

CSW Side Event: *One decade on: How gender-sensitive are our parliaments now?*

Background:

The year 2022 marks the 10th anniversary of the Plan of Action for Gender-Sensitive Parliaments (GSP),¹ an initiative that was unanimously adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union's 127th Assembly. Gender-sensitive parliaments respond to the needs and interests of both men and women in their composition, structures, operations, methods and work. They are institutions that remove barriers to women's full participation and offer positive examples to society by advancing towards political equality between men and women.

Since the adoption of the GSP Plan of Action in 2012, the IPU has proudly led a comprehensive and multi-stakeholder effort to promote GSP. This area of parliamentary support has enabled transformative change within institutions around the world and strengthened their capacity to promote gender equality. UN Women works in several countries to support parliaments undertaking gender-sensitive reforms, to advocate for change in institutional culture and norms, and to strengthen women's capacity and influence, including through parliamentary networks. Other agencies and organizations have also taken up this concept and provide support to parliaments working to become more gender-sensitive².

Objectives:

To commemorate a decade of advocating for GSP and to take stock of parliaments' achievements in transforming their institutions to deliver on gender equality and promote women's full and effective participation, the IPU, UN Women, the Permanent Missions of Uganda, Canada, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations are organizing this event – *One decade on: How gender-sensitive are our parliaments now?* – on the occasion of the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

This side event will provide an opportunity to assess how gender-sensitive and inclusive parliaments have become, and to share experiences, good practices and innovations. Discussions will inform IPU's future GSP support to parliaments.

Members of Parliament and experts will provide examples of good practices and innovations in parliaments on each of the four themes. The interventions will provide an opportunity to showcase progress made in these fields over the past 10 years.

Provisional agenda:

Welcoming remarks by Ms. Hala Ramzy Fayez, Member of the Shura Council of the Kingdom of Bahrain and First Vice-President of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

Introductory remarks on gender-sensitive parliaments by Ms. Zeina Hilal, Manager, Gender Partnership Programme and Youth Participation Programme, IPU

Welcoming remarks by co-sponsors:

- Welcoming remark by Ms. Marilou McPhedran, Senator, Canada;
- Welcoming remark by Ms. Ximena Escobedo Juárez, Director General of Political Coordination at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico;
- Welcoming remark by Ms. Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Trinidad and Tobago;
- Welcoming remark by the representative of Uganda;

¹ IPU (2012). *Plan of Action for Gender-Sensitive Parliaments*. <http://archive.ipu.org/pdf/publications/action-gender-e.pdf>

² European Institute for Gender Equality. *Gender-Sensitive Parliaments*. <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/toolkits/gender-sensitive-parliaments/what-tool>

Discussion panels:

1. Women's access to parliamentary leadership positions: establishing and implementing internal measures

Introductory remarks by:

- Dr. Yulia Netesova, Chief of Democratic Governance and Gender Unit, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR)

Presentation followed by sharing of good practices among participants:

- MP from Uganda

2. Adopting and implementing gender provisions in parliamentary policies, including anti-harassment policies

Introductory remarks by:

- Ms. Maruša Gortnar, Head of Operations, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

Presentations followed by sharing of good practices among participants:

- Ms. Martha Lucía Mícher Camarena, Senator, Mexico
- Ms. Sylvia Elizabeth Lucas, Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, South Africa

3. Establishing childcare and family-friendly infrastructures in parliament

Introductory remarks by:

- Professor Sarah Childs, Professor of Politics & Gender at Royal Holloway, University of London, United Kingdom

Presentations followed by sharing of good practices among participants:

- Ms. Louisa Wall, Member of the House of Representatives and Member of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, New Zealand
- Ms. Ravza Kavakçı Kan, Member of the Grand National Assembly, Turkey

4. Working in partnership with men to advance gender equality

Presentations followed by sharing of good practices among participants:

- Ms. Ivana Popović, Member of the National Assembly, Republic of Serbia
- Mr. Jamal Mohamed Al-Fakhro, First Vice-Chairperson of the Shura Council, Kingdom of Bahrain
- Mr. Sven Spengemann, Member of the House of Commons, Canada

Wrap-up and closing – 10 minutes

Participants are encouraged to send written contributions on parliamentary good practices developed over the past 10 years in one or more of the four areas listed above.

Registration form available [here](#)

Date: Tuesday, 15 March 2022

Time: 10:30 – 12:30 ET / 15:30 to 17:30 CET

Platform: Zoom (link to be provided upon completion of the registration form)

Languages: English, French, Spanish and Arabic