



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Achieving Gender Equality: Implementing the Road Map of Beijing

A parliamentary event organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and UN Women on the occasion of the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

11 March 2015, UN Headquarters, New York



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

DRAFT AGENDA

11 March 2015

10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Welcome remarks

- Mr Martin Chungong, Secretary General, IPU
- Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director, UN Women

10:30am – 1:00pm

Session 1. Reaching the Platform: What more is required to achieve gender equality?

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was adopted in 1995 by 189 governments as a comprehensive affirmation of women's rights and empowerment. Twenty years later, it remains only partially fulfilled. This session will look at the remaining obstacles to implementing the Platform.

Parliamentarians are requested to respond to the following questions:

- Which specific actions remain to be implemented from the Beijing Platform?
- What new social and cultural norms have developed over the past 20 years, impeding the full implementation of the Platform for Action?
- What resources – financial and logistical – do parliamentarians need to be able to implement remaining priority actions?

Presentations will be followed by an open debate.

1:00 – 2:45pm

Lunch break

2:45 – 4:15pm

Session 2. Partnerships for gender equality

A key lesson in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action has been the need to create strategic partnerships with a variety of stakeholders, including civil society, youth, men and the media. In many parliaments, synergies created with these stakeholders has led to faster and more sustainable progress.

Parliamentarians are requested to respond to the following questions:

- How have parliamentarians effectively engaged civil society organisations and women's organisations to implement the 12 Critical Areas?
- How have parliamentarians engaged and inspired young people to address gender equality?
- What actions have men parliamentarians taken to achieve gender equality?
- What good practices have parliaments and MPs employed to encourage the media to report on gender equality and women's empowerment, without resorting to negative gender stereotypes.

Presentations will be followed by an open debate.

4:15 – 5:45pm Session 3. Driving global change: women’s leadership in international fora

That women should be included in leadership and decision-making processes is now widely accepted as a human right. With their increasing inclusion, the benefits brought about by women’s leadership have also become acknowledged and documented, and political and development priorities have shifted. This includes in the arena of international policy development.

Parliamentarians are requested to respond to the following questions:

- How have parliamentarians advocated for, and contributed to, gender mainstreaming in major international dialogues and resolutions such as those on peace and security, population and development or climate change?
- What are the obstacles to women’s inclusion in high-level international fora and what strategies can be used to circumvent those obstacles (e.g. TSMs for women’s participation in global leadership, fast-track promotion routes, etc.)?
- What are the lessons learned in ensuring women are able to express their voice at international decision-making tables and influence global decision-making?

Presentations will be followed by an open debate.

5:45 – 6:00pm Concluding remarks