

**Commission on the Status of Women  
Intervention by Senator Monica Xavier (Uruguay)  
On behalf of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**

Mr. Chairman,

It's a great pleasure for me to take the floor on behalf of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. My name is Monica Xavier, I'm a Senator from Uruguay and President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians.

Yesterday, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women organized a parliamentary meeting focusing on the role that parliaments can play in financing for gender equality. I would like to thank UNDAW for its cooperation. It was the fourth parliamentary meeting that we jointly organize each year on the occasion of the CSW. I would like to underline how important it is for legislators to participate in the process of the Commission, contribute to the debate and learn from the information, exchanges and meetings that we have here. It is also important for us parliamentarians to go back home with the commitment to ensure national follow-up to the decisions that have been taken here.

Yesterday's meeting was very successful and it enjoyed a strong participation -over 130 parliamentarians from some 50 countries participated in a very energetic and constructive

debate.

I would like to mention here a few of the issues that were discussed and commitments that we have taken.

The issue of financing is crucial to meeting national and international objectives for gender equality. How many times, we parliamentarians, have we found ourselves in a situation where we pass laws, approve programs, develop national plans for women and

have committed to ask ourselves why, and pressure our governments and question our institutions.

The second point refers to the parliaments' oversight role. In order ably carry out this function, we have to set objectives, establish goals, defend positions and regularly