

**CHANGING THE CLIMATE:  
THE ROLE OF  
WOMEN  
PARLIAMENTARIANS  
ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

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Gender in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: The Role of Parliaments

**Climate Change** is one of the  
most urgent issues of our time.

- ❑ The United Nations Development Programme *2007/2008 Human Development Report* emphasized that climate change is a scientifically established fact and a massive threat to development **needing urgent action**.
- ❑ Addressing the threat of climate change is a current global policy. There is broad consensus that climate change is **best addressed in the context of sustainable development**. Unless it is effectively dealt with, climate change will have a dramatic impact on the environment and on economic and social development. Climate change is also likely to exacerbate both natural disasters and potentially conflicts over natural resources.
- ❑ The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali in December 2007 clearly signaled Member States' commitment to addressing climate change and delivered the Bali Action Plan – the crucial mandate to launch negotiations for the achievement of a comprehensive global agreement by the end of 2009
- ❑ *The Bali Action Plan confirmed that effectively addressing climate change requires both mitigation and adaptation action as well as technology and financing.*
- ❑ **Mitigation involves a process of curbing greenhouse gas emissions** from human activities. **Adaptation involves a range of activities to reduce vulnerability and build resilience**. New and improved technologies and financing initiatives at all levels, are also receiving attention as part of the collective efforts to address climate change.

# Gender in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: The Role of Parliaments



**EXTREME** Weather and Natural disasters  
are more common



## Gender in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: The Role of Parliaments

Unquestionably, **Climate Change** affects everyone...

But **WOMEN** are the first to be affected by  
**Climate Change**



Women in India now spend 4 or 5 hours a day collecting fuel wood where previously they would have done this only every 4 to 5 days.

- Gender and Environment 2000

Deforestation or contamination increased the time women spent looking for fuel wood or safe and clean water and also women's risk of water-borne diseases.

- UNFPA 2001 State of World Population



## Gender in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: The Role of Parliaments

**Indeed,  
WOMEN are  
the most  
VULNERABLE  
and the best  
poised to curb the  
effects of  
Climate Change**

**Yet, they have remained invisible in these efforts.**



Gender in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: The Role of Parliaments

How can the participation of **WOMEN**  
be included in  
climate change initiatives?

Women in Academe  
Women in Bureaucracy  
Women in Local Government Units  
Women in Congress (National Parliament)

# Gender in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: The Role of Parliaments

## Women in Elective Positions in the Philippines in 2007

Positions	WOMEN	MEN
President	1	0
Vice Pres.	0	1
Senators	4	19
Reps.	32	128
Governors	18	62
Vice Gov.	13	67
Board Members	123	635
Mayors	273	1,319
Vice Mayors	230	1,362
Councilors	2,322	10,776
TOTAL	3,016	14,369
<b>% Total</b>	<b>17.3%</b>	<b>82.7%</b>

**17.3%** vs. **82.7%**

percentage of **WOMEN** in elective positions vs. percentage of **MEN** in elective positions



## Gender in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: The Role of Parliaments

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION  
UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE



The **Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU)** is the focal point for world-wide parliamentary dialogue and works for peace and cooperation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative democracy.



The **IPU** is the international organization of Parliaments of sovereign states.

It was established in **1889**.

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INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION  
UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE



In the  
Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU),  
parliamentarians are encouraged to  
**MAINSTREAM GENDER**  
in drafting legislations and policies

# Gender in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: The Role of Parliaments

## Coordinating Committee of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

The **Meeting of Women Parliamentarians** aims to:

□ Promote an increase in the number of women MPs as delegates to Inter Parliamentary Meetings

□ Promote gender participation of women MPs in all senior posts of the Union.

□ Establish contact with other women MPs whether or not they participate in IPU meetings.

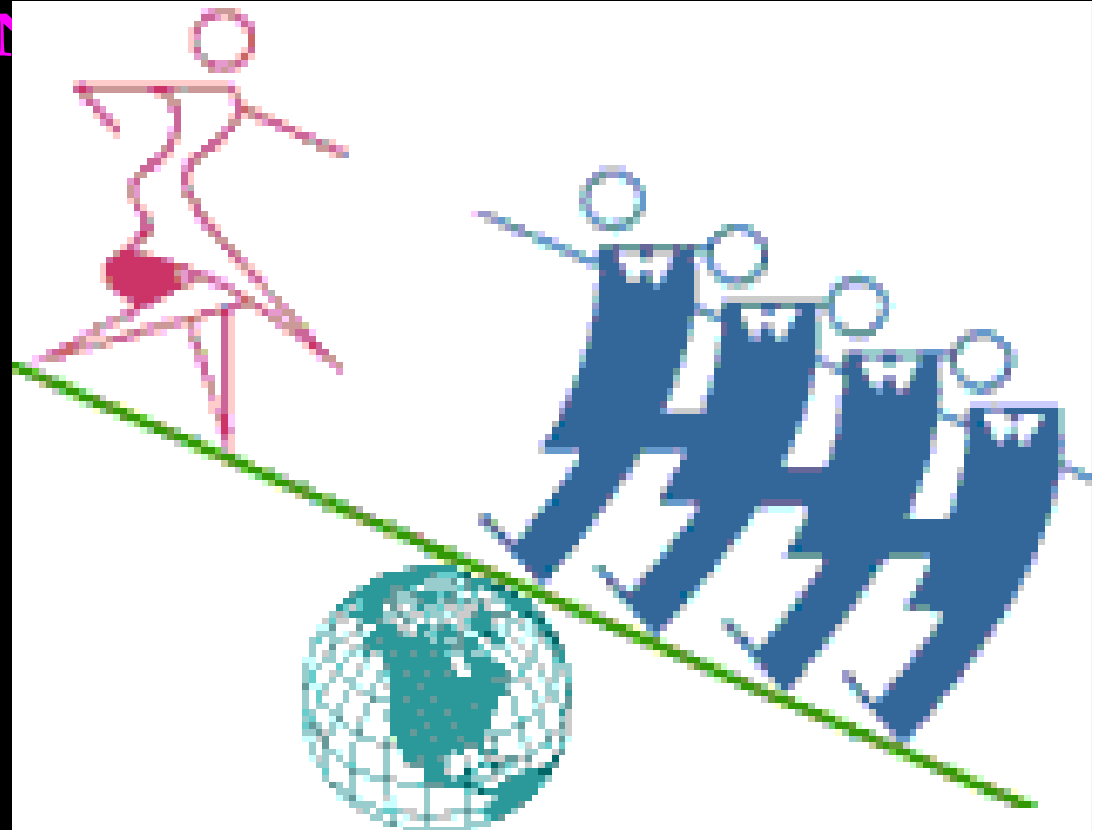
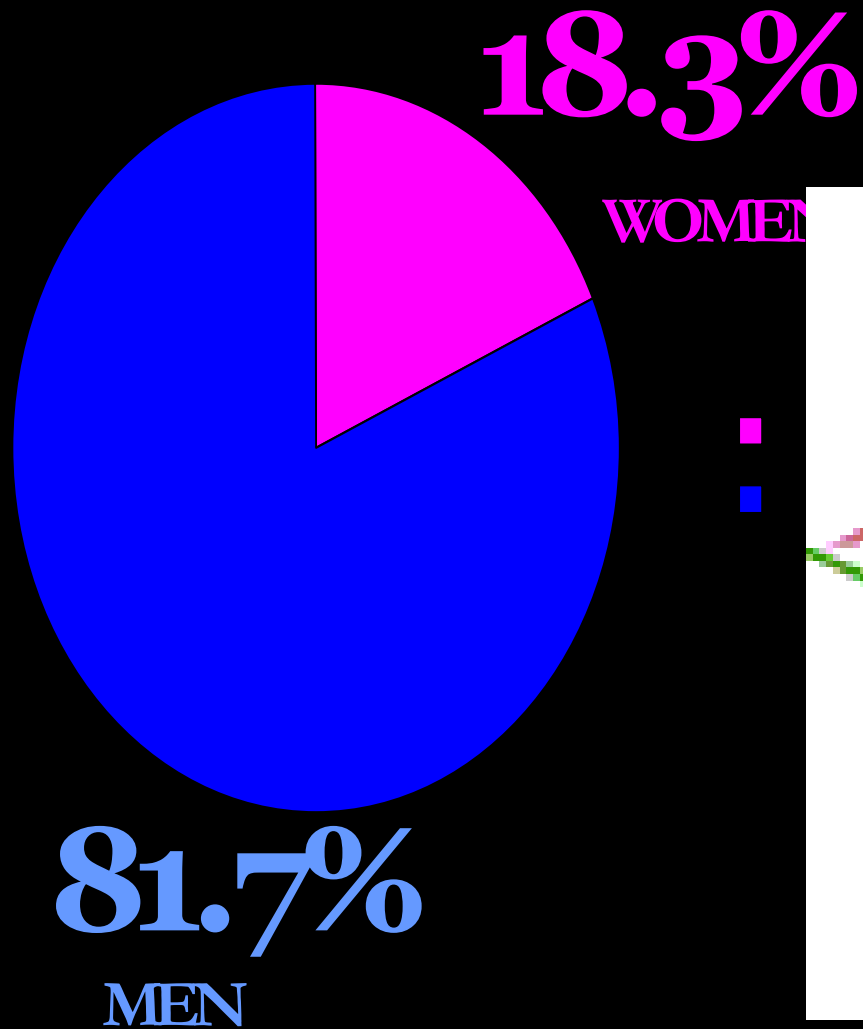
□ Allow women to learn more about the status of women in their own and other regions and about strategies or mechanisms developed by other countries to meet the concerns of women.



# Gender in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: The Role of Parliaments



## Women in National Parliaments



## Gender in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: The Role of Parliaments

There are **20 countries** where **WOMEN** hold **30%** or more of the seats in lower or single chambers, **four** of which have at least **40%** women members.

For **WOMEN Speakers of Parliament**, the totals are lower at roughly **10%**.

Overall, **16%** of **ministerial portfolios** are held by women in 2008.

Among elected **Heads of State**, women account for almost **5%** women.

# Gender in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: The Role of Parliaments

## Regional Average of Women in Parliaments

**Nordic countries** 41.4% are women

**Americas** 21.6% are women

**Europe excluding  
Nordic countries** 18.9% are women

**Asia** 18.3% are women

**Sub-saharan Africa** 17.9% are women

**Pacific** 12.9% are women

**Arab States** 9.7% are women

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION  
UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE



**Low levels of  
representation of women**  
in the world's parliaments  
continue to hamper gender  
mainstreaming efforts



**INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION  
UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE**



## Increasing the number of women in parliaments will:

- increase the inclusion of women's unique and valuable perspectives and expertise on climate change in legislation and policy-making
- integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and legislations to address climate change
- strengthen or establish mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the impacts of environmental policies on women



**WOMEN** are the first to be affected by **CLIMATE CHANGE**



and they can be at the forefront in  
**CHANGING THE CLIMATE.**

# How can the participation of women be included in Climate Change Initiatives?

□ Provide a gender perspective in understanding, analyzing, and solution finding for CLIMATE CHANGE.

□ Ensure that women's needs and concerns are taken into account in legislation and policy setting.

□ Include a gender-sensitive budget.





**Maraming Salamat Po!**