# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

REPORT ON THE TENTH MEETING OF WOMEN SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT – INNOVATING FOR GENDER EQUALITY: Making development, peace and democracy a reality for women and men 29TH - 30TH AUGUST 2015

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## 1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 According to an article published by the UN Women, in order to strengthen the overall accountability of democratic institutions to women and gender equality, it needs to do so by vastly improving the transparency and accountability of public officials and institutions on their gender equality commitments.
- 1.2 Women Speakers of parliament of all national parliaments are invited to such Meeting. In the case of bicameral parliaments, women presiding officers of each chamber are invited. Women Presidents of regional and international parliamentary assemblies and organisations that are Associate Members or Permanent Observers of the IPU are also invited.
- 1.3 For the purpose of such Meeting, a report was presented at the close of the Meeting, followed by a discussion among participants on their specific contribution to the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament.
- The Summary Report, Programme and List of Participants are attached as Annexure
   Annexure 2 and Annexure 3 respectively.

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Tenth Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament was organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union ('IPU') and was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from the 29<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of August, 2015.
- 2.2 The Speaker of the Fijian Parliament, Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni was invited to be part of the Meeting and also present on Theme 1: Democracy: Innovating for more gender inclusive decision making processes and bodies. More so, Madam Speaker also chaired Theme 3 which was on the topic of Development: Innovating for financing for gender equality.

- 2.3 The purpose of the Meeting is to identify new and solid strategies to quicken the process of achieving gender equality, 20 years after the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action. By doing so, it will also identify ways to ensure the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (**'SDGs'**) and to make societies more democratic and peaceful.
- 2.4 The Meeting also purported to provide women in the highest decision-making positions of Parliament with a regular forum to exchange ideas and experiences on gender issues which are of significant interest to their national and international agendas.

# 3.0 THEME 1: DEMOCRACY: INNOVATING FOR MORE GENDER-INCLUSIVE DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES AND BODIES<sup>1</sup>

- 3.1 Sustained progress in women's access to leadership and decision-making positions remains a challenge in every country, despite growing acknowledgement that democracy and development can only benefit from gender balance in decision-making.
- 3.2 In the political arena, research has found that parliaments and local councils deliver better on gender equality when women are represented in higher numbers and hold higher decision-making positions. According to IPU research, increased numbers of women MPs tend to enhance a parliament's capacity to deliver on gender equality and women's human rights, as well as child rights, labour laws, education and health care.
- 3.3 In the private sector, research has shown that companies with more women on their boards outperform their rivals.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/wmnspk15.htm

### **Relevant targets under the new Sustainable Development Goal 5**

5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

5.4 Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and **the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family** as nationally appropriate.

## 3.4 Women leaders in political life

As women leaders in parliament, women are in a good position to address this issue in their respective institutions. According to IPU research, women are 22% of parliamentarians with only two houses having more than 50% of women members. In Rwanda there is a 64% representation whilst in Bolivia, there is a 53% representation. Only 16% of parliaments are headed by women.

3.5 About 120 countries have some form of quota, and some are moving towards parity as the case in Bolivia, Tanzania or a 40-60 ratio as in Spain, Croatia. Funding for women's political participation is also key. Additional media time has been subsidised for women in countries like Brazil and Timor Leste. Nomination fees are lower for women candidates in Togo and Kenya and NGO micro-financing for women candidates has been encouraged in Nigeria. An interesting example of women's leadership can be seen in Iraq, which has reserved positions of power for women in proportion to their representation in parliament.

### 3.6 Women leaders in the private sector

After Norway set a binding gender quota of 40% for company boards, other European countries, as well as Malaysia and Brazil, have followed, at least with respect to State-controlled firms.

### 3.7 Making public and private institutions gender-sensitive

The key to ensuring equal opportunities and promoting a shift in the perception of women and men, and their roles, is to make parliaments and enterprises more open to both sexes. Accommodations with respect to maternity and paternity leave,

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childcare, working hours and other such aspects can help women gain greater access to leadership positions. Examples of such arrangements in parliament include proxy voting or replacement during parental leave. Proxy voting has been tested in Australia; replacement of an MP by a colleague or the next on the list is allowed in such countries as Colombia, Denmark and Estonia. The parliaments of Costa Rica, Germany, Rwanda and Ukraine have set their own gender equality policies and established monitoring mechanisms in many cases. In the business sector, measures promoted by the French Federation of Enterprises include proactive information to male employees on their right to paternity leave and the rights of both men and women to be paid 100% of salary during parental leave. Such recommendations are part of the concrete gender equality measures that French law requires be included in collective labour agreements and company plans of action.

3.8 Redefining gender roles is also part of the gender equality and development agenda UN statistics indicate that women spend at least twice as much time as men on domestic work, and when both paid and unpaid work is considered, women work longer hours than men do. In Africa the ratio is 1:4. In Asia 1.5:5, and in Latin America 2.5:6. In more developed countries women devote twice as many hours as men to household chores (5 and 2.5 hours, respectively). According to an ILO survey of 87 countries in 2014, only five countries, all European, provide for more than 2 weeks of paternity leave. In countries like Azerbaijan, Bolivia, France and Kenya, they provide between 11 and 15 days.



Madam Speaker, Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni presenting on Theme 1: Democracy: Innovating for more gender inclusive decision-making processes and bodies.

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# 4.0 THEME 2: PEACE: INNOVATING TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND HARMFUL PRACTICES, IN PARTICULAR IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS<sup>2</sup>

- 4.1 Violence against women ('VAW'), as well as such harmful practices as child, early and forced marriages and female genital mutilations, find their roots in patriarchal cultures that legitimise discriminatory attitudes and unequal gender social norms. No country escapes this. One in three women throughout the world will experience physical or sexual violence by a partner or sexual violence by a non-partner during their lifetime. Violence against girls is of particular concern. Worldwide, nearly 50% of sexual assaults are against girls 15 or younger. In the developing world one in three girls is likely to be married before reaching 18.
- 4.2 Since such violence and practices are exacerbated during conflict, it is of paramount importance for women to contribute to peace processes and effective responses to VAW in conflict situations. Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security promotes women's participation in conflict resolution and peace processes and the inclusion in peace agreements of measures to ensure respect for the human rights of women and girls, "particularly as they relate to the constitution, the electoral system, the police and the judiciary". It also provides a framework for addressing gaps in legislation both to combat violence against women and to promote gender equality. It stresses in particular the responsibility to protect women and girls from violence during and after conflict.
- 4.3 Whilst many celebrate the 15th anniversary of Resolution 1325 we must also take stock of the progress made. It is true that many countries emerging from conflict have adapted their legal frameworks to address discrimination and violence against women and an increased number of peace agreements have included a gender component but many obstacles remain, and implementation is still a challenge.
- 4.4 What is needed to alter the patterns conducive to VAW is an innovative, transformative approach focused on prevention, engagement of men and youth and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/wmnspk15.htm

the use of ICTs and the media. The new SDGs provide a useful framework in this regard

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

5.b Enhance the use of **enabling technologies**, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

Also relevant in this connection is the **131st IPU Assembly outcome document,** which affirms that –

"The media, including social media, can be major allies in educating and raising awareness. They must not perpetuate stereotypes and gender inequalities or appear to condone violence against women."

### 4.5 Protecting women and girls in situations of conflict

In refugee camps, the rate of early marriage among Syrian refugee girls in Jordan is 51 percent. It has been argued that survival sex and trafficking in refugee camps can be prevented by giving priority in the allocation of resources and resettlement opportunities to the most vulnerable women and girls.

## 4.6 Innovative ways to engage women in peace-building and reconciliation

Women currently head only 19% of all UN field missions. From 1992 to 2011 fewer than 4% of signatories to peace agreements and 10% of negotiators at peace tables were women. With respect to the refugee camps, Syrian women have recently met

outside the negotiation room to demand involvement in the Geneva discussions. Their demands have not been met to date.

## 4.7 Innovative ways to engage men and youth

Evidence-based research indicates that effective engagement of men and boys results in fewer reports of VAW. To be successful, violence prevention activities with male and female attendants must be of sufficient duration and intensity. In conflict settings, the UNHCR 2011-2016 strategy for combating VAW in camps includes engaging boys and traditional and religious leaders to challenge gender norms conducive to violence.

## 4.8 Innovative use of ICTs and the media – including the social media

Technology can do both good and harm. It may also be difficult to access given the gender divide. ICTs, and the social media in particular, offer great potential as tools for early warning and real time monitoring of human rights violations generally, and VAW is certainly no exception. Platforms such as USHAHIDI have been used in Kenya, to monitor post-electoral violence in 2007, and now in Syria to map the humanitarian situation based on first-person accounts from Facebook and YouTube (http://crisis.net/projects/Syria-tracker/)



### 5.0 THEME 3: DEVELOPMENT: INNOVATING FOR FINANCING FOR GENDER EQUALITY<sup>3</sup>

5.1 Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls is at the heart of development. This has been fully recognised in the new sustainable development agenda and at the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa in 2015.

## **Related Sustainable Development Goals**

5.a Undertake reforms **to give women equal rights to economic resources**, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources in accordance with national laws

1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions

8.5 **By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men**, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of **high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age,** race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

5.2 However, in order to achieve such goals; to translate political commitments and legal frameworks into reality; resources must be mobilised, as emphasised in the 131<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly outcome document –

"Putting laws into practice remains the key challenge. Appropriate mechanisms must be envisaged in domestic law and budgets must be scrutinised to ensure that adequate financial and human resources are allocated to the effective implementation of legislation."

<sup>3</sup> <u>http://www.ipu.org/splz-e/wmnspk15.htm</u>

- 5.3 Moreover, investing in women and gender equality pays off. Women reinvest 90% of their income in their families and communities, compared to only 30% to 40% in the case of men; in some African countries, children of mothers who have spent five years in primary education are 40% more likely to live beyond the age of five. And still, gender equality is largely under-resourced and under-financed.
- 5.4 To advance women's rights and gender equality, priority-setting is as important in national budget allocation and taxation policies as it is in financial and development assistance. But for national as well as international financial policies and bodies to be gender-responsive they must be transparent. Their ability to promote women's economic empowerment and gender equality must also be considered in analysing aid effectiveness and monitoring national spending.
- 5.5 It is of particular concern that economic crises have had a negative impact on the share of resources allocated to redress gender inequalities. Austerity policies cannot be considered gender-neutral; their gender impact needs to be scrutinised closely.

### 5.6 Accountability of national bodies

In Morocco, a new law on finance legally institutionalises gender equality throughout the budget process and requires that a gender report be prepared as part of the annual Finance Bill. In Nepal, the introduction of gender-responsive budgeting has led to an increase in gender-responsive resource allocation, from 11% in 2007 to 22% in 2011. Much of the focus has been placed on improved public services for women and girls. This practice may have had an impact on official development assistance to Nepal, 67% of which focused on gender equality in 2012-13. In Iraq, by contrast, only 14% of aid targets gender equality.

### 5.7 Accountability of international finance and development bodies

Most OECD donor countries now report on the share of their development assistance dedicated to gender equality. In 2012-13 gender equality was included as a component of 30%, on average, of the aid provided by reporting countries but as a principal objective of only 9%.

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In 2014, a Gender Equality Community of Practice for Finance Ministers was set up and now includes Jamaica, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Romania, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste, working in close connection with the World Bank, UN Women and UK development assistance. Though not its main purpose, this community can serve as a platform for making international financial and development policies more accountable for gender-responsiveness.

The new Global Financing Facility ('GFF') in support of every woman every child, which relies partly on private funding to promote maternal and child health, has created an additional institution to finance gender equality.

5.8 Monitoring the impact of national budgets, development aid and financial policies from a gender perspective is also very crucial and relevant towards achieving gender equality and women empowerment.



Madam Speaker, Hon. Dr. Jiko Luveni chairing Theme 3: Development: Innovating for financing for gender equality.

## 6.0 SUMMARY OF ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

### 6.1 Capacity-building

The Meeting signifies that there is a greater need for women to be part of and be responsible for more roles in national institutions, particularly the decision-making processes and bodies. There needs to be more initiatives on capacity-building for women in the area of balancing the gender scale and at the same time gain exposure 11

and leadership skills. There is a need for women parliamentarians to develop their parliamentary skills to enable them to better achieve their full potential.

### 6.2 Awareness-raising

There needs to be a continued support for the existing, and the establishment of, civic education programs on the roles of parliaments and parliamentarians and their potential to break down stereotypes about gender and leadership. Moreover, the public needs to be aware and understand the importance of learning about the distinction between "sex" and "gender" and how beliefs can shape societies.

## 6.3 Networking

There needs to be an appreciation of the opportunity the Meeting provides to the women Speakers to share their experiences as presiding officers and work together to overcome challenges in achieving gender equality in Parliaments.

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## 7.0 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 Parliament is invited to note the content of the report and annexures.

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Tenth Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament INNOVATING FOR GENDER EQUALITY:

Making development, peace and democracy a reality for women and men

> United Nations Headquarters, New York, 29-30 August 2015 Organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union

## **Summary Report**

## by Ms. S. B. Hanoomanjee, Speaker of the National Assembly (Mauritius)

We, women Speakers of Parliament from 23 countries gathered on 29 and 30 August 2015 on the occasion of our 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Women Speakers, organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

We debated "Innovating for gender equality", with a view to identifying key strategies and action to step up progress. Our debates also aimed to feed into the deliberations and outcome of the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament.

Gender equality is at the heart of democracy, peace and sustainable development. It is a matter of human rights, human dignity, justice and good governance. It is undeniable that progress has been achieved at many levels and in many spheres but today no country can claim to have realised full equality between men and women. Women account for half the world's population, two parliaments have a majority of women in parliament (Rwanda and Bolivia) and one has equal numbers of men and women members (Andorra) but yet women make up only 22 per cent of parliamentarians worldwide and 16 per cent of Speakers of Parliament. Women continue to earn systematically less than men for the same work, and millions of girls are prevented from attending school. The scourge of violence against women remains a key issue in every country and internationally.

Gender inequality holds all our countries back, and the struggle to overcome it must therefore be a priority for each and every one of us - both men and women - as we embark on and commit to the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

#### The power of collective action

We strongly believe in the power of change and collective action.

For this power of change to make a meaningful impact, women's share in politics has to be equal to men's share. There can be no democracy without equality between men and women in decision-making in all spheres and at all levels. Efficient policy-making is handicapped by not being sufficiently representative and inclusive.

Affirmative action has paved and continues to pave the way for progress. Maximizing its impact will require political will and effective enforcement. In our Parliaments and Governments, we need to open up all policy areas, including finance and defence, to the contribution of women. We also need to ensure that the work environment is conducive to the participation of men and women and transform institutions, such as parliaments, into gender-sensitive ones.

The power of change is also contingent on our collective action. Solidarity among women has proven to be key to many successes on the road to gender equality. Experience-sharing and strategizing together are first step. Developing platforms for common action, such as women's parliamentary caucuses, is another.

We firmly believe, however, that collective action for gender equality is not the exclusive preserve of women; men, boys and girls are also key stakeholders and partners. As women leaders, we invite our male colleagues to be at the forefront of our collective engagement for equality. We recognize the value of campaigns such as the IPU's *My power for women's power* campaign and UN Women's *He for She* Campaign, as platforms to generate exchange and common action.

We call on men Speakers and men parliamentarians to become advocates for gender equality, to persuade boys and men that our countries and our world can only benefit from equal opportunities and rights and to lead by example by condemning all forms of discrimination, stereotypes and violence against women.

### Investing in women's empowerment

Empowering women is a determining factor of progress. As long as inequalities between men and women remain in the economic sphere, the family, schools and universities, science or access to technology, all of our countries will not reach their full development potential. Gender-sensitive policies need to become the norm instead of the exception.

Women's rights cannot be forgotten even before they become a reality. Yet many women are not aware of their human rights. Education and awareness-raising are key to building knowledge among women on their socio-economic, cultural, civic and political rights. This knowledge has to reach all women, and in particular the most vulnerable groups such as rural women, women with disabilities and the poor.

The economic empowerment of women is a priority, without which women cannot reach their potential and contribute to their country's development, especially as they are more vulnerable to abuse and discrimination. We need to craft policies and legislation that secure access to property and land rights for women, as well as access to loans.

#### **Changing mentalities**

The swift progress we desire for gender equality implies challenging mindsets and changing mentalities.

There are persistent and deep cultural practices and beliefs that constitute major challenges to achieving gender equality in all spheres and all countries. We need to step up both our collective and individual action to change mentalities, challenging traditional social and gender roles.

Communication is at the heart of change. The media and social media could be better used to communicate more on gender equality. These can be powerful vehicles for change if used in a responsible and non-discriminatory manner, avoiding stereotypes. Our parliaments should develop stronger communication strategies on gender equality, open spaces for debates on electronic platforms and reach out more proactively to communities and the grassroots.

More attention needs to be paid to working closely with communities – bridging the gap that is often felt by citizens between them and their representatives. Bringing parliaments, and in particular women Speakers, to the people, will help change mentalities. Initiatives aimed at facilitating access to Speakers, such as Speaker time, enhancing interaction between MPs and citizens, such as rural parliaments, should be further developed.

The most pressing priority is to reach out to girls and boys and to educate them about gender equality. We firmly believe that gender equality should be part of school curricula. Educating boys and girls on human rights and gender equality from an early age would help to instil a culture of non-violence and respect in relations between the sexes. Educational materials used in the schools must also be reviewed in order to eliminate stereotypes. Beyond the education system, our young need to learn by seeing men and women leaders, as well as men and women in their communities, lead by example and promote equality and respect in their speech, behaviour and acts.

We have the power to open a space for debate and as leaders and women Speakers, we have the responsibility to place sensitive issues squarely on the political and public agenda, tackling taboos and

encouraging dialogue and exchange. Issues that have been perceived until now as private matters such as marital rape or child marriage should be on the public agenda if we want to curb existing practices and behaviours that hold women back. Debate is the starting point for building understanding and effecting a change in mentality. We should lead the way in prompting such dialogue.

### Ending violence against women - A priority

The most extreme violation of women's rights is violence against women. No nation is spared; the latest global and regional estimates by the World Health Organization show that one out of every three women worldwide has experienced intimate partner violence or sexual violence by someone other than a partner.

Whether in the public or the private sphere, violence against women and girls in all its forms and manifestations robs them of their dignity, violates their fundamental rights, damages their health, reduces their productivity and prevents them from achieving their full potential. It also has significant consequences for peace and security and a negative impact on development.

Addressing violence against women is a complex issue that requires profound change. It means looking at power relations, addressing patriarchy, changing mentalities, and challenging the social roles and stereotypes that we have internalized, including those related to men. It also means enabling women to take ownership of their lives, their bodies and their destinies.

Addressing violence against women requires crafting comprehensive legislation and policies that address all forms of violence and include prevention, criminalization and reparation. More generally, a legal framework that is non-discriminatory, supports women's empowerment and addresses all forms of discrimination contributes to achieving gender equality and eradicating violence against women. Parliamentary and governmental action can build on international and regional commitments such as the Convention for the elimination of all forms of discriminations against women and the Istanbul Convention.

Discrimination and violence against women and girls are exacerbated during conflict. Fighting the root causes of such practices will ultimately make for more peaceful societies.

2015 marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, peace and security. This provides a perfect opportunity to take stock of progress made, build on best practices and ensure renewed commitment in this area. Only a small group of countries have so far developed national action plans on this resolution. We need to take this up in our respective countries and see to it that appropriate legislation and resources are secured to facilitate the implementation of this and other resolutions on women, peace and security.

In light of the alarming reports of current violations of women's rights in conflict situations, we must take urgent action at the national, regional and international levels to protect women and ensure that survivors receive the support they require.

Prevention should be enhanced through the training of peace-keeping missions on gender equality and violence against women. These should include a gender unit to better meet the needs of women and girls who face increased risk of violence in conflict situations. Some countries innovated by sending all-female peace units to conflict areas, sending a strong signal about what priorities need to be addressed. These missions should be held up to the highest standards and accountable for any crimes committed.

Early warning systems should be developed or strengthened to prevent violence. In specific contexts such as camps, initiatives focusing on men, providing them with support and attention, have proven to be useful.

For victims first and foremost, additional efforts must be deployed to ensure they have access to justice and reparation and perpetrators are prosecuted. Post-conflict trauma should be given more attention as part of a common strategy to provide victims with medical care and counselling and so help them rebuild their lives.

Achieving gender equality and ending violence against women is the responsibility of both men and women. It is a public issue. Men are part and parcel of the solution; they should take an active part in the debate and stand up for women's rights. The silent majority of non-violent men must speak out now and assume their responsibilities alongside women.

### **Oversight role of parliaments**

As women Speakers and parliamentarians, our action for gender equality has to be vocal both at the local and the global level. We hold our governments to account on all matters and should exercise our oversight on gender equality. We need to question policies and legislation from a gender perspective and to mainstream gender in the functioning of our parliaments.

To take up this task, it is crucial to be able to rely on sex-disaggregated data and gender impact studies. Such tools can better inform our debates and decision-making in all matters before us. Assessment of the implementation of policies, legislation and plans of action are key steps in policymaking for gender equality. We need to draw conclusions and policy orientations based on lessons learned. Here again, political will and commitment among politicians are crucial ingredients.

### Financing for gender equality

It is undeniable that advancing gender equality will require adequate financing. Gender budgeting needs to become a norm as it can provide a comprehensive and coordinated framework to set gender equality objectives, allocate adequate resources and monitor progress. Development cooperation can and should also embody and deliver for gender equality. International financial institutions can greatly contribute to placing gender equality at the heart of development policies, programmes and plans.

We are convinced that joint, coordinated and strong action will bring about change and request the parliamentary community to work together to achieve gender equality in one generation.





Inter-Parliamentary Union For democracy For everyone

# Tenth Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament

## INNOVATING FOR GENDER EQUALITY: Making development, peace and democracy a reality for women and men

United Nations Headquarters, New York, 29-30 August 2015 Organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union

## **DRAFT AGENDA**

10 – 10.15 am	Celebrating ten years of Meetings of Women Speakers - Welcome remarks by IPU President
10.15 – 10.45 am	Keynote address – Ms. Jody Williams, Nobel Peace Price Winner and Chair of Nobel Women's Initiative The keynote address will be followed by a short question and answer session
10.45 am – 1 pm	Theme 1: Democracy: Innovating for more gender inclusive decision making processes and bodies
	In every country sustained progress in women's access to leadership and decision-making positions, be it in public or private arenas, remains a challenge. In the political arena, only 16% of Parliaments are headed by a woman, globally only 22% of parliamentarians are women and only 17% of ministerial portfolios are held by women. Barriers remain despite growing acknowledgement that democracy and development can only benefit from gender balance in decision-making processes and bodies. Research has found parliaments and local councils to better deliver on gender equality when women are represented in higher numbers and hold higher decision-making positions. Further research has shown that companies with more women on their boards outperform their rivals.
	For the glass ceiling to be broken, an enabling environment and legal framework are necessary, and so is a shift in standards and mindsets within institutions and in the household.
	Multi-sector innovative approaches shall be explored and thoroughly discussed around the following areas:
	<ul> <li>Women leaders in parliament. How best can one tap on women MPs' potential to act as role models? What other innovative means can contribute to enhancing women's participation in parliament?</li> </ul>
	- Women leaders in the private sector: What new incitement measures are there to be tested? Are quotas the answer?
	<ul> <li>Gender-sensitive institutions. How can gender-sensitive policies, procedures and practices in parliament or in the private sector offer avenues to promote women's leadership?</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Redefining roles: How to engage men in sharing household responsibilities. Innovating to promote a shift in mentalities.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Presentations by:</li> <li>Rt. Hon the Baroness F. D'Souza, Lord Speaker of the House of Lords (United Kingdom)</li> <li>Ms. I. Murniece, Speaker of the Saeima (Latvia)</li> <li>Ms. V. Macamo Dhlovo, Speaker of Parliament (Mozambique)</li> <li>Ms. L. Milebou Aubusson, President of the Senate (Gabon)</li> <li>Ms. L. Boldrini, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies (Italy)</li> <li>Ms. E. Radiszewska, Deputy Marshal of the Sejm (Poland)</li> </ul>

1 – 2.30 pm	<ul> <li>Ms. T. Modise, Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (South Africa)</li> <li>Ms. Z. Konstantopoulou, President of the Hellenic Parliament (Greece)</li> <li>Ms. S. B. Hanoomanjee, Speaker of the National Assembly (Mauritius)</li> <li>Ms. N. Motsamai, Speaker of the National Assembly (Lesotho)</li> <li>Ms. T. Tsacheva-Dangovska, Speaker of the National Assembly (Bulgaria)</li> <li>Presentations will be followed by an open debate.</li> <li>Hosted buffet lunch at the Vienna Café, UN Headquarters</li> </ul>
2.30 – 3 pm	Group photo. Meeting point at the Vienna Café
3 – 5.30 pm	Theme 2: Peace: Innovating to end violence against women and harmful practices, in particular in conflict situations Violence against women (VAW), as well as harmful practices such as child, early and force marriages and female genital mutilations, find their root in patriarchal settings that legitimized discriminatory attitudes and unequal gender social norms. Such violence and practices are exacerbated during conflict; therefore women's contribution to peace processes is of paramount importance and so is an effective response to VAW that occurs during conflict. Security Council resolution 1325 provides an essential benchmark in this respect. Beyond conflict, in order to shift patterns that are conducive to VAW, a transformative approach is needed. Innovation is key including through approaches focusing on prevention, engaging men and youth as well as using ICTs and the media.
	Areas for discussion will include:
	<ul> <li>Innovative approaches to implement UNSCR 1325 and to prevent and respond to violence against women and harmful practices in conflict and post-conflict settings</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Innovative ways to engage men and youth.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Innovative ways to engage women in peace-building and reconciliation.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Innovative use of ICTs and the media – including the social media – in view of changing attitudes and stereotypes that are conducive to or condone gender-based violence.</li> </ul>
	Presentations by: Ms. L. Grauziniene, Speaker of the Parliament (Lithuania) Ms. R. Kadaga, Speaker of Parliament (Uganda) Ms. D. Bures, President of the National Council (Austria) Ms. G. Kokorwe, Speaker of the National Assembly (Botswana) Ms. T. Efua Asangono, President of the Senate (Equatorial Guinea)
	Presentations will be followed by an open debate.
7 to 9 pm	Cocktail reception for women Speakers hosted by the IPU President, the IPU Secretary General and the Speakerof the Chamber of Deputies of Italy, held at the residence of the Ambassador of Italy to the United Nations.
Sunday, 30 August	
10 – 11.45 am	<ul> <li>Theme 3: Development: Innovating for financing for gender equality</li> <li>Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls is at the heart of development and achieving sustainable development goals. National budgets, as much as financial and development policies are essential to the implementation of gender-equality laws and policies. Particular attention is to be paid to these measures' potential to promote women's economic empowerment. Gender-responsiveness and transparency of budgetary and financial policies are key aspects in ensuring any gender-related goals are achieved.</li> <li>Areas for discussion will include:         <ul> <li>Accountability of national bodies. Innovating to ensure gender-responsive national budgets and adequate resource allocation to implement gender equality laws and policies.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

12:15 – 1 pm	Input to the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament A report on the meeting will be presented, followed by a discussion among participants on their specific contribution to the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament.
11.45 a.m. – 12:15 pm	
	Presentations will be followed by an open debate.
	<ul> <li>Presentations by:</li> <li>Ms. B. Mbete, Speaker of the National Assembly (South Africa)</li> <li>Ms. K. Ifill, President of the Senate (Barbados)</li> <li>Ms. A. Makinda, President of the National Assembly, United Republic of Tanzania)</li> <li>Ms. M. Lohela, Speaker of Parliament (Finland)</li> <li>Ms. S. Mahajan, Speaker of the Lok Sabha (India)</li> <li>Ms. E. Madzongwe, President of the Senate (Zimbabwe)</li> <li>Ms. D. Mukabalisa, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies (Rwanda)</li> </ul>
	Specific attention will be placed, as a case study, on financing and accountability for maternal, newborn and child health, an issue discussed at the Sixth Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament. The World Health Organization's Director of Reproductive Health and Research, Dr. M. Temmerman, will give some introductory remarks on progress achieved in that regard and objectives for the coming years.
	- How to avoid setbacks on financing for gender equality due to economic crises?
	- How to mitigate the impact of economic and budgetary policies on gender equality?
	<ul> <li>Monitoring the impact of national budgets, development aid and financial policies from a gender perspective. What innovative strategies can be experimented?</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Accountability of international finance and development bodies. Innovative ways to ensure parliamentary oversight of how policies are shaped and implemented.</li> </ul>





Inter-Parliamentary Union Fordemonacy for prevane

# **Tenth Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament**

INNOVATING FOR GENDER EQUALITY: Making development, peace and democracy a reality for women and men

> UN Headquarters, New York, 29-30 August 2015 Organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union

# LIST OF PARTICIPANTS /

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Mr. Saber Chowdhury President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Président de l'Union interparlementaire

Mr. Martin Chungong Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Secrétaire général de l'Union interparlementaire

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