



The Role of Parliaments in Enforcing Gender Equality and Women's Rights: 15 years after Beijing

A parliamentary event organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women on the occasion of the 54th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women



2 March 2010, UN Headquarters, New York

ANNOTATED AGENDA

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- 10.00 - 10.15** *Opening*
Inter-parliamentary Union
United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women
- 10.15 - 10.30** **Keynote address**
Fifteen years after Beijing, how much progress has been achieved in terms of gender equality and women's rights?
Ms. Rachel Mayanja, Assistant-Secretary General and Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, United Nations
- 10.30 - 11.45** **Session 1: Women in parliament: The first step for progress**
- Progress and setbacks of women in politics over the past 15 years
- Overview of mechanisms to promote women's political participation
Ms. Julie Ballington, Programme Specialist, Inter-Parliamentary Union
Prof. Drude Dahlerup, Stockholm University, Sweden
- 11.45 - 1 p.m.** **Session 2: Building a gender-sensitive national legal framework**
- Reviewing discriminatory legislation: How, and what mechanisms are available?
- Developing legislation to implement Beijing commitments
Ms. R. Kadaga, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Uganda
Ms. Youla A. Haddadin, Women's rights and Gender Section, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
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- 1 pm - 3 p.m.** **Lunch break**
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- 3:00 – 3:15 p.m.** *Address by Ambassador Garen Nazarian (Armenia), Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women*
- 3.15 - 4.15 p.m.** **Session 3: Respecting women's rights: From De jure to de facto equality**
- Implementation, monitoring and evaluation: what are the parliamentary mechanism needed? What is the role of parliamentary committees?
- What is the role of members of parliament in overcoming cultural barriers and changing mentalities?
- Adopting gender-sensitive budgets and building gender-sensitive enforcement and accountability frameworks (including securing access to justice and redress).
Ms. de Béthune, Member of Parliament, Belgium
Ms. Rachel Shebesh, Member of Parliament, Kenya
- 4.15- 5.45 p.m.** **Theme 4: Building partnerships to achieve gender equality**
- Parliaments and national women's machineries
- Working with civil society
- Public -private partnerships for gender equality
Ms. Fatema Khafagy, Regional Consultant on Gender Issues, UNDP and ESCWA
Ms. Colleen Lowe Morna, Executive Director, Gender Links
- 5.45 - 6 p.m.** **Closing session**