



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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Office of the  
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## What will it take to reach gender parity in political participation in a post-COVID-19 world?

Tuesday 23 March 2021, virtual event

Geneva, 25 February 2021

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

The Parliamentary Meeting at the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women will be held virtually, on 23 March 2021. 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, *Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls*. Key findings and recommendations of the Parliamentary Meeting will also feed into contributions with a gender equality perspective for the upcoming 142nd Assembly of the IPU (May 2021).

The theme of the Parliamentary Meeting is "**What will it take to reach gender parity in political participation in a post-COVID-19 world**". The Meeting will offer a platform to take stock of recent developments in women's participation in parliament, explore the impact of COVID-19 on women's access to parliament in 2020 and identify priority parliamentary actions to further progress towards gender parity in political participation.

The event will gather Members of Parliament from around the world to share good practices on achieving and overcoming challenges to reaching gender parity in their respective parliaments, especially in light of the gendered impacts of the pandemic. The event aims to stimulate dialogue that can help scale up political will and transformative actions towards gender parity in political participation. The Meeting will furthermore provide an opportunity to contribute to the debates of the CSW.

I enclose the agenda of the meeting and other relevant documents, which are also available at <https://www.ipu.org/event/what-will-it-take-reach-gender-parity-in-political-participation-in-post-covid-19-world>.

I strongly encourage your Parliament to attend the IPU – UN Women Parliamentary Meeting, in particular both male and female members of parliament, especially chairpersons and members of gender equality, legal affairs or human rights committees.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Chungong  
Secretary General