



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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138th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 24 – 28.03.2018

Forum of Women Parliamentarians
Item 3

FEM/27/3-Inf.1
15 March 2018

Contributing to the work of the 138th Assembly from a gender perspective

Saturday, 24 March 2018
11.30 – 1 p.m.

Information note

I. Arrangements for the debate

Participants will be invited to discuss the two draft resolutions on the agenda of the 138th Assembly. They will discuss each topic from a gender perspective and issue recommendations on amendments to be submitted by the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. For this purpose, after a short presentation on the two draft resolutions, the Forum will split into discussion groups, each covering one topic, from 11.30 a.m. until 1 p.m., as follows:

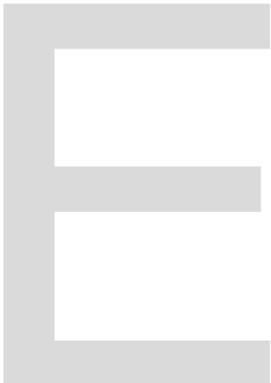
Theme 1 – Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development	<i>Room 2, level 0</i>
Theme 2 – Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy	<i>Salle Genève, CCV Annexe Building</i>

On the recommendation of its Bureau, the Forum will designate a chair and a rapporteur for each group.

At the end of the discussion, each working group will agree on the key ideas that their rapporteur will present at the afternoon plenary sitting of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.

Group 1 – Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development

In 2016, the United Nations defined the concept of sustaining peace as a goal and a process to build a common vision of a society rooted in inclusiveness, and aimed at addressing the root causes of conflict and fostering development. With the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), on Women, Peace and Security, and of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 16 on peaceful and inclusive societies, justice and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions, consensus had already emerged that building peaceful societies requires equality and inclusiveness. In turn, conflict exacerbates existing inequalities, including gender inequality, and hampers development as a whole.



#IPU138

The debate at the Forum will explore means to enhance gender equality as a key element of sustaining peace. The Forum will also address the specific challenges faced by women in conflict situations and discuss means to ensure that women can fully participate in peacebuilding efforts and contribute to sustainable development.

Participants in Group 1 are invited to discuss the following main issues:

- *What good practices are there to ensure that women take an equal part in peace talks, political transition and conflict prevention efforts?*
- *How can the challenges that women face in conflict and reconstruction be best addressed, in particular as they relate to gender-based violence and ensuing women's financial autonomy?*
- *In the context of sustaining peace, how can the rights of women and girls be strengthened in the aftermath of conflict (for instance, in peace accords, Constitution drafting, etc.)?*
- *What are best practices in promoting women's contribution towards building a culture of peace and tolerance in society, including through grass-roots and educational initiatives?*
- *What is the role of parliaments in sustaining gender-inclusive peace and development? What measures can parliaments take in terms of legislation, policy development and oversight, in order to take a holistic and gender-inclusive approach to development and peace?*

Group 2 – Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy

The Sustainable Development Agenda requires concerted action and creative solutions by all. As a provider of capital and a driver of innovation, the private sector has a crucial role to play in this regard. Governments, for their part, need to provide an enabling environment, including by ensuring that the private sector contributes to sustainable growth, social inclusion, gender equality and environmental protection in their operations.

Women's economic empowerment should be a main consideration in all these undertakings. Women are underrepresented in formal employment and in leadership positions in business, and women entrepreneurs face particular challenges, ranging from limited access to credit to various forms of discrimination, as highlighted in the IPU resolution on *Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the SDGs, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development*, adopted at the 136th Assembly (April 2017).

As governments and the private sector have set a goal to promote clean energy, investments in this area offer strong job-creating potential and present opportunities to new economic actors, including women. The Forum will therefore discuss in particular how the private sector can best contribute to achieving the SDGs and its specific targets related to gender equality in the context of the development of the renewable energy sector.

Participants in Group 2 are invited to discuss the following main issues:

- *What are the most effective (legal, fiscal, regulatory) measures to ensure that the private sector advances gender equality and women's entrepreneurship?*
- *How to ensure that private investment in renewable energy creates jobs, income and career opportunities that benefit women?*

- *How can all private economic actors, including women's businesses and cooperatives, be engaged and their interests fairly represented in the development of the renewable energy sector?*
- *What are the specific needs of women entrepreneurs in both formal and informal sectors? How can they be addressed in the area of renewable energy?*
- *How can parliament promote educational and training opportunities that favour women's engagement in the renewable energy sector?*