



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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# 139<sup>th</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 14 – 18.10.2018

Forum of Women Parliamentarians

FEM/28/4-Inf.1  
14 October 2018

## Panel Discussion

### *Gender equality in science and technology*

Sunday, 14 October 2018  
2.30 – 4.30 p.m.

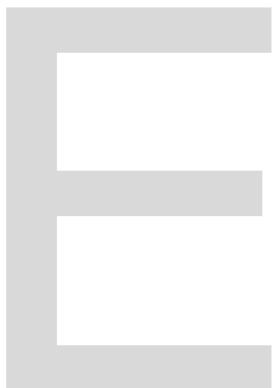
The Forum will debate the current state of women's participation in science and technology. It will explore innovative ways to address the structural obstacles to gender equality, as well as the causes and consequences of women's underrepresentation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Innovations and advances in science and technology are connecting individuals, groups and societies at unprecedented levels. They are changing society, education and work. They can offer opportunities to enhance productivity, welfare gains and individual empowerment. However, they are not without challenges, such as creating unemployment and exacerbating inequalities. High growth sectors, such as technology, risk to further widen the gender gap in the workplace. Automation could affect women even more adversely than men. It is estimated that 57 per cent of the jobs set to be displaced by technology between now and 2026 are held by women.<sup>1</sup>

Participants will be invited to share views and experiences on how to ensure that women not only aspire to but also can embark on STEM education, jobs and careers without discrimination and barriers.

Participants will be invited, in particular, to respond to the following questions:

- What are the main social and economic barriers to bridging the gender gap in STEM?
- What measures are needed to make the STEM environment more amenable to women's participation?
- What are the best practices for addressing the stereotypes associated with women in STEM?
- How important are role models in promoting women's leadership in STEM?
- Automation and the future of work from a gender perspective: how will job losses due to automation be experienced by women?
- Digitalisation and the technological gap: how to address inequalities in access to technology from a gender perspective? Panellists will include members of parliament and experts.



#IPU139

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<sup>1</sup> [www.theguardian.com/inequality/2018/jan/21/technology-widen-pay-gap-hit-womens-jobs-hardest-davos-report](http://www.theguardian.com/inequality/2018/jan/21/technology-widen-pay-gap-hit-womens-jobs-hardest-davos-report)

