mail.ipu.org](mailto:postbox@mail.ipu.org)

**With copy to:**

Office of the Permanent Observer of the  
Inter-Parliamentary Union to the United  
Nations  
220 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 3002  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017  
USA  
Telephone: (1 212) 557 58 80  
Fax: (1 212) 557 39 54  
E-mail: [ny-office@mail.ipu.org](mailto:ny-office@mail.ipu.org)

**IMPORTANT NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS**

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