

Bringing gender equality to the UN General Assembly

Motion adopted by the IPU Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs (Luanda, 25 October 2023)

The IPU Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs believes that gender equality is a critical enabler of democracy and sustainable development.

Gender equality is recognized in a number of high-level international commitments, including the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Achieving gender equality in decision-making at all levels, including in parliaments, is a key objective of the IPU and of the United Nations.

Resolution 76/269 of the General Assembly acknowledges the underrepresentation of women in diplomacy and proclaims 24 June the International Day of Women in Diplomacy.

However, 75% of Permanent Representatives in the General Assembly of the United Nations are men.

The Committee calls upon all parliaments to:

1. Review their recruitment process for their national foreign service to ensure that women are encouraged to apply and given equal opportunity for advancement as men;
2. Urge the government to set a deadline by which women and men will be represented in equal numbers in the foreign service and to provide the parliament with regular updates;
3. Use parliamentary processes to review their government appointment of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations (New York, Geneva, Vienna) and senior diplomats to capitals around the world from a gender perspective;
4. Meet with their Permanent Representatives to the United Nations yearly, inquiring specifically about advances toward a more gender-equal UN General Assembly;
5. Mark the International Day of Women in Diplomacy with a parliamentary hearing and other initiatives to raise the visibility of this issue in government policy and in national media and with the public at large