



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



**Online regional meeting**

**The role of parliamentarians in accelerating the achievement of women’s economic empowerment under SDG 5 in the Arab region:**  
**Focus on care policies**

**Wednesday 31 January and 1 February 2024, Zoom**

**PROPOSED DETAILED AGENDA - Beirut time**

<p><b>Wednesday, 31 January 2024</b>  <b>Setting the stage:</b>  <b>The role of parliaments in boosting SDG achievement by enhancing actions to empower women with a focus on care policies</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Ms. Farida Ilimi Haddouche, First Vice-President of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, MP, Algeria</b></p>	
<p><b>11:00–11:15</b></p>	<p><b>Opening remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Cynthia López Castro, President of the IPU Bureau of Women MPs, MP, Mexico</li> <li>- Ms. Mehrinaz El Awady, Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development Cluster Leader, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)</li> <li>- Ms. Ruba Jaradat, Regional Director for Arab States, International Labour Organization (ILO)</li> <li>- Ms. Susanne Mikhail Eldhagen, Regional Director for Arab States, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-WOMEN)</li> </ul>
<p><b>11:15–12:10</b></p>	<p><b>Session 1: The 2030 Agenda and progress with SDG achievement in the Arab region and around the world</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms. Maisaa Youssef, Agenda 2030 and SDG Coordination Cluster Leader, ESCWA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation on the SDGs and the status of their achievement in the Arab region (Ms. Jana El Baba, Sustainable Development Officer, Agenda 2030 and SDG Coordination Cluster, ESCWA)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation on how parliaments around the world are contributing to SDGs implementation (Ms. Aleksandra Blagojevic, Manager of the Development Programme, IPU)</li> <li>- Interventions from participating parliamentarians on Arab countries experiences in the acceleration of SDGs achievement</li> </ul> <p>Participating MPs will be asked to contribute by responding to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What is, in your view, your Parliament’s most notable achievement related to SDG implementation? What factors contributed to this success?</li> <li>● Are development gains in your country and the region evenly distributed? Which groups are left behind?</li> <li>● In what way can parliamentarians’ cooperation in the Arab region enhance sustainable development?</li> </ul>
<p><b>12:10–13:05</b></p>	<p><b>Session 2: Why is SDG 5 a catalyst for the achievement of all SDGs? How is it progressing in the Arab region?</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms. Nada Darwazeh, Chief, Center for Women, ESCWA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation on the importance of SDG 5 and a snapshot of Gender Equality across the SDGs (Lemonia Fokaidou, Programme Specialist, UN Women Regional Office for Arab States)</li> <li>- Short video</li> <li>- Presentation of the latest CEDAW Handbook for MPs (Ms. Zeina Hilal, Manager, Gender Partnership Programme, IPU)</li> <li>- Interventions from participating parliamentarians on recent national-level developments in advancing SDG 5 implementation</li> </ul> <p>Participating MPs will be asked to contribute by responding to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What are the key achievements in recent years in your country in advancing the empowerment of women and girls?</li> <li>● What are the main challenges that still remain in this area?</li> <li>● How much is your Parliament prioritizing SDG 5 and CEDAW implementation? Is there a body in your Parliament that has a dedicated mandate in this area?</li> </ul>
<p><b>13:05–13:10</b></p>	<p><b>Break</b></p>
<p><b>13:10–13:55</b></p>	<p><b>Session 3: SDG 5.4 - The care economy and women’s economic empowerment</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms. Nada Darwazeh, Chief, Center for Women, ESCWA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Practical exercise for participants: What is care? How can equal care lead to women’s economic empowerment? (Mr. Wessel van den Berg, Senior Advocacy Officer, Equimundo)</li> <li>- Presentation on the status, importance, interlinkages and implications of care work in the Arab region (Ms. Rouba Arja, Social Affairs Officer, Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development Cluster, ESCWA)</li> </ul>

	- Q&A session
<b>13:55–14:00</b>	<b>Wrap up of day 1</b>
<p><b>Thursday, 1 February 2024</b>  <b>Country experiences</b>  <b>Unlocking success: Lessons and good practices from the region and beyond</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Ms. Aida Naseef Ayyoub, Second Vice-President of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, MP Egypt</b></p>	
<b>11:00-11:05</b>	<b>Recap of day 1</b>
<b>11:05–12:10</b>	<p><b>Session 4: Advancing labour policies related to care</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr. Oussama Safa, Chief, Social Justice Section, Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development Cluster, ESCWA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poll on the International Labour Standards</li> <li>- Presentation of the International Labour Standards related to care work (Ms. Zeina Mezher, WE CARE Project Manager, ILO)</li> <li>- Interventions by parliamentarians: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Lebanon on the new law proposals on family friendly policies and childcare (Dr. Inaya Ezzedine, MP, Chair of the Women and Children Parliamentary Committee)</li> <li>o Jordan on care workers’ fair remuneration and legislation (Ms. Mayada Shreem, Deputy Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Participating MPs will be asked to contribute by responding to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the main struggles and barriers that face the care-related labour code reforms? Who are the main stakeholders that could resist the reforms?</li> <li>• What practices/approaches could be considered as relevant and successful in overcoming these barriers?</li> <li>• What kind of support (research/evidence/advocacy) would parliamentarians need to push for such reforms?</li> </ul>
<b>12:10–12:40</b>	<p><b>Session 5: Opportunities created by promoting the rights of paid care workers</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Ms. Rouba Arja, Social Affairs Officer, Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development Cluster, ESCWA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation on the rights of paid care workers (Ms. Sophia Kagan, FAIRWAY Chief Technical Adviser, ILO Regional Office for Arab States)</li> <li>- Interventions by parliamentarians on entry points to promote policy change to ensure the rights of paid care workers</li> </ul>

	<p>Participating MPs will be asked to contribute by responding to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the main challenges to ensuring the rights of paid care workers and what are the barriers to strong policies and investment in ensuring these rights?</li> <li>• Which are the most vulnerable paid care workers in your country and how could policies be designed and implemented to ensure they are not left behind?</li> <li>• What are some creative reforms that you are interested in learning more about? What support (research/evidence/advocacy) would parliamentarians need to push for stronger reforms to protect paid care workers?</li> </ul>
<b>12:40–12:45</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>12:45–13:45</b>	<p><b>Session 6: I care to care – Advancing equal care in and through parliament</b></p> <p><b>Moderator: Mr. Oussama Safa, Chief, Social Justice Section, Gender Justice, Population and Inclusive Development Cluster, ESCWA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of <i>The State of the World's Fathers 2023</i> report and the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) - MENA region (Mr. Wessel van den Berg, Senior Advocacy Officer, Equipundo)</li> </ul> <p><b>Round table discussion: Exchange of good practices from around the world</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Koloub Faitah, MP, Morocco, on recent reforms on paternity leave</li> <li>- Mr. Tim Loughton, MP, United Kingdom, Vice-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Fatherhood</li> <li>- Ms. Beatriz Argimón, President of the Senate of Uruguay, on parliamentary transformation for more equal care (video message)</li> <li>- Interventions by parliamentarians on equal care</li> </ul> <p>Participating MPs will be asked to contribute by responding to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can you talk about recent steps in your country to equalize the sharing of care responsibilities, or improve men’s contribution to care work?</li> <li>• Do you have any examples of how your Parliament supports the caring responsibilities of members of parliament? In other words, examples of how your Parliament is becoming more of a ‘gender-sensitive’ and ‘caring parliament’ as per <a href="#">Kigali Declaration</a>?</li> <li>• Which sources (such as data and research evidence) do you depend on most to inform policy decisions about care-related policies?</li> </ul> <p><b>Practical exercise:</b> How to convince the population, fellow MPs, and other political decision-makers of the importance of equal care? (Mr. Wessel van den Berg, Senior Advocacy Officer, Equipundo)</p>
<b>13:45–14:00</b>	<b>Wrap-up and key take aways</b>