



## WOMEN IN PARLIAMENTS GLOBAL FORUM (WIP) SUMMIT 2015 IN MEXICO

7-9 OCTOBER 2015  
MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

THE SPIRIT OF WOMEN IN PARLIAMENTS: ADVANCING SOCIETY  
27-29 November 2013 | European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium



## EVENT OVERVIEW

### **MAKE IT HAPPEN!**

#### **Influence and Power of Women in Parliaments**

40 years ago, Mexico hosted the first World Conference on Women. Delegations from 133 countries participated, out of which 113 were led by women. For the first time ever, 4000 representatives of NGOs attended a parallel forum called International Women's Year Tribune. The conference defined a World Plan of Action including guidelines for the advancement of women. Today in Mexico, 39% of the seats in the Mexican Congress are held by women, and 34.4% of the seats in the Senate. Women have influential roles in Mexican politics. This did not come overnight: already in 1953, the Constitution enshrined the citizenship and suffrage of women, as a result of long years of advocacy by women's organizations. One year before the first Conference on Women, in 1974, the Constitution was reformulated to establish equity between the sexes.

Recently, Mexico passed an amendment to its Federal Constitution stating that political parties should put in place rules to ensure gender parity in the nomination of candidates in federal and local congressional elections. The amendment is the first of its kind in Mexico and with this constitutional reform, Mexico joins those countries that have enshrined gender equality and women empowerment directly in their highest legal text, the national Constitution.

The WIP Mexico Summit 2015 will gather female Parliamentarians from all corners of the world to discuss concrete steps for increasing the number of women in decision making. The WIP Mexico Summit will also welcome Heads of State and renowned representatives from the public and private sectors. The event will take place at the facilities of the Mexican Foreign Ministry on 7-9 October, in a joint effort undertaken by the Mexican Senate, the Office of the President of Mexico, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Women in Parliaments Global Forum.



DRAFT PROGRAMME AUGUST 2015

## WIP MEXICO SUMMIT 2015

### TUESDAY, 6 OCTOBER

WELCOME DELEGATIONS  
ALL DAY

20:00-22:00 WELCOME COCKTAIL  
PATIO OF THE OLD SENATE HEADQUARTERS, XICOTÉNCATL 9, HISTORIC CITY CENTRE

### WEDNESDAY, 7 OCTOBER

Venue: Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Plaza Juárez #20, Col. Centro, Del. Cuauhtemoc, Distrito Federal CP 06010

08:00-10:00 Registration and Accreditation of Participants

10:00-10:30 **OPENING CEREMONY**

10:30-10:45 Press Conference

10:30-10:45 **COFFEE BREAK**

10:45-11:45 **KEYNOTE SPEECH**

11:45-13:30 **PLENARY SESSION**

#### **MAKE IT HAPPEN!** **INFLUENCE AND POWER OF WOMEN IN POLITICS**

Since the first World Conference on Women in 1975, women's rights have become an important political issue. Still, many challenges remain, especially as women are still under-represented in political decision-making. This high-level panel discussion will review the achievements of Governments and Parliaments around the world with regards to gender equality in politics. Setting the scene for discussions to follow at the WIP Mexico Summit, panellists will reflect upon the current levels of influence of female politicians and what still remains to be done to achieve parity in politics on a global scale.

13:15-13:30 **GROUP PHOTO**



## DRAFT PROGRAMME AUGUST 2015

13:45-15:45 **LUNCH**  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

16:00-19:00 **PARALLEL SESSIONS**

### **PANEL 1: ELECTORAL PARITY AND QUOTAS – THE MEXICAN EXAMPLE**

In many countries, there are still constitutions that have not ensured the right for women to participate in politics. Consequently, women are little, or not at all, involved in political life. What are the obstacles to the enjoyment of all the rights of women in politics and what could be the solutions? In the case of Mexico, what are the trends of the political leadership and the political will towards participation of women in politics?

### **PANEL 2: HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN IN TRADE & BUSINESS**

Women are important economic actors as investors and drivers of entrepreneurial development. Women also have a crucial impact on the multi-lateral trading system. This session will address the solutions for ensuring further participation of women in economic life by also pinpointing the fact that economic empowerment of women stimulates growth and positively impact our societies at large.

### **PANEL 3: HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN WITH THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

The United Nations General Assembly will adopt the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015. The WIP Mexico Summit provides the unique opportunity to review the outcomes and to address the crucial issue of implementation, where Parliaments will play a key role. Special attention will be given to the stand-alone goal on Gender Equality, as well as financing Gender Equality for the SDGs through Domestic Resource Mobilisation.

### **PANEL 4: HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN WITH PEACE AND SECURITY**

In spite of the international agreements, today only 9% of the peace negotiators are women. This session will address the importance of including women in peace and reconciliation processes. Special attention will be given to the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which was the first Resolution to address the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women.

### **PANEL 5: HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN: BETTER ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE**

Better access to, and quality of, health care for women, children and elderly is a matter of equality and needs global attention. This session will focus on research, testing and knowledge based health decisions as the core of better functioning health systems. Governments remain the main providers for the basic health care, and this session will explore if there are other alternative providers that can secure better access and status of health care.



## DRAFT PROGRAMME AUGUST 2015

### TRAINING 1: SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING FOR FEMALE PARLIAMENTARIANS

Social Media platforms are a key tool for Parliamentarians to engage with stakeholder and constituents. The Facebook's Politics and Government Outreach Team will organize a training session for female Parliamentarians that will improve the ability of the participants to use Facebook to regularly engage people and build an audience. The Facebook Team will share best practises, new features and tools to evaluate the success.

*(In English for 20 participants – registration required)*

20:00-22:00

### GALA DINNER

Offered by the President of Mexico, including musical or cultural performance  
Venue TBC

## THURSDAY, 8 OCTOBER

Venue: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Plaza Juárez #20, Col. Centro, Del. Cuauhtemoc, Distrito Federal CP 06010

08:30-09:00 Welcome Delegations/Accreditation

09:00-09:30 **KEYNOTE SPEECH**

09:30-10:30 **PLENARY SESSION**

### WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

#### 40 YEARS AFTER THE FIRST CONFERENCE ON WOMEN – IMPACT AND ADVANCES FROM 1975 TO 2015

The first UN conference on Women defined a World Plan of Action, which offered a comprehensive set of guidelines for the advancement of women. Since then, world conferences focusing on women have been held in Copenhagen in 1980, Nairobi in 1985 and Beijing in 1995. To fully grasp the progress made since 1975, this plenary debate takes a holistic approach to the impact of the guidelines, especially focusing on lessons learned. This session will also highlight success stories and will welcome panellists who attended the Mexico conference 40 years ago.

10:30-10:45 **COFFEE BREAK AND SCHEDULED PHOTOS OF DELEGATIONS**

11:00 – 13:00 **WORKING SESSIONS**

### WORKING GROUP 1: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: STATUS, PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES ORGANISED BY THE MEXICAN SENATE

Exploring different laws and regulation that prevent violence against women, this working session will discuss the remaining risks and challenges of violence and discrimination



against women. It will focus on the implementation of legal instruments that prevent violence against women and promote women's rights.



#### WORKING GROUP 2:

##### DISASTER RISK REDUCTION - ENGAGING WOMEN FOR BETTER SOLUTIONS

ORGANISED BY UNISDR

Disaster affects men and women differently. Involving female Parliamentarians is a crucial ingredient to building national and regional disaster resilience that also takes into account gender-specific vulnerabilities. This working group will bring together Parliamentarians and representatives from the Private Sector with the aim to catalyze disaster risk sensitive investment. It will highlight the need to increase the understanding of disaster risk and to create appropriate regulations. The working session will ultimately result in a set of recommendations for the private sector on how to participate in the creation of necessary policy and legislative frameworks.



#### WORKING GROUP 3: MAKING THE MOST OF NEW MEDIA TOOLS

ORGANISED BY THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE

This working session will focus on the role of women in media and political communications. Especially focusing how new technologies have influenced women's political participation, the participants of this group will explore how the use of new media tools can boost female participation in political life further.



#### WORKING GROUP 4: TAXATION

ORGANISED BY OECD



#### WORKING GROUP 5: TBC

ORGANISED BY UN WOMEN/UNDP



#### WORKING GROUP 6: TBC

ORGANISED BY WORLD BANK GROUP

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## DRAFT PROGRAMME AUGUST 2015

*(In Spanish for 20 participants – registration required)*

- 13:00-14:30 **LUNCH WITH MEXICAN BUSINESS LEADERS**  
Venue: Terrace of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
The lunch will include a showcase by successful women in Business and Mexican crafts.
- 14:30-19:00 **FIELD VISITS**
- FIELD VISIT 1: NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (CNDH)
  - FIELD VISIT 2: PINEDA COVALÍN
  - FIELD VISIT 3: NATIONAL WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (INMUJERES)
  - FIELD VISIT 4: MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (SEDESOL)
  - FIELD VISIT 5: SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC
  - FIELD VISIT 6: CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES
- 20:00-22:00 **DINNER HOSTED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**  
Venue: Bankers Club

## FRIDAY, 9 OCTOBER

Venue: Old Senate Headquarters  
Xicoténcatl No. 9, Historic Centre

- 09:00-10:00 **PLENARY SESSION**
- WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN?**  
Reflecting upon progress made since 2015, this high-level plenary session will explore in detail the necessary next steps. Building on the lessons learned over the past 40 years, pannellists will define the action plan for the next 40 years. Special attention will be given to how Women in Parliaments can impact and influence future successes.
- 10:00-13:00 **PLENARY SESSION: STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS**
- 13:00-13:15 **COFFEE BREAK**
- 13:15-14:15 **CLOSING CEREMONY**