

# INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

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effective mechanism for meeting the needs of both men and women. This does not imply a separate budget for women, but rather mainstreaming gender into all political and economic processes. One of the commitments we made yesterday was to initiate or strengthen this type of process in our own parliaments.

If in our countries we do not implement gender-sensitive budgets, we as parliamentarians have a commitment to ask ourselves why, pressure our governments and question our institutions.

The second point refers to parliament's oversight role. In order to ably carry out this function, we have to set objectives, establish goals, defend positions and regularly monitor the situation. We should be vigilant and examine all opportunities to secure financing for gender equality. In so doing, we need to analyse the gender impact of all economic and financial measures. We should follow more closely international aid and not be afraid to request conditionalities that promote gender equality. We should also initiate discussions and examine the impact of taxation on men and women. For example, the impact of indirect taxes such as VAT should be carefully scrutinized, given that they have a greater impact on the lives of women. We should also think creatively and not be afraid to adopt measures such as, for example, earmarking resources in favour of gender equality. One of the experiences which we discussed yesterday was the earmarking of resources from alcohol taxes for programmes to combat violence against women.

The third point concerns the need to review our laws and frameworks so as to eliminate discriminatory measures. Indeed, we should avoid financing programme  
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