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## December 2023 Webinar on Parliamentary Engagement on CEDAW

*IPU Webinar for parliaments of States scheduled for review by the CEDAW Committee in 2024 and a group of other parliaments supported by the IPU in the area of gender equality*

**Thursday, 14 December 2023 on Zoom**

### **Concept note and provisional programme**

#### **Concept note**

Ensuring gender equality and full respect for women's human rights is a key commitment of the international community. It is recognized as essential to making democracies strong, as well as to achieving sustainable development and peace.

The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)<sup>1</sup> provides valuable guidance on the achievement of gender equality in all areas, ranging from within the family and education to economic and political life.

All States Parties have the obligation to present a report on the implementation of CEDAW at regular intervals to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (the CEDAW Committee). This is a key opportunity to take stock of advances made and priorities that need to be addressed to implement CEDAW.

The IPU and the CEDAW Committee have built a long-standing cooperation designed to promote the implementation of the Convention through the action of parliaments around the world. This includes the promotion of parliamentary engagement in the State reporting process before the Committee. This engagement is a key success factor in leading the required legal reforms, providing resources, and changing mentalities – all necessary elements for the realization of women's rights.

**The IPU regularly holds webinars to support members and staff of parliament in their efforts to implement the CEDAW Convention. The next webinar, to be held on 14 December 2023, is open to parliaments whose countries are scheduled for review by the CEDAW Committee in 2024, as well as those that currently benefit from IPU support in the area of gender equality.**

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<sup>1</sup> [www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women](http://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women)

## Objectives and expected results

### Objectives

The webinar is aimed at accompanying parliaments through the reporting process and supporting them in taking action for enhanced implementation of CEDAW. It will serve to provide information on the Convention and State reporting process; facilitate peer-to-peer exchanges among MPs and their interaction with CEDAW Committee members; and identify any targeted support that might be required from the IPU.

### Expected results

- Men and women participants understand the CEDAW reporting procedure, and are aware of their State's report and expected outcomes of their country review;
- Male and female members of parliament engage in CEDAW reporting and promote CEDAW implementation through parliamentary work.

## Participation

The following parliaments are invited to the webinar:

- Parliaments from **countries tentatively scheduled for review by the CEDAW Committee in 2024\*** as follows:
  - **87th CEDAW Committee session, January-February 2024**  
*(Central African Republic, Djibouti, Greece, Italy, Niger, Oman, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan)*
  - **88th CEDAW Committee session, May 2024**  
*(Brazil, El Salvador, Estonia, Kuwait, Montenegro, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Singapore)*
  - **89th CEDAW Committee session, October 2024**  
*(Benin, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia)*
- Other parliaments that enjoy **IPU technical support** in the area of gender equality, including in CEDAW implementation  
*Colombia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Kenya, Mongolia, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania*

\* Situation at 8 November 2023. The list is subject to change. See: [https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/SessionsList.aspx?Treaty=CEDAW](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/SessionsList.aspx?Treaty=CEDAW)

Any interested parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from the countries concerned may register to attend. Members and staff whose work and responsibilities in parliament link to CEDAW are particularly encouraged to attend. These may include chairpersons, members and clerks of gender and/or human rights committees, chairpersons, members and clerks of gender equality caucuses and/or caucuses of women parliamentarians, and gender focal points. **Both men and women parliamentarians are encouraged to attend.**

### **Date and format**

The webinar will be held on **Thursday, 14 December 2023** in the form of **two identical 2-hour sessions** as follows:

#### **PART I – 09:30-11:30 CET**

**Estonia, Greece, [Indonesia](#), Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, [Mongolia](#), Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan (AR/EN)**

The **registration form for Part I** can be found [here](#).

#### **PART II – 15:00-17:00 CET**

**Benin, Brazil, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, [Colombia](#), Cuba, Djibouti, [Ecuador](#), El Salvador, [Kenya](#), [Namibia](#), Niger, [Nigeria](#), Rwanda, [Sierra Leone](#), [Uganda](#), [United Republic of Tanzania](#) (EN/FR/SP)**

The **registration form for Part II** can be found [here](#).

### **Follow-up**

The IPU will prepare and disseminate a report of the webinar. It will also disseminate the concluding observations to the parliaments concerned as soon as they are adopted by the CEDAW Committee. In addition, targeted support may also be provided for the realization of activities ensuring CEDAW implementation through parliamentary work, including in the form of capacity-building activities and/or counselling in legal review or legal drafting.

## **Provisional programme**

### **Opening (10 min)**

#### **Session 1: The CEDAW Convention, the CEDAW Committee and the role of parliaments (40 min)**

This session will give participants an overview of the rights entrenched in the Convention and of the mandate of the CEDAW Committee. State reporting obligations and the corresponding country review process will also be outlined.

It will also focus on the role of parliaments in ratifying the CEDAW Convention and its Optional Protocol, withdrawing reservations and implementing the Convention. This session will include a presentation of the Handbook for Parliamentarians on CEDAW.

*Presentations followed by a Q&A session.*

#### **Session 2: Parliamentary engagement in CEDAW implementation, reporting and follow-up (1 hour)**

Participants will hear about good practices in advancing the CEDAW Convention through parliamentary work, including by engaging with the CEDAW Committee.

Particular emphasis will be placed on sharing of experiences about the role of parliaments in: the process of reporting to the CEDAW Committee and national-level implementation of the Convention, including through follow-up to the CEDAW Committee's observations and recommendations.

*Presentations followed by discussions where **input from participants** will be sought on the following:*

- How is CEDAW integrated into the work of your parliament?
- More precisely, to what extent does your parliament participate in **CEDAW reporting**? What are the challenges in this regard and how can parliament's engagement be enhanced?
- How is your parliament **implementing CEDAW**? What priorities are being addressed to eliminate discrimination against women?
- How can the **IPU support** your parliament's CEDAW engagement and implementation?

### **Wrap-up (10 min)**