



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

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Report of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (45th session January - February 2010)

1. This report is divided into two sections. **The first** provides information on initiatives taken by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) since the Committee's last session in July - August 2009 to enhance the role of parliaments in overseeing proper implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). **The second** provides country specific information on the evolution of women's participation in parliament, on parliamentary structures dealing with gender issues and on the level of each parliament's involvement in the CEDAW reporting process and follow-up. It also provides information on women in the executive and the existence of special measures to promote women's political participation.

1. IPU activities and parliamentary involvement in the CEDAW reporting process

2. The IPU plays an active role in promoting the Convention and its Optional Protocol within the parliamentary community. In recognition of the Convention's importance and comprehensive nature, the IPU endeavours to ensure that parliaments and their members provide effective oversight of and contribute to its full implementation.

Follow-up to 44th session of the Committee

3. As a follow up to the 44th session of the Committee, the IPU Secretary General wrote to all parliaments of the countries whose reports had been considered, forwarding them the concluding comments made by the Committee. The letter encouraged them to discuss the report and concluding comments in parliament and to ensure adequate follow-up.

Level of Parliamentary involvement: 45th session of the Committee

4. The IPU Secretary General sent letters to the parliaments whose country's periodic report will be examined at the Committee's 45th session, encouraging them to follow the Committee's work and provide input into it.

5. A questionnaire was also addressed to the parliaments concerned enquiring about their involvement in the CEDAW reporting process. The few responses received from parliaments are included in the country descriptions in section II.

Technical assistance with regard to CEDAW

6. The IPU carries out technical assistance projects in a variety of countries aimed at enhancing parliament's capacities. Training of parliaments and their members in ensuring the Convention's implementation is also mainstreamed in IPU technical assistance projects.

Since the Committee's last session, the following activities related to CEDAW and Parliaments were implemented:

- a. **National seminar on CEDAW in Rwanda (November 2009):** A national seminar for rwandan parliamentarians was organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Rwandan Parliament and the Forum of Rwandan Women Parliamentarians. MPs met for two days to take stock of the status of implementation of the CEDAW in their country and discuss follow up to the Committee's concluding comments. Representatives of government agencies and civil society organizations also participated in the

event. The participants highlighted that despite some progress, the achievement of gender equality remained a slow process and important challenges had to be addressed in the country, notably in the areas of sensitizing the public about equality and making women aware of their rights. The meeting identified the following priority actions for parliaments: making use of sex-disaggregated data, eliminating discriminatory provisions from the Criminal Code, the Labour Code and the Commercial Code and meeting the specific needs of the most vulnerable women.

- b. **Reviewing discriminatory legislation in Jordan (October 2009):** A working group, composed of men and women parliamentarians and representatives of the National Centre for Human Rights and the National Commission for Women, met for the third time at the Jordanian House of Representatives to coordinate efforts to remove discriminatory provisions from the country's laws. The group discussed the results of the recent review of the Criminal Procedure Code and agreed to continue working towards the identification and removal of discriminatory provisions from the Social Security Act, the Criminal Code and the Personal Status Act. The group decided that it would organize the presentation of Jordan's preliminary country report on the implementation of CEDAW to parliament for debate in December 2009 before it is submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The group's meeting was part of a series of activities conducted by the Jordanian House of Representatives, the IPU and UNDP aimed at strengthening parliamentary action to secure implementation of CEDAW.
- c. **IPU-OHCHR global parliamentary briefing session for MPs (October 2009):** Members of parliament from 39 countries gathered for the seventh edition of the annual parliamentary seminar on women's rights, which this year focused on *Celebrating CEDAW and its Optional Protocol: 30 years improving women's rights*. The seminar, organized by the IPU and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, served to take stock of achievements and progress in the field of women's rights 30 years after the CEDAW was adopted and identify remaining challenges. Special attention was paid to the Optional Protocol to the Convention and in particular to what it has achieved for women since it was adopted over ten years ago.

Support to Parliament in ending violence against women

7. As part of its campaign *Parliaments Take Action on Violence against Women*, the IPU carried out a series of activities aimed at supporting parliaments in enhancing their efforts to put an end to violence against women. These include:

- a. **Regional parliamentary seminar (December 2009):** The IPU jointly organised with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) a regional parliamentary seminar on the question of migration and violence against women in Europe. Hosted by the French National Assembly in Paris, debates focused on migrant women's heightened vulnerability to gender-based violence within their family, their community and in the host community. Participants also discussed effective responses to problems such as gender-based persecution and asylum, human trafficking, and economic exploitation of migrant women. To conclude the meeting, participants identified seven main areas for parliamentary action and follow-up at the national level. The results of the meeting can be found in annex II. Ms D. Simonovic and Ms. N. Ameline took part in the meeting as experts, making the link with different CEDAW provisions and recommendations.
- b. **Parliamentary mobilisation to mark 25 November:** The IPU called on parliaments to mark the 10th anniversary of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women by organizing events on or around 25 November 2009 in Parliaments. Some 30 Parliaments responded to the call and organised meetings and events on that occasion. The list of initiatives taken can be found at: <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/vaw/day.htm>.
- c. **Production of campaign material and support tools for Parliaments:** The IPU produced campaign material as well as a short practical guidance document for parliaments on initiatives they could take to put an end to VAW. The guidance note includes examples of good parliamentary practices from around the world. The material can be downloaded from the IPU website at: <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/vaw/day.htm>

Review of progress made in terms of women's political participation

8. Meeting in Geneva for their fourth annual conference, some 80 members of parliamentary committees dealing with gender issues and women's rights from 35 countries discussed women's political participation 15 years after the Beijing Platform for Action. The objective of the meeting was to answer an apparently simple question: is parliament open to women? Debates focused on three approaches: assessing progress and identifying challenges (1) in terms of numbers and access to Parliament; (2) in terms of women's qualitative participation in Parliament and (3) in terms of Parliament's level of gender-sensitivity. Participants discussed strategies and mechanisms to politically empower women. Results of the meeting will feed into preparations for the Beijing + 15 review which will be held in March 2010.

II. Country-specific information on women in Parliament

World and regional perspectives

9. As at 30 November 2009, the world average of women in parliament, both Houses combined, stands at 18.6% (18.7% in Lower or Single Houses and 17.5% in Upper Houses). The world average (both Houses combined) was 11.3% in 1995 and 13.8% in 2000.

10. A statistical breakdown by region of women in parliament is provided in the following table (situation valid at 30 November 2009):

	Single House or lower House	Upper House or Senate	Both Houses combined
Nordic countries	42.5%	---	---
Americas	22.4%	19.9%	22.0%
Europe - OSCE member countries including Nordic countries	21.5%	19.4%	21.1%
Europe - OSCE member countries excluding Nordic countries	19.5%	19.4%	19.5%
Asia	18.5%	16.7%	18.4%
Sub-Saharan Africa	17.6%	21.0%	18.0%
Pacific	13.0%	32.6%	15.2%
Arab States	10.0%	7.3%	9.4%
<i>Regions are classified by descending order of the percentage of women in the lower or single House</i>			

11. With regard to women Presiding officers, the situation is as follows as at November 2009

- Only **36 women** preside over one of the Houses of the 187 existing Parliaments, 76 of which are bicameral.
- The countries concerned are: **Albania** (People's Assembly); **Antigua and Barbuda** (House of Representatives and Senate); **Austria** (Nationalrat); **Bahamas** (Senate); **Belize** (Senate); **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (House of Peoples); **Botswana** (National Assembly); **Bulgaria** (Naradno Schranie); **Dominica** (House of Assembly); **Estonia** (Riigikogu); **Gabon** (Senate); **Gambia** (National Assembly); **Ghana** (Parliament); **Grenada** (Senate); **Iceland** (Althingi); **India** (Lok Sabha); **Lesotho** (National Assembly); **Lithuania** (Seimas); **Netherlands** (Twede Kamer der Staten Generaal); **Pakistan** (National Assembly); **Romania** (Chamber of Deputies); **Rwanda** (Chamber of Deputies); **Saint Kitts and Nevis** (National

Assembly); **Saint Lucia** (House of Assembly and Senate); **Serbia** (Narodna Skupstina); **Swaziland** (Senate); **Switzerland** (National Council and Council of States); **Turkmenistan** (Mejlis); **United Kingdom** (House of Lords); **United States of America** (House of Representatives); **Uzbekistan** (Legislative chamber); **Venezuela** (Asamblea Nacional); **Zimbabwe** (Senate).

- Women therefore occupy only **13.4%** of the total number of 269¹ posts of Presiding Officers of Parliament or of one of its Houses.
- Between August 2009 and January 2010, three countries, Lithuania, Botswana and Mozambique, elected for the first time in their history a women to the post of presiding officer of Parliament.

12. Quotas and the percentage of women in parliament

The following table provides information on the number of countries having adopted a quota system. It also links the percentage of women MPs in the countries concerned to the quota system adopted. For information on quotas and countries with more than 30% women in Parliament please see annex III.

Countries		Women in Parliament
13.8%	Legislated Candidate Quotas	22.1%
6.9%	Reserved seats	
16.7%	Voluntary Political Party Quotas	20.5%
62.6%	No quotas	13.5%

Source: IDEA/ University of Stockholm/ IPU Global database of quotas for women : www.quotaproject.org

¹ The 269 presiding officer posts are comprised as follows: 257 parliamentary chambers with one presiding officer each; Three chambers with two presiding officers each (San Marino's single chamber, the US Senate and the Liberian Senate) ; Two chambers with three presiding officers each (Bosnia-Herzegovina's lower and upper chambers)

Country-specific information

BOTSWANA

Women in Parliament

Election date	Chamber	Total number of seats	Total number of women	%of women
1994	Single	40	4	10.0%
1999	Single	47	8	17.0%
2004	Single	63	7	11.1%
2009	Single	63	5	7.9%

Presiding officers

The first woman presiding officer of parliament was elected in October 2009..

Women in Ministerial positions

Date	Total positions	Number of women	Percentage
1 March 2000	15	4	26.7%
1 January 2005	15	4	26.7%
1 January 2008	18	5	27.8%

Parliamentary structures for the promotion of women's rights and gender equality

There is no specific parliamentary committee dealing with gender issues.

There is however a Botswana Caucus for Women in Politics.

Temporary Special Measures

There are no legislated quotas. The following voluntary party quotas are implemented:

- a. Botswana Congress Party: In 1999 the Botswana Congress Party introduced a 30 percent quota for women on electoral lists. The party has not always met this target.
- b. Botswana National Front: In 1999 the Botswana National Front introduced a 30 percent quota for women on electoral lists. The party has not always met this target.

Note: Only political parties represented in parliament that have or have had quotas beyond the national quota legislation are presented in this table.

Source: IDEA, University of Stockholm and IPU Global database of quotas for women : www.quotaproject.org

Parliamentary involvement in the CEDAW reporting process

No response was received from Parliament.

EGYPT

Women in Parliament

Election date	Chamber	Total number of seats	Total number of women	%of women
2000	Lower	454	11	2.4%
2004	Upper	246	18	7.3%
2005	Lower	454	9	2.0%
2007	Upper	264	21	8.0%

Presiding officers

No woman has ever held this post.

Women in Ministerial positions

Date	Total positions	Number of women	Percentage
1 March 2000	33	2	6.1%
1 January 2005	34	2	5.9%
1 January 2008	31	2	6.5%

Parliamentary structures for the promotion of women's rights and gender equality

There is no specific parliamentary committee dealing with gender issues.

Temporary Special Measures

There is a legislated quota providing for a reserved seat system. The Law 38 of 1972 concerning the Egyptian People's Assembly (Lower House) was amended in June 2009 to provide 64 seats to which the nominations will be restricted to women. The total number of parliamentary seats was enhanced accordingly. From 28 governorates two women will be elected, one of whom will represent labourers and farmers, in accordance with the present 50 percent quota provision for these groups. In Cairo and Alexandria, due to the higher population, in total 8 more seats will be added. The law will be implemented during two parliamentary cycles, beginning with the next general election 2010, and will only apply to the Lower House.

Source: IDEA, University of Stockholm and IPU Global database of quotas for women : www.quotaproject.org

Parliamentary involvement in the CEDAW reporting process

No response was received from Parliament.

MALAWI

Women in Parliament

Election date	Chamber	Total number of seats	Total number of women	%of women
1999	Single	194	16	8.2%
2004	Single	185	27	14.6%
2009	Single	193	41	21.2%

Note: The total number does not include members that the Head of State may appoint.

Presiding officers

No woman has ever held this post.

Women in Ministerial positions

Date	Total positions	Number of women	Percentage
1 March 2000	34	4	11.8%
1 January 2005	21	3	14.3%
1 January 2008	21	5	23.8%

Parliamentary structures for the promotion of women's rights and gender equality

The Social and Community Affairs Committee is mandated to: investigate and report on all matters relating to all public bodies dealing with gender issues; study the programmes and policy objectives of the public bodies addressing gender issues; assess and revise relevant legislation; examine estimates of the spending of public bodies. The Committee oversees the Ministry of Gender and is empowered to evaluate the activities of all public bodies, including the summoning of officials. Work of the past years includes action on gender-based violence (Bill); Wills and inheritance (Bill); Cultural practice.

There is also a women's parliamentary caucus of the national assembly.

Parliamentary involvement in the CEDAW reporting process

No response was received from Parliament.

NETHERLANDS**Women in Parliament**

Election date	Chamber	Total number of seats	Total number of women	%of women
1998	Lower	150	54	36.0%
1999	Upper	75	21	28.0%
2002	Lower	150	51	34.0%
2003	Lower	150	55	36.7%
2003	Upper	75	24	32.0%
2006	Lower	150	55	36.7%
2007	Upper	75	26	34.7%

Presiding officers

The first woman presiding officer of parliament was elected in 1998. Since two other women have held this position, and currently the Lower House of Parliament is presided by a woman.

Women in Ministerial positions

Date	Total positions	Number of women	Percentage
1 March 2000	29	9	31.0%
1 January 2005	25	9	36.0%
1 January 2008	15	5	33.3%

Parliamentary structures for the promotion of women's rights and gender equality

There is no specific parliamentary committee dealing with gender issues in the Upper House of Parliament. No data received for the Lower House.

Temporary Special Measures

There are no legislated quotas. The following voluntary party quotas are implemented:

- Labour Party(PvdA: National lists are in principle alternated between men and women, although other concerns such as age and ethnicity are also considered. Congress has the last say on the composition of lists (1987).
- Green Left (GL) GL has quotas for women (percentage not confirmed).

Note: Only political parties represented in parliament that have or have had quotas beyond the national quota legislation are presented in this table.

Source: IDEA, University of Stockholm and IPU Global database of quotas for women : www.quotaproject.org

Parliamentary involvement in the CEDAW reporting process

Government is require to present a report to Parliament every four years on the implementation of the Convention, before the State's party's report is submitted to the Committee. The concluding comments of the Committee are also presented to Parliament.

PANAMA

Women in Parliament

Election date	Chamber	Total number of seats	Total number of women	%of women
1999	Single	72	7	9.7%
2004	Single	78	13	16.7%
2009	Single	71	6	8.4%

Presiding officers

The first woman presiding officer of parliament was elected in 1994.

Women in Ministerial positions

Date	Total positions	Number of women	Percentage
1 March 2000	30	6	20.0%
1 January 2005	14	2	14.3%
1 January 2008	13	3	23.1%

Parliamentary structures for the promotion of women's rights and gender equality

No data received.

Temporary Special Measures

There is a legislated quota. The 1997 electoral Law, provides for a 30 percent quota for internal party elections (primaries) and general elections.

Source: IDEA, University of Stockholm and IPU Global database of quotas for women : www.quotaproject.org

Parliamentary involvement in the CEDAW reporting process

No response was received from Parliament.

UKRAINE

Women in Parliament

Election date	Chamber	Total number of seats	Total number of women	%of women
1998	Single	442	35	7.9%
2002	Single	450	24	5.3%
2006	Single	450	39	8.7%
2007	Single	450	38	8.4%

Presiding officers

No woman has ever held this post.

Women in Ministerial positions

Date	Total positions	Number of women	Percentage
1 March 2000	32	2	6.3%
1 January 2005	18	1	5.6%
1 January 2008	23	1	4.3%

Parliamentary structures for the promotion of women's rights and gender equality

The Sub-Committee on international legal issues and gender policies was set up to follow gender equality issues. It is part of the Parliamentary Committee on human rights, national minorities and international relations.

Temporary special measures

At present, the draft law on "amending some laws of Ukraine (on ensuring rights and opportunities of men and women in the electoral process) is being considered by Parliament. This draft law targets introducing quotas for both genders in the voters' lists at a level of 20%,

Parliamentary involvement in the CEDAW reporting process

The Chair of the Sub-Committee on international legal issues and gender policies is a member of the Inter-Departmental Council on Family, Gender equality, Demographic Development and Fighting Human Trafficking issues. It is a constantly working organ, established by the Cabinet of Ministers, which among other things, is responsible for approving the draft report on fulfilment in Ukraine of CEDAW. Thus, through this mechanism, parliament is involved in preparing the CEDAW State report.

Furthermore, the representatives of the sub-committee, took part in the discussion of the draft of the 6th and 7th joint periodic report. For the first time the draft report was also presented to scholars and the public.

The CEDAW Committee's concluding comments on Ukraine's previous report in 2002, lead to the submission of the draft law "On Ensuring equal rights and opportunities of men and women". Ways of improving legislation on gender equality were regularly discussed by Parliament through hearings. A report of the Ombudsman of the Parliament was produced on "Compliance by Ukraine with international standards in the sphere of human rights and freedoms. The Ombudman's report served as the basis for the adoption by Parliament of several resolutions on the subject.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Women in Parliament

Election date	Chamber	Total number of seats	Total number of women	%of women
1993	Single	40	0	0.0%
2003	Single	40	0	0.0%
2006	Single	40	9	22.5%

Presiding officers

No woman has ever held this post.

Women in Ministerial positions

Date	Total positions	Number of women	Percentage
1 January 2005	18	1	5.6%
1 January 2008	25	2	8.0%

Parliamentary structures for the promotion of women's rights and gender equality

There is no specific parliamentary committee dealing with gender issues.

Parliamentary involvement in the CEDAW reporting process

No response was received from Parliament.

UZBEKISTAN

Women in Parliament

Election date	Chamber	Total number of seats	Total number of women	%of women
1999	Single	250	17	6.8%
2004	Lower	120	21	17.5%
2005	Upper	100	15	15.0%
2009	Lower	150	33	22%

Presiding officers

The first woman presiding officer of parliament was elected in 2008. She still currently presides over the Lower House of Parliament.

Women in Ministerial positions

Date	Total positions	Number of women	Percentage
1 January 2005	28	1	3.6%
1 January 2008	19	1	5.3%

Parliamentary structures for the promotion of women's rights and gender equality

There is no specific parliamentary committee dealing with gender issues.

Temporary Special Measures

There is a legislated quota. The electoral law provides that the number of women ought to be not less than 30 per cent of the total number of candidates for the election nominated by a political party (Law on Elections, Article 22). This also applies to elections at the sub-national level.

Source: IDEA, University of Stockholm and IPU Global database of quotas for women : www.quotaproject.org

Parliamentary involvement in the CEDAW reporting process

No response was received from Parliament.

Women in Parliament - World Classification
(30 November 2009)

Rank	Country	Lower or single House				Upper House or Senate			
		Elections	Seats*	Women	% W	Elections	Seats*	Women	% W
1	Rwanda	9 2008	80	45	56.3%	10 2003	26	9	34.6%
2	Sweden	9 2006	349	164	47.0%	---	---	---	---
3	South Africa ¹	4 2009	400	178	44.5%	4 2009	54	16	29.6%
4	Cuba	1 2008	614	265	43.2%	---	---	---	---
5	Iceland	4 2009	63	27	42.9%	---	---	---	---
6	Argentina	6 2009	257	107	41.6%	6 2009	72	27	37.5%
7	Finland	3 2007	200	83	41.5%	---	---	---	---
8	Netherlands	11 2006	150	62	41.3%	5 2007	75	26	34.7%
9	Norway	9 2009	169	66	39.1%	---	---	---	---
10	Denmark	11 2007	179	68	38.0%	---	---	---	---
11	Angola	9 2008	220	82	37.3%	---	---	---	---
12	Costa Rica	2 2006	57	21	36.8%	---	---	---	---
13	Spain	3 2008	350	127	36.3%	3 2008	263	79	30.0%
14	Andorra	4 2009	28	10	35.7%	---	---	---	---
15	Belgium	6 2007	150	53	35.3%	6 2007	71	27	38.0%
16	New Zealand	11 2008	122	41	33.6%	---	---	---	---
17	Nepal	4 2008	594	197	33.2%	---	---	---	---
18	Germany	9 2009	622	204	32.8%	N.A.	69	15	21.7%
19	Ecuador	4 2009	124	40	32.3%	---	---	---	---
20	Belarus	9 2008	110	35	31.8%	7 2008	56	19	33.9%
21	Uganda	2 2006	326	102	31.3%	---	---	---	---
22	Burundi	7 2005	118	36	30.5%	7 2005	49	17	34.7%
23	United Republic of Tanzania	12 2005	319	97	30.4%	---	---	---	---
24	Guyana	8 2006	70	21	30.0%	---	---	---	---
25	Timor-Leste	6 2007	65	19	29.2%	---	---	---	---
26	Switzerland	10 2007	200	57	28.5%	10 2007	46	10	21.7%
27	The F.Y.R. of Macedonia	6 2008	120	34	28.3%	---	---	---	---
28	Mexico	7 2009	500	141	28.2%	7 2006	128	23	18.0%
29	Austria	9 2008	183	51	27.9%	N.A.	61	15	24.6%
30	Afghanistan	9 2005	242	67	27.7%	9 2005	102	22	21.6%
31	Tunisia	10 2009	214	59	27.6%	8 2008	112	17	15.2%
32	Peru	4 2006	120	33	27.5%	---	---	---	---
33	Portugal	9 2009	230	63	27.4%	---	---	---	---
34	Trinidad and Tobago	11 2007	41	11	26.8%	12 2007	31	13	41.9%

35	Australia	11 2007	150	40	26.7%	11 2007	76	27	35.5%
36	Viet Nam	5 2007	493	127	25.8%	---	---	---	---
37	Republic of Moldova	7 2009	101	26	25.7%	---	---	---	---
38	Kyrgyzstan	12 2007	90	23	25.6%	---	---	---	---
39	Iraq	12 2005	275	70	25.5%	---	---	---	---
"	Suriname	5 2005	51	13	25.5%	---	---	---	---
40	Lao People's Democratic Republic	4 2006	115	29	25.2%	---	---	---	---
41	Monaco	2 2008	24	6	25.0%	---	---	---	---
42	Singapore	5 2006	94	23	24.5%	---	---	---	---
43	Lesotho	2 2007	119	29	24.4%	3 2007	28	6	21.4%
44	Liechtenstein	2 2009	25	6	24.0%	---	---	---	---
45	Seychelles	5 2007	34	8	23.5%	---	---	---	---
46	Pakistan	2 2008	338	76	22.5%	3 2009	100	17	17.0%
"	United Arab Emirates	12 2006	40	9	22.5%	---	---	---	---
47	Canada	10 2008	308	68	22.1%	N.A.	93	32	34.4%
"	Mauritania	11 2006	95	21	22.1%	11 2009	56	?	#VALEU
48	Eritrea	2 1994	150	33	22.0%	---	---	---	---
"	Senegal	6 2007	150	33	22.0%	8 2007	100	40	40.0%
49	Ethiopia	5 2005	529	116	21.9%	10 2005	112	21	18.8%
50	Serbia	5 2008	250	54	21.6%	---	---	---	---
51	China	3 2008	2987	637	21.3%	---	---	---	---
"	Italy	4 2008	630	134	21.3%	4 2008	322	58	18.0%
52	Cambodia	7 2008	123	26	21.1%	1 2006	61	9	14.8%
53	Croatia	11 2007	153	32	20.9%	---	---	---	---
54	Bulgaria	7 2009	240	50	20.8%	---	---	---	---
"	Estonia	3 2007	101	21	20.8%	---	---	---	---
"	Malawi	5 2009	192	40	20.8%	---	---	---	---
55	Poland	10 2007	460	93	20.2%	10 2007	100	8	8.0%
56	Latvia	10 2006	100	20	20.0%	---	---	---	---
"	Luxembourg	6 2009	60	12	20.0%	---	---	---	---
57	Dominican Republic	5 2006	178	35	19.7%	5 2006	32	1	3.1%
58	United Kingdom	5 2005	646	126	19.5%	N.A.	746	147	19.7%
59	Slovakia	6 2006	150	29	19.3%	---	---	---	---
60	El Salvador	1 2009	84	16	19.0%	---	---	---	---
61	Dominica	5 2005	32	6	18.8%	---	---	---	---
62	Bangladesh	12 2008	345	64	18.6%	---	---	---	---
"	Venezuela	12 2005	167	31	18.6%	---	---	---	---
63	Nicaragua	11 2006	92	17	18.5%	---	---	---	---
64	France	6 2007	577	105	18.2%	9 2008	343	75	21.9%
"	Indonesia	4 2009	560	102	18.2%	---	---	---	---
"	Philippines	5 2007	269	49	18.2%	5 2007	23	4	17.4%

"	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	12 2005	22	4	18.2%	---	---	---	---
65	Cape Verde	1 2006	72	13	18.1%	---	---	---	---
"	Sudan	8 2005	443	80	18.1%	8 2005	50	3	6.0%
66	Lithuania	10 2008	141	25	17.7%	---	---	---	---
67	Israel	2 2009	120	21	17.5%	---	---	---	---
"	Tajikistan	2 2005	63	11	17.5%	3 2005	34	8	23.5%
"	Uzbekistan	12 2004	120	21	17.5%	1 2005	100	15	15.0%
68	Greece	10 2009	300	52	17.3%	---	---	---	---
69	Mauritius	7 2005	70	12	17.1%	---	---	---	---
70	Bolivia	12 2005	130	22	16.9%	12 2005	27	1	3.7%
71	Turkmenistan	12 2008	125	21	16.8%	---	---	---	---
"	United States of America ²	11 2008	435	73	16.8%	11 2008	98	15	15.3%
72	Gabon	1 2009	120	20	16.7%	1 2009	102	18	17.6%
73	Albania	6 2009	140	23	16.4%	---	---	---	---
74	Kazakhstan	8 2007	107	17	15.9%	10 2008	47	2	4.3%
75	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	3 2009	687	107	15.6%	---	---	---	---
76	Czech Republic	6 2006	200	31	15.5%	10 2008	81	14	17.3%
77	Burkina Faso	5 2007	111	17	15.3%	---	---	---	---
78	Zambia	9 2006	158	24	15.2%	---	---	---	---
"	Zimbabwe	3 2008	210	32	15.2%	3 2008	93	23	24.7%
79	Chile	12 2005	120	18	15.0%	12 2005	38	2	5.3%
"	San Marino	11 2008	60	9	15.0%	---	---	---	---
80	Cyprus	5 2006	56	8	14.3%	---	---	---	---
81	Uruguay	10 2009	99	14	14.1%	10 2009	31	4	12.9%
82	Russian Federation	12 2007	450	63	14.0%	N.A.	169	8	4.7%
83	Cameroon	7 2007	180	25	13.9%	---	---	---	---
84	Djibouti	2 2008	65	9	13.8%	---	---	---	---
85	Republic of Korea	4 2008	299	41	13.7%	---	---	---	---
86	Swaziland	9 2008	66	9	13.6%	10 2008	30	12	40.0%
87	Grenada	7 2008	15	2	13.3%	8 2008	13	4	30.8%
"	Ireland	5 2007	166	22	13.3%	7 2007	60	13	21.7%
"	Jamaica	9 2007	60	8	13.3%	9 2007	21	3	14.3%
"	Slovenia	9 2008	90	12	13.3%	11 2007	40	1	2.5%
88	Sierra Leone	8 2007	121	16	13.2%	---	---	---	---
89	Liberia	10 2005	64	8	12.5%	10 2005	30	5	16.7%
"	Paraguay	4 2008	80	10	12.5%	4 2008	45	7	15.6%
90	Syrian Arab Republic	4 2007	250	31	12.4%	---	---	---	---
91	Bahamas	5 2007	41	5	12.2%	5 2007	15	9	60.0%
92	Guatemala	9 2007	158	19	12.0%	---	---	---	---
93	Bosnia and Herzegovina	10 2006	42	5	11.9%	3 2007	15	2	13.3%
94	Thailand	12 2007	480	56	11.7%	3 2008	150	24	16.0%

95	Azerbaijan	11 2005	123	14	11.4%	---	---	---	---
"	Romania	11 2008	334	38	11.4%	11 2008	137	8	5.8%
96	Japan	8 2009	480	54	11.3%	7 2007	242	44	18.2%
97	Hungary	4 2006	386	43	11.1%	---	---	---	---
"	Saint Lucia	12 2006	18	2	11.1%	1 2007	11	4	36.4%
"	Togo	10 2007	81	9	11.1%	---	---	---	---
98	Benin	3 2003	83	9	10.8%	---	---	---	---
"	Malaysia	3 2008	222	24	10.8%	N.A.	64	20	31.3%
99	India	4 2009	543	58	10.7%	7 2008	243	23	9.5%
100	Antigua and Barbuda	3 2009	19	2	10.5%	4 2009	17	5	29.4%
"	Central African Republic	3 2005	105	11	10.5%	---	---	---	---
"	Morocco	9 2007	325	34	10.5%	10 2009	270	6	2.2%
101	Mali	7 2007	147	15	10.2%	---	---	---	---
102	Barbados	1 2008	30	3	10.0%	2 2008	21	4	19.0%
"	Equatorial Guinea	5 2008	100	10	10.0%	---	---	---	---
"	Guinea-Bissau	11 2008	100	10	10.0%	---	---	---	---
103	Kenya	12 2007	224	22	9.8%	---	---	---	---
"	Niger	10 2009	112	11	9.8%	---	---	---	---
104	Gambia	1 2002	53	5	9.4%	---	---	---	---
105	Turkey	7 2007	549	50	9.1%	---	---	---	---
106	Brazil	10 2006	513	46	9.0%	10 2006	81	10	12.3%
107	Cote d'Ivoire	12 2000	203	18	8.9%	---	---	---	---
108	Malta	3 2008	69	6	8.7%	---	---	---	---
109	Bhutan	3 2008	47	4	8.5%	12 2007	25	6	24.0%
"	Panama	5 2009	71	6	8.5%	---	---	---	---
110	Armenia	5 2007	131	11	8.4%	---	---	---	---
"	Colombia	3 2006	166	14	8.4%	3 2006	102	12	11.8%
"	Democratic Republic of the Congo	7 2006	500	42	8.4%	1 2007	108	5	4.6%
111	Ghana	12 2008	229	19	8.3%	---	---	---	---
112	Samoa	3 2006	49	4	8.2%	---	---	---	---
"	Ukraine	9 2007	450	37	8.2%	---	---	---	---
113	Botswana	10 2009	63	5	7.9%	---	---	---	---
114	Algeria	5 2007	389	30	7.7%	12 2006	136	4	2.9%
"	Kuwait	5 2009	65	5	7.7%	---	---	---	---
"	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	3 2009	468	36	7.7%	---	---	---	---
115	Congo	6 2007	137	10	7.3%	8 2008	70	9	12.9%
"	Sao Tome and Principe	3 2006	55	4	7.3%	---	---	---	---
116	Nigeria	4 2007	358	25	7.0%	4 2007	109	9	8.3%
117	Saint Kitts and Nevis	10 2004	15	1	6.7%	---	---	---	---
118	Maldives	5 2009	77	5	6.5%	---	---	---	---
119	Jordan	11 2007	110	7	6.4%	11 2007	55	7	12.7%

120	Montenegro	3 2009	81	5	6.2%	---	---	---	---
121	Somalia	8 2004	539	33	6.1%	---	---	---	---
122	Sri Lanka	4 2004	225	13	5.8%	---	---	---	---
123	Chad	4 2002	155	8	5.2%	---	---	---	---
124	Georgia	5 2008	138	7	5.1%	---	---	---	---
125	Kiribati	8 2007	46	2	4.3%	---	---	---	---
126	Haiti	2 2006	98	4	4.1%	4 2009	29	2	6.9%
127	Mongolia	6 2008	76	3	3.9%	---	---	---	---
128	Vanuatu	9 2008	52	2	3.8%	---	---	---	---
129	Lebanon	6 2009	128	4	3.1%	---	---	---	---
"	Tonga ³	4 2008	32	1	3.1%	---	---	---	---
130	Comoros	4 2004	33	1	3.0%	---	---	---	---
"	Marshall Islands	11 2007	33	1	3.0%	---	---	---	---
131	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	3 2008	290	8	2.8%	---	---	---	---
132	Bahrain	11 2006	40	1	2.5%	12 2006	40	10	25.0%
133	Egypt	11 2005	442	8	1.8%	6 2007	264	18	6.8%
134	Papua New Guinea	6 2007	109	1	0.9%	---	---	---	---
135	Yemen	4 2003	301	1	0.3%	4 2001	111	2	1.8%
136	Belize	2 2008	32	0	0.0%	3 2008	13	5	38.5%
"	Micronesia (Federated States of)	3 2009	14	0	0.0%	---	---	---	---
"	Nauru	4 2008	18	0	0.0%	---	---	---	---
"	Oman	10 2007	84	0	0.0%	11 2007	72	14	19.4%
"	Palau	11 2008	16	0	0.0%	11 2008	13	2	15.4%
"	Qatar	7 2008	35	0	0.0%	---	---	---	---
"	Saudi Arabia	2 2009	150	0	0.0%	---	---	---	---
"	Solomon Islands	4 2006	50	0	0.0%	---	---	---	---
"	Tuvalu	8 2006	15	0	0.0%	---	---	---	---
?	Honduras	11 2009	128	?	?	---	---	---	---
?	Mozambique	10 2009	250	?	?	---	---	---	---
?	Namibia	11 2009	78	?	?	11 2004	26	7	26.9%

* Figures correspond to the number of seats currently filled in Parliament

Guinea: The parliament was dissolved following the December 2008 coup

1 - South Africa: The figures on the distribution of seats do not include the 36 special rotating delegates appointed on an ad hoc basis, and all percentages given are therefore calculated on the basis of the 54 permanent seats.

2 - United States of America: The total refers to all voting members of the House.

3 - Tonga: No women were elected in 2008, however one woman was appointed to the Cabinet. As cabinet ministers also sit in parliament, there is one woman out of a total of 32 members.

MIGRATION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN EUROPE
10-11 December 2009
Paris, France

Summary of main points of the debates

*Ms Pia Cayetano, Senator (Philippines),
 President of IPU's Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians*

We met over the past two days to discuss the particular question of migration and violence against women in Europe. The meeting was open to members of parliaments of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the IPU Twelve Plus Group. Our objective was to exchange experience, share good practices and identify specific proposals for action that we parliamentarians could take home to implement change. This initiative falls within the general framework of our commitment to eradicate violence against women.

As a premise to our discussions, we agreed that violence against women is one of the worst forms of gender-based discrimination and a severe violation of women's human rights. As such it is an issue of concern to both men and women and must be addressed within the general context of efforts to ensure equality. It is a complex issue which requires profound changes. It means looking at power relations; confronting patriarchy, which permeates all aspects of our societies; changing mentality and challenging social roles and stereotypes which we hold within us. There are many ways of tackling violence against women. Of direct relevance to parliamentarians, we mentioned the need for: (1) a strong political will; (2) a strong and comprehensive legal framework that addresses prevention, prosecution, punishment and assistance to victims; (3) effective implementation with proper enforcement mechanisms (gender sensitive budgets, monitoring mechanisms, data collection and research capacity); (4) education and awareness-raising.

We agreed that migration is a complex issue, in part due to the multitude of actors, dimensions and situations related to this phenomenon. Migration is not gender-neutral. Half of the world's migrants are women who contribute significantly to the social and economic development of both countries of origin and destination. We acknowledged that migrant women face particular challenges and multidimensional forms of discrimination.

Our debates focused on migrant women's heightened vulnerability to physical, sexual and psychological violence within their family, their community and in the host community. They are also highly vulnerable to human trafficking, economic exploitation as well as violence perpetrated by State agents/actors. Migrant women face a dual vulnerability. As women, they are exposed to violence that stems from gender inequality both in migrant and host communities; as migrants they are exposed to violence non-nationals face in the destination country. In addition these two main factors intersect with other risk factors that include often precarious economic status, legal status, race, educational status, ethnicity, class, age, sexual orientation, disability, religion and culture.

In view of their situation, migrant women victims of violence face additional difficulties in accessing support and redress. They rarely report the violence they are victims of out of fear, lack of trust or information, fear of being repatriated, lack of legal literacy, language barriers, feelings of shame and rejection. This makes the provision of assistance even more challenging.

With this in mind we considered several areas in which we parliamentarians can make a difference. These are of course not exhaustive but reflect some of the main points and common themes that were touched upon. A more full fledged report on our meeting will be put together in the coming weeks:

1. In addressing violence against migrant women we need to adopt a **human rights approach** and ensure that human rights considerations prevail in all instances. This is essential to counter cultural relativism often used to breach respect for women's rights. A first priority is to enhance our efforts to enforce **international and regional human rights instruments** to which our States are Parties. Parliaments have to closely monitor and oversee the enforcement of such instruments and be more involved in Human rights treaty body mechanisms

and processes, such as CEDAW, from beginning to end. In addition, we need to expand our legislative arsenal by ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and members of their families and other legal instruments on protection of migrants and human trafficking. In addition when working on new regional and international instruments related to gender equality or migration, we should ensure that protection needs of migrant women, whether in a regular or an irregular situation, be addressed for instance within the preparatory work on the future Council of Europe convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

2. At the national level, we need to ensure that the **legal framework** addresses the particular situation and vulnerability of migrant women to violence. In so doing, we need to identify gaps and weaknesses, avoid any contradiction between legislative provisions, and closely monitor impact through our parliamentary oversight functions. In particular, we must pay attention to the need to adopt measures to provide that survivors of violence against women benefit from protective measures including related to their immigration status when they report such violence to police or other authorities. Ensuring that migrant women benefit from an independent legal status, separate from that of their husbands or family, is another strong legal protective measure to reduce their vulnerability to violence. In view of the transnational dimensions of violence against migrant women, we also identified the need for greater extraterritorial cooperation and legal harmonisation.
3. The particular situation of women who flee gender-based violence and persecution in their home countries should be the subject of specific attention. More efforts, through training, guidelines or legislation, need to be directed toward this in the **asylum seeking process**, especially in view of the UNHCR guidelines which recognize that gender-based persecution may be a ground for obtaining refugee status. More generally, the whole asylum seeking process should be gender-sensitive and rely on information and data, including on forms of gender-based violence in countries of origin.
4. Women migrants are particularly vulnerable to being exploited in prostitution, forced labour networks and other forms of **human trafficking**. In view of the transnational, criminal and invisible nature of this problem, action requires close coordination between parliaments of countries of origin, transit and destination. While pursuing efforts in terms of prevention and prosecution and direct assistance to victims, we also need to start paying more attention to the question of demand which is at the core of such exploitation. Furthermore, we must see to it that Council of Europe member and non-member States ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.
5. A cross cutting issue that came up at all of our sessions was a need for broad based **education** and training, with a particular focus on human rights, gender equality and non discrimination. As members of parliament, we first must be adequately informed ourselves, in order to change mentalities and to be sensitive to these issues in our daily work. We also need to develop and support programmes and initiatives that provide such education within school curricula at the earliest stage but also within professional training programmes, targeting lawyers, judges and law enforcement agents (especially police, border and immigration officers), health practitioners, and all those that have dealings with migrant women, including those who are victims of violence. We must also support programmes aimed at informing migrant women of their rights and facilitating their access to justice and support.
6. For effective policies and response to violence against migrant women, we need to support initiatives to enhance our **access to knowledge** and information through the collection of statistics and the production of qualitative research, which would also include looking at the causes and dynamics of such violence and the specific vulnerability of migrant women. Particular attention was placed on the need for more research on violence against women in custody, economic exploitation, forced marriage, so-called "honour crimes", trafficking and ageing migrant women in Europe.
7. Lastly, progress will only result from building **partnerships** – between men and women, between parliaments (in particular with those of countries of origin and destination), across parties and with other stakeholders, including civil society, international organisations, media, and representatives of migrant communities.

**Situation of the 24 countries currently
with 30% or more women members of parliament
(30 November 2009)**

Level	Country	% Women (in Lower House)	Quota
1	Rwanda	56.3	Legislated quota: 30% Reserved seats (indirectly elected) + voluntary party quotas
2	Sweden	47	Voluntary party quotas
3	South Africa	44.5	Voluntary party quotas
4	Cuba	43.2	No quota system
5	Iceland	42.9	Voluntary party quotas
6	Argentina	41.6	Legislated candidate quota: (40% women on candidate party lists) + voluntary party quotas
7	Finland	41.5	No quota system
8	Netherlands	41.3	Voluntary party quotas
9	Norway	39.1	Voluntary party quota
10	Denmark	38	No quota system (previously voluntary party quotas)
11	Angola	37.3	Legislated candidate quota (30% women on candidate party lists)
12	Costa Rica	36.8	Legislated candidate quota (30% women on candidate party lists) + voluntary party quotas
13	Spain	36.3	Legislated candidate quota (40% women on candidate party lists) + voluntary party quotas
14	Andorra	35.7	No data available
15	Belgium	35.3	Legislated candidate quota (33% women on candidate party lists) + voluntary party quotas
16	New Zealand	33.6	Voluntary party quotas
17	Nepal	33.2	Legislated candidate quota –(30% women on candidate party lists)
18	Germany	32.8	Voluntary party quotas
19	Ecuador	32.3	No information
20	Belarus	31.8	No information
21	Uganda	31.3	Legislated quota - reserved seats: 80 women

			district representatives out of 333 seats in parliament
22	Burundi	30.5	Legislated candidate quota (30% women candidates on party lists)
23	Tanzania	30.4	Legislated quota: 30% of seats are reserved for women (indirectly elected)
24	Guyana	30	Legislated candidate quota: 30% women on candidate party lists)

Note: The results of elections in Mozambique (who previously had more than 30% of women) are missing.

Source:

IPU, *Women in National Parliaments*, www.ipu.org

IDEA/Stockholm University/IPU, *Global Database of Quotas for Women*, www.quotaproject.org;