Workshop on Gender-Sensitive Parliaments

Inter Pares Partnership with the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Brussels, Belgium
Tuesday, 29 April 2025

PROGRAMME

About the Workshop	The workshop on gender-sensitive parliaments is part of a three-day programme hosted in Brussels from 28-30 April 2025. The programme is a concluding event in the Inter Pares partnership with the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan. It invites Members and parliamentary staff from Uzbekistan, the European Union Member States and the European Parliament to discuss selected priority themes of the partnership, including the budgeting processes and gender equality. The present workshop focuses on the topic of gender-sensitive parliaments, a key priority for the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan. It is a day and a half session, with one day hosted at the European Parliament and a half day – at the Belgian Senate. In recent years, the Parliament of Uzbekistan has made important steps in this direction, including through securing gender equality in the Constitution, adopting the gender equality law and the Strategy for Achieving Gender Equality in Uzbekistan by 2030, establishing the gender committee in the Senate, and adopting legislative amendments criminalizing domestic violence against women. The gradual introduction of gender quotas significantly increased gender representation in the Parliament: the number of elected women MPs has increased from 16% in 2014 to 38% after the last Parliamentary Elections (October 2024), positioning Uzbekistan as a leader in Central Asia on gender equality in legislative bodies. The Oliy Majlis is committed to further enhancing its role in promoting gender equality in Uzbekistan, including through the exchange of the EU practices with a focus on gender mainstreaming and oversight over the implementation of adopted laws and policies. This workshop aims to support the Oliy Majlis' work towards gender equality through the exchange of Uzbek and European experiences, reflecting on parliaments' role in promoting gender equality and exploring different measures parliaments can implement to become more gender sensitive. The specific objectives of the workshop are to: - Provide an overview of gender equality in Uzbekistan and the European Union, and how parliaments can advance gender equality through their work - Introduce the features of a gender-sensitive parliament, and the role of specialised gender bodies - Describe the ways in which parliaments can start to become more gender-sensitive

	- Explore ways to mainstream gender into law-making and oversight work (including budgeting), and the role of public engagement in this process - Facilitate a discussion on the Parliament's role in preventing gender-based violence, discrimination and harassment.
Date / Time	Tuesday, 29 April: 09:30 – 17:00 Brussels Time
Venue	European Parliament, Meeting Room - Spinelli 1G1
Languages	English, French, Uzbek
Participants	**OLIY MAJLIS, UZBEKISTAN** *SENATE* ● Orzigul KOZIKHONOVA, Chairwoman of the Committee on Youth, Women, Culture and Sports ● Kobul TURSUNOV, Deputy Chairman of the Budget and Economic Issues Committee ● Kudratali MAMATISAEV, Deputy Head of the Department of Socio-Economic Development and Budget Issues of the Senate Secretariate ● Sanjarbek RUZIEV, Chief Adviser of the Committee on International Relations, Foreign Economic Relations, Foreign Investments and Tourism of the Senate Secretariat ● Azizjon SHARIPOV , Chief Advisor to the Secretariat of the Senate Committee on Youth, Women, Culture And Sports *LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER* ● Gulrukh AGZAMOVA, Chairwoman of the Committee on Democratic Institutions and the Development of Civil Society ● Gulnorakhon ABDUVOKHIDOVA, Member of the Labor, Health and Social Affairs Committee ● Otabek MUSURMONOV, Member of the Budget and Economic Affairs Committee ● Tulkin ESHNAZAROV, Head of the State Budget Department ● Bekhzod KARIMOV, Senior Assistant, Secretariat of the Budget and Economic Reforms Committee **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (EP)** ● Nicolae STEFANUTA, Vice-President of the European Parliament and member of the High-Level Group on Gender Equality and Diversity ● Hana JALLOUL, Vice Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee ● Ilhan KYUCHYUK, EP Rapporteur for Uzbekistan ● Armelle DOUAUD, Director, Democracy Support Directorate, DG External Policies ● Francesco RONCHI, Administrator, Democracy Support Directorate, DG External Policies **SENATE, BELGIUM**

- Stephanie D'HOSE, Senator and Chair of the Bilateral Group of the Federal Parliament of Belgium with Uzbekistan (Former Speaker of the Senate)
- Caroline DESALLE, Senator, Committee on Transversal issues, Community Competences and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men
- Sophie VANDEPUTTE, Collaborator
- Iuna SADAT, Advisor, European Affairs
- Esthée HENNEBERT, Intern

Bundestag, Germany

- Anna-Maria PAWLICZEK, International Parliamentary Support Coordinator, International Exchange Programmes Division Int 4

Seimas, Lithuania

- Gintarė SKAISTĖ, Deputy Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee

Chamber of Deputies, Czech Republic

- Klára JANKOVSKA, Consultant, Parliamentary Institute

European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

- Carlien SCHEELE, Director, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) – *(online intervention)*

Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Belgium

- Ambassador Gayrat FAZILOV
- Alisher KUNDUZOV, Councellor
- Asal KUNDUZOVA, First Secretary

Inter Pares/International IDEA

- Katarzyna GARDAPKHADZE, Director, Global Programmes
- Jonathan MURPHY, Head of Programme
- Ingrid WALKER, Programme Manager
- Hannah JOHNSON, Senior Gender Advisor
- Sophie GURULI, Senior Programme Officer
- Carlotta VIAGGIO, Programme Assistant
- Zebo ISAKOVA, Local Coordinator in Uzbekistan

Tuesday, 29 April	
08:30 – 09:30	*Arrival of participants at the European Parliament (Accreditation Centre)*
09:30 – 09:45	**Introductory remarks** • **Armelle Douaud**, Director, Democracy Support Directorate, DG External Policies, European Parliament • **Orzigul Kozikhonova**, Chairwoman of the Committee on Youth, Women, Culture and Sports, Senate, Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan • **Katarzyna Gardapkhadze,** Director of Global Programmes, International IDEA
09:45 – 10:15	**Introduction to the European Parliament Functioning, mechanisms and dynamics** • **Niccolò Rinaldi,** Head of Unit, Directorate-General for External Policies of the Union **Q&A**
10:15 – 11:30	**European Union - Republic of Uzbekistan Parliamentary Cooperation** *Delegation Members from the EP:* • **Hana Jalloul**, Vice Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee • **Ilhan Kyuchyuk**, EP Rapporteur for Uzbekistan *Meeting moderated by **Francesco Ronchi**, Administrator, Democracy Support Directorate, DG External Policies, European Parliament* **Q&A**
11:30 – 11:45	*Coffee break*
11:45 – 12:30	**Gender equality and women's rights in Uzbekistan and in the European Union** The session will explore the current state of gender equality and women's rights in Uzbekistan and the European Union with a particular focus on legislative and policy initiatives advancing gender equality at national level. The session will showcase some of the key achievements and success stories, while also reflecting on current priorities, challenges and ways forward. *Moderated by: **Ingrid Walker,** Programme Manager, Inter Pares/ International IDEA* *Presenters:* • **Orzigul Kozikhonova**, Chairwoman of the Committee on Youth, Women, Culture and Sports, Senate, Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan • **Stephanie D'Hose**, Senator and Chair of the Bilateral Group of the Federal Parliament of Belgium with Uzbekistan (Former Speaker of the Senate) **Q&A**
12:30 – 13:45	*Lunch break*

13:45 – 15:15	**The European Parliament and national parliaments as gender sensitive institutions** The session will provide a more concrete outlook on the role of parliaments in promoting gender equality and the different features that make parliaments more gender sensitive. The participants will showcase their parliaments' experiences in the area, including through the work of specialized gender committees and caucuses. The session will also highlight the latest data on gender-sensitive parliaments by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE). *Moderated by:* ***Jonathan Murphy****, Head of Programme, Inter Pares /International IDEA (tbc)* *Presenters:* ● **Nicolae Stefanuta**, Vice-President of the European Parliament and member of the High-Level Group on Gender Equality and Diversity ● **Gulrukh Agzamova**, Chairwoman of the Committee on Democratic Institutions and the Development of Civil Society, Legislative Chamber, Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan ● **Gintarė Skaistė,** Deputy Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, Seimas, Lithuania ● **Carlien Scheele,** Director, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) – *(online intervention)* **Discussion**
15:15 – 15:30	*Coffee break*
15:30 – 16:50	**Parliament's role in preventing gender-based violence** The session will focus on the parliaments' policy-level interventions for the fight and prevention of gender-based violence, discrimination and harassment. *Moderated by:* ***Hannah Johnson,*** *Senior Gender Advisor, Inter Pares/International IDEA* *Presenters:* ● **Gulnorakhon Abduvokhidova**, Member of the Labor, Health and Social Affairs Committee, Legislative Chamber, Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan ● **Caroline Desalle**, Senator, Committee on Transversal issues, Community Competences and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, Belgian Senate ● **Anna-Maria Pawliczek**, International Parliamentary Support Coordinator, International Exchange Programmes Division Int 4, Bundestag, Germany **Discussion**
16:50 – 17:00	**Closing Remarks** ● **Jonathan Murphy**, Head of Programme, Inter Pares/International IDEA
17:00 – 18:00	**Tour of the European Parliament**