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Beijing +25: Parliaments accelerating action to achieve gender equality for all women and girls

11 March 2020, Trusteeship Council Room, UN headquarters, New York

Geneva, 31 January 2020

Office of the
Secretary General

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

The Parliamentary Meeting at the 64th session of the Commission on the Status of Women will be held in New York, in the Trusteeship Council Room of the United Nations Headquarters, on 11 March 2020. It will be hosted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). The Meeting will contribute to the Commission's main theme, *Beijing +25: Realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls*.

The theme of the Parliamentary Meeting is *Beijing +25: Parliaments accelerating action to achieve gender equality for all women and girls*. 2020 marks the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. It also marks the first five-year milestone of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

The Parliamentary Meeting will focus on how these milestones can provide momentum to accelerate progress towards achieving gender equality and fulfilling the rights and empowerment of women and girls. Parliaments play a key role in policy decisions and budgetary allocations and can lead the way in scaling up action to achieve gender equality, including by applying a gender lens, demanding accountability from government, being gender-sensitive institutions, and partnering with stakeholders from government, civil society, academia, the media and the private sector.

The Parliamentary Meeting will emphasize three specific priorities for accelerated action by parliaments in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: achieving equality in political decision-making; promoting gender-responsive legislation; and eliminating violence against women and girls, including in the context of armed conflict.

I enclose the agenda of the meeting and other relevant documents, which are also available at <https://www.ipu.org/event/annual-parliamentary-meeting-64th-commission-status-women>.

I strongly encourage your Parliament to request that your country's delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women include both male and female members of parliament, notably chairpersons and members of gender equality, legal affairs or human rights committees. This would ensure their attendance and contribution to the IPU-UN Women Parliamentary Meeting. It would also facilitate the inclusion of a parliamentary perspective in the Commission's deliberations, which will take place from 9 to 20 March 2020.

In addition to the Parliamentary Meeting, the IPU will organize two side events on 10 and 12 March 2020. The first side event, on online harassment, will be held on **10 March, from 1.15 to 2.30 p.m., in the Ex-Press Bar** of the GA Building, at UN Headquarters, in New York. The second side event, on women in politics, will be held on **12 March, from 3 to 4.15 p.m., in the same venue**. Additional information is available in the attached information note. As the United Nations does not have interpretation facilities in the informal meeting rooms, these side events will be held in English only.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Martin Chungong', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Martin Chungong
Secretary General