The Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) are pleased to invite you to take part in a side-event they are organizing during the 59th Session on the Commission on the Status of Women on:

**Empowering the next generation:**

*Paving the way for young women in decision-making at all levels*

The Beijing Declaration and Plan of Action call for the equal participation of men and women in decision-making, including political decision-making. Twenty years after the commitments made in Beijing, women’s participation in politics has increased but equality is still far off.

Will the chances of achieving equality in politics improve with the new generations? Is access to politics easier for young women today compared to the past?

The side event will explore initiatives that have been or could be taken to enhance the participation of young women in politics. It will address the nexus between formal and informal political life, exploring the extent to which informal political movements can provide fertile ground for the next generation of young men and women to effect transformational change for gender equality and women's well-being. It will also discuss how to ensure that the young generation of politicians commits to pursuing women's rights and gender equality objectives.

**Chair/Moderator:**  
Mr. Aodhán Ó Riordáin  
Minister of State for Equality, New Communities and Culture (Ireland)

**Panellists:**  
Ms. Zeina Hilal  
Programme Officer in charge of gender equality and youth participation  
Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Ms. Rosaline Smith  
Member of Parliament (Sierra Leone)

Ms. Zita Gurmai  
PES Women President, Party of European Socialists (Hungary)

Ms. Emma Newbury  
Research Officer, Gender & Governance, Trocaire

**Date and time:** Tuesday 10 March 2015, from 4.45 to 6 p.m.

**Location:** Conference Room E, GA Building, United Nations, New York

**N.B.** Meeting Room E does not have interpretation facilities and the side event will be held in English only.