



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



IPU Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians

Advancing parity: Breaking the barriers of gender stereotypes and negative social norms

2 to 4 June 2026, Belgrade, Serbia

Provisional programme

Monday, 1 June

- Arrival of delegations to Belgrade
- 09:00–18:00 Registration of delegates
- 20:00–22:00 **Gala dinner, Atlantic-Pacific Hall, Hotel Crowne Plaza** (See [here](#))

Tuesday, 2 June

- 09:30–10:30 **Opening ceremony**
[Welcome address](#)
Ms. Ana Brnabić, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia
[Opening remarks](#)
- Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU
 - Representative of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia
 - Dr. Tulia Ackson (United Republic of Tanzania), President of the IPU
- [Keynote address](#)
[From Mexico to Belgrade: Pursuing the path to parity](#)
Ms. Cynthia López Castro (Mexico), Senator and President of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians
- 10:30–10:45 **Group photo**
- 10:45–11:00 **Coffee break**
- 11:00–13:00 **Session 1**
Unpacking barriers to parity: Stereotypes and negative social norms in the spotlight
Participants will take stock of advancements in attaining parity, including through the implementation of the [IPU Plan of action for gender parity in parliaments](#) and will focus on stereotypes and negative norms that shape women's political journeys and hinder their progress towards parity. They will share experiences and good practices developed in their own national contexts to combat such stereotypes and norms. Through experience sharing and common reflection, they will identify means and strategies to overcoming stereotypes and norms that limit women's political participation and leadership.
- [Keynote address by a special guest](#)
[Panel discussion](#)
[Sharing of views, experiences and good practices by participants](#)
- 13:00–14:30 **Lunch break**

14:30–16:00	<p>Session 2</p> <p>Advancing parity through diversity: Zoom on intersecting stereotypes and norms</p> <p>Participants will discuss how gender stereotypes can intersect and impact disproportionately women of different age groups, ethnicity, indigeneity, with disabilities, migration or other status, and their access to parliament and other political leadership and decision-making roles. Participants will reflect on how intersecting stereotypes affect women’s political pathways and parliamentary experience and policymaking. They will consider approaches to ensure that efforts to dismantle stereotyping benefit all women.</p> <p>Keynote address by a special guest</p> <p>Panel discussion</p> <p>Sharing of views, experiences and good practices by participants</p>
16:00–16:15	Coffee break
16:15–17:30	<p>Session 3</p> <p>Working together against stereotypes and negative norms</p> <p>Breakout groups</p> <p>Four breakout groups will meet simultaneously. Participants will sign up to join the group of their choice among the four listed below. Each group can include about 50 participants. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic in each group. Each group will be led by organizations that work towards gender equality and women’s empowerment, including jointly with the IPU. In each group, participants will learn about the topic under consideration, share their views and experiences, and identify ways forward to address stereotypes and negative social norms limiting women’s political participation.</p> <p><i>Group 1: Engaging men and boys against stereotypes and negative social norms</i></p> <p><i>Group 2: Advancing equality in the law to address stereotypes and negative social norms</i></p> <p><i>Group 3: Combatting stereotypes in line with the CEDAW Convention</i></p> <p><i>Group 4: Training on combatting social norms limiting women’s participation in parliament</i></p>
17:30–18:00	<p>Conclusions and key takeaways from the working groups of the day</p> <p>Reporting in plenary</p> <p>Participants will be back in plenary to hear reports from the breakout groups.</p>

Wednesday, 3 June

09:00–11:00	<p>Session 4</p> <p>Challenging online stereotypes, violence and disinformation against women in politics</p> <p>Participants will explore how stereotypes and negative social norms against women’s political participation and leadership are prevalent on social media and online platforms. They will discuss how such stereotypes and norms against women in politics manifest themselves through online gender-based violence, including sexualized attacks, stereotypical portrayals, disinformation, misinformation, algorithmic biases and widespread narratives reinforcing traditional roles. They will discuss means to address these issues through collective efforts such as through the promotion of respectful discourse, challenges to harmful stereotypes and support to the voices of women in politics online.</p> <p>Keynote address by a special guest</p> <p>Panel discussion</p> <p>Sharing of views, experiences and good practices by participants</p>
11:00–11:15	Coffee break
11:15–13:00	<p>Session 5</p> <p>Gender-sensitive parliaments advancing societies free from stereotypes</p> <p>Participants will put parliamentary rules, practices and culture under the lens to share good practices and tested solutions on making parliaments more gender-sensitive</p>

institutions free from stereotypes, discrimination and violence against women, in line with the [IPU Plan of action for gender-sensitive parliaments](#). They will also focus their discussions on combatting stereotypes in society through their functions of oversight, legislation and budgeting.

[Panel discussion](#)

[Sharing of views, experiences and good practices by participants](#)

13:00–14:30

Lunch

14:30–15:30

Session 6

Leadership and culture change to combat stereotypes: Learning from other sectors

Leaders from different sectors, including sports, the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education disciplines, and the media will share how they confront entrenched stereotypes and the persisting resistance to change, and how they work to bring about this change.

[Testimonials and messages from changemakers in other sectors](#)

15:30–16:45

Session 7

The Women and Youth Democratic Engagement (WYDE) initiative: Supporting women's political participation and combatting stereotypes and negative norms

[Breakout groups](#)

Four breakout groups will meet simultaneously. Participants will sign up to join the group of their choice among the four listed below. Each group can include about 50 participants. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic in each group. In each group, participants will learn about the topic under consideration, share their views and experiences, and identify ways forward to address stereotypes and negative social norms limiting women's political participation. The four groups will be led by the partners in the European Union funded WYDE/WPP initiative: UN Women, International IDEA, the IPU, and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

Group 1: Men and women working together against stereotypes and negative social norms

Group 2: Intergenerational cooperation challenging stereotypes and negative social norms

Group 3: Combatting sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament

Group 4: Training on combatting social norms limiting women's participation in parliament

16:45–17:00

Coffee break

17:00–17:30

Conclusions and key takeaways from the working groups of the day

[Reporting in plenary](#)

Participants will be back in plenary to hear short reports from the breakout groups.

17:30–18:00

Closing session

[Presentation and adoption of the Conference outcome document](#)

- A man/woman co-Rapporteur (MP from Serbia)
- A man/woman co-Rapporteur (MP from another participating parliament)

[Closing speeches](#)

- Dr. Tulia Ackson (United Republic of Tanzania), President of the IPU
- Representative of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia

Thursday, 4 June

Cultural visit

Visit to Danube and Golubac Fortress

Lunch

Departure of delegates