



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

What will it take to reach gender parity in political participation in a post-COVID-19 world?

A parliamentary event organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and UN Women at the 65th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in line with the priority 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*

Tuesday, 23 March 2021, virtual event

GUIDANCE NOTE ON SPEAKING RIGHTS

The Parliamentary Meeting will take place on Interprefy on **23 March 2021**. Given the online form of this year's CSW, the meeting will be held at two different times on the same day. Members of Parliament are expected to attend only one of the two meeting options.

Meeting option 1: 23 March 2021 from 08:00 to 10:00 EDT (13:00 to 15:00 CET)

Meeting option 2: 23 March 2021 from 11:00 to 13:00 EDT (16:00 to 18:00 CET)

Each meeting will include two sessions with moderated discussions on specific topics. Members of Parliament will be invited to address the following questions:

- **Session 1: Women's participation in parliament in 2021 and the impact of COVID-19**
 - *Has your parliament recently adopted legislation to improve women's participation in politics? If so, what strategies have proved effective to reach consensus in this area?*
 - *Have women's role in and contribution to parliament changed in the context of COVID-19? Have women's leadership and voices gained visibility and support? Or, on the contrary, have women been left out of key decision-making processes?*
- **Session 2: Priority actions for gender parity in parliaments**
 - *What are the key levers of success in adopting or enhancing legislated gender quotas and ensuring effective enforcement mechanisms?*
 - *How can the participation of underrepresented groups of women, including young women, women with disabilities and women belonging to national minorities, be enhanced?*
 - *Who are the key stakeholders and what are the possible alliance-building strategies in the quest to achieve gender parity in parliament?*
 - *Based on lessons learned in other countries, what strategies could prove most useful to reach gender parity in your parliament?*

The provisional agenda can be found at <https://www.ipu.org/event/what-will-it-take-reach-gender-parity-in-political-participation-in-post-covid-19-world>

Each session will be introduced by a moderator, followed by short presentations by panellists and a moderated debate among participants.

Only members of national parliaments of countries that are recognized by the United Nations and/or are Members of the IPU are entitled to take the floor during the Parliamentary Meeting.

Members of regional and international parliamentary assemblies that are Associate Members of the IPU can also take the floor during the Parliamentary Meeting.

These aforementioned participants will receive a specific link to access the meeting. The specific link will allow them to request the floor during the proceedings. The link will be sent to the email addresses provided on the registration form available here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe-N2Te74xwWyTp7mCTMXKFcNhX7bkTZ3c6uN9pQjCEXF6cRw/viewform>

Members of parliaments can request the floor to deliver a spontaneous statement. The list of speakers will not be announced in advance: speakers will be invited to take the floor by the moderator during the Meeting if time allows.

In order to facilitate lively and interactive debates, there will be no possibility to contribute pre-recorded video statements.

Each live intervention from the floor **should not exceed two minutes (maximum)** in either of the two sessions of the moderated discussions listed above.

Members of national parliaments and members of regional and international parliamentary assemblies are welcome to provide their remarks via the event's chat function.

In addition, to guarantee the smooth-running of proceedings, participants are strongly recommended to familiarize themselves with the Interpretive Guide and the technical arrangements note, which will be made available on the IPU webpage: <https://www.ipu.org/event/what-will-it-take-reach-gender-parity-in-political-participation-in-post-covid-19-world>.