



# INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

**53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women**

## **S T A T E M E N T**

**by Senator Pia Cayetano (Philippines)  
President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women  
Parliamentarians**

**United Nations  
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**Check against delivery**



Mr. Chairman,

Yesterday, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women organized a parliamentary meeting focusing on the role of parliaments in promoting equal sharing of responsibilities between men and women. I would like to thank UNDAW for its cooperation. It was the fifth annual parliamentary meeting of its kind jointly organized on the occasion of the CSW. I would like to state how important it is for parliamentarians to participate in the process of the Commission, contribute to the debate and learn from the information

But how many countries have actually developed and enforced the required national legislation and policies needed? We have massive data compilation for it.

on parental leave, breastfeeding and discrimination against women workers. On this point, we underscored the importance of a gender-balanced approach to care-giving and the need to develop measures to support a more active role of men in care-giving.

The **third point** relates to changing mindsets and addressing **gender stereotypes**. As opinion makers, parliamentarians can make a difference by challenging existing gender stereotypes and promoting a change of mentality. This begins with education

and promoting gender equality in school curricula and grass-roots programmes. In addition, addressing gender stereotypes from a policy perspective is also required. As parliamentarians, we need to publicly highlight the value of care and draw attention to the role and responsibilities of men.