



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women

The role of parliaments in achieving parity in decision-making and ensuring gender-responsive access to justice for women and girls

A parliamentary event organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and UN-Women at the 70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

Wednesday, 11 March 2026
ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters, New York

INFORMATION NOTE

During the 70th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70), whose priority theme is *Ensuring and strengthening access to justice for all women and girls, including by promoting inclusive and equitable legal systems, eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices, and addressing structural barriers*, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN-Women are organizing a parliamentary meeting entitled:

The role of parliaments in achieving parity in decision-making and ensuring gender-responsive access to justice for women and girls

The meeting will take place on **Wednesday, 11 March 2026**, from 10:00 to 12:45 and from 15:00 to 17:30 in the ECOSOC Chamber, at the UN Headquarters, in New York.

Objectives

In keeping with its policy of contributing to major international forums by seeking to introduce a parliamentary dimension into the proceedings of intergovernmental organizations, the IPU is organizing this one-day meeting jointly with UN-Women to provide a forum for debate on the above topic between parliamentarians from all over the world, and to contribute to the deliberations of CSW70.

The Parliamentary Meeting will provide a platform to examine the role of parliaments in achieving parity representation in decision-making, eliminating discriminatory laws, addressing gaps between legal frameworks and their implementation, combatting impunity for violence against women, and strengthening accountability and enforcement across justice systems. The meeting will offer an opportunity for members of parliament from around the world to share perspectives and practices in ensuring that justice reforms respond to the lived realities of women and girls in all their diversity, and to contribute to building justice systems that are resilient, accessible and rights-based.

The concept note, the meeting agenda and other relevant documents are available at this [link](#).

Expected outcome

A brief message to the CSW70 will be issued, stressing areas for priority action, with particular emphasis on the role of parliaments.

Relevant documents

Background documents to be used throughout the meeting include:

- Written contributions of the panellists, when available
- CSW70 documents, when available.

Participants

The participants in the parliamentary event will include:

- Parliamentarians present in New York who are participating at CSW70 as members of their respective delegations. The IPU Secretary General will be extending a letter of invitation to the Parliamentary Meeting to all IPU Member Parliaments and non-member Parliaments.
- Representatives of governments, relevant organizations and funds of the United Nations system, and civil society.

Programme
Wednesday, 11 March 2026

09:45–10:00	Arrival of delegates
10:00–10:20	Opening remarks & official launch of the map <i>Women in Politics: 2026</i>
10:20–12:45	Session 1: Advancing access to justice for all women and girls: Intersectional approaches and parliamentary action
12:45–15:00	Lunch break
15:00–17:00	Session 2: Gender-sensitive, parity parliaments as institutions of change: Reflections of the CSW Review Theme (CSW65 Agreed Conclusions)
17:00–17:30	Wrap up and concluding remarks

Languages

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in four languages: Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

Access badges for United Nations Headquarters

Security arrangements during General Assembly sessions are very strict and no one may enter the United Nations premises without a special badge (for delegates and visitors). In keeping with normal practice, delegations and diplomatic missions in New York will attend to all matters relating to visas, UN badges, hotel reservations and transportation.

Participants must therefore request their badge from their country's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.

Registration for the meeting

Persons wishing to participate in the parliamentary event are urged to register as soon as possible using the online form available at [this link](#). If you require any additional information regarding registration, please contact Ms. Marie-Graziella NGUINI (e-mail: mgn@ipu.org / Phone: +41 22 919 41 45) and Mr. Ilias TROCHIDIS (e-mail: gender@ipu.org / Phone: +30 69 445 141 55).

Informal side-event(s)

In addition to the parliamentary meeting, the IPU will be organizing side events in the course of the first week of the CSW70. Additional information will be provided soon.