



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

**Third Committee
Agenda item 64: Advancement of Women
United Nations, 14 October 2009**

STATEMENT by Ambassador Anda Filip, Permanent Observer

Mr. Chairman,

Next year is 2010 - fifteen years after Beijing and 35 after the first world conference on women held in Mexico; yet another milestone. The world conferences on women have had the merit of giving political visibility to women's rights worldwide. Thirty-five years on, can we be satisfied with the pace of change?

Today, women account for 18.6 per cent of members of parliament. This is progress, but not nearly enough. Eighteen per cent falls short of the 20 per cent target set at the

Fourth World Conference on Women. It is, however, a fair number compared to other decision-making positions. Only 9 per cent of the world's mayors, 16 per cent of its

Participants acknowledged that women's political participation is affected by

multiple factors, for instance balancing private and public responsibilities, funding, political party support, cultural attitudes and stereotypes, etc.

On an encouraging note, over the past decade solutions have emerged and a variety of special measures have been implemented. Electoral gender quotas, for instance,

emphasis was noted and participants called for greater efforts to be made to involve

men in gender equality work.

Lastly, the role of parliamentary committees dealing with gender issues was highlighted. Much of the detailed policy work and oversight is done in parliamentary committees and it is here that gender equality strategies need to be implemented. Specialized parliamentary committees on gender equality are an important mechanism for gender mainstreaming.

The third dimension that was considered was to look at the institution of parliament itself. How gender-sensitive are parliaments? How do men promote gender equality?

Is there a separate platform for gender equality in parliament? Are there mechanisms

