

## Press Release

On Wednesday 16 October 2019, at 09.00-17.00 hrs, at Amphitheatre, Ground Floor Building B, Save Centre Belgrade, Republic of Serbia, Hon. Mrs. Suwannee Sirivejchapun, Senator, as a Thai Parliamentary Delegate to the 141<sup>st</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly and related meetings attended the Parity Debate on “Not In My Parliament : National and regional strategies” which was held by the IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians during the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly. In this regard, Hon. Mrs. Suwannee presented that under Section 219 of the constitution of Thailand, the Constitutional Court and Independent Organs shall prescribe ethical standard applicable to the judges of the Constitutional Court, and persons holding positions in the Independent Organs including the Auditor-General and Heads of the Secretariat of the Constitutional, Court and Independent Organs. In preparing the ethical standards, opinions of the House of Representatives, the Senate and the Council of Ministers shall also be taken into considerations. Upon the promulgation, they shall apply to Members of the House of Representatives, Senators and the Council of Ministers. However, this does not preclude the House of Representatives, the Senate or the Council of Ministers from prescribing additional ethics suitable to its performance of duties. The ethical standard of the judges of the Constitutional Court and Independent Organs, the Auditor-General, and Heads of the Secretariat of the Constitutional Court prescribe the prohibition of sexual abuse and harassment by Members of Parliament which causes the effect on victims and their duties, and the victims must receive the result of that action. In this regard, the House of Representatives and the senate are processing to regulate the Code of Conduct for Parliamentarians and the Rules of Procedure of the House of Representatives, B.E. 2562 (2019) and the rules of Procedure of the Senate B.E. 2562 (2019), state that the Rules of Ethics of Members of House of representatives and Committees B.E. 2553 (2010) and the Rules of Ethics of Senators and Committees B.E. 2553 (2010) shall apply mutatis mutandis to members and the committees of the both Houses. The rules of ethnic prescribes that the Members of Parliament and the Committees shall not abuse other, and it shall have the Ethics Commission which has charge and control of the execution of the rules by receiving complaints and investigation of sexual abuse and imposes penalty for breaching of the rules. Thailand has already implemented the legal provisions. Furthermore, Hon. Mrs. Suwannee suggested that, if the Inter-Parliamentary Union needs to solve the problem on sexual harassment in national parliaments, it should set up the guidelines for parliaments to assess themselves each year and parliaments, should inform the Inter-Parliamentary Union-their assessments. This will be one of mechanism to prevent such problems.

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The Secretariat of the House of Representatives