

22 March 2021

Dear Madam Speaker,
Dear Mr. Speaker,

We are pleased to inform you that the in-person segment of the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (5WCSP) and the Summit of Women Speakers, will take place in **Vienna from 6 to 8 September 2021**. As was the case with the virtual segment in 2020 – <https://www.ipu.org/event/fifth-world-conference-speakers-parliament> – the in-person Conference is organized by the IPU and the Austrian Parliament, in close cooperation with the United Nations.

You will receive the formal programme of the meeting and related documents in the coming weeks, but in the meantime we would be grateful if you could mark in your calendar the dates of this global summit.

The Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament will take place on Monday, 6 September and will provide an opportunity to take stock of the year's developments for women and girls and seek solution-oriented actions for a gender-responsive recovery from the pandemic. The Speakers' Conference itself will take place on 7 and 8 September, building on last year's virtual segment and its overarching theme of *Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and planet*. It will feature a general debate, panel discussions on topical themes to be identified by the Preparatory Committee, and of course a valuable opportunity for direct interaction between parliamentary leaders. The Speakers' Conference will conclude with a high-level Declaration, which will be prepared through an inclusive process, to which your personal contributions will be most welcome.

On **9 September**, right after the Speakers' Conference, the IPU, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) will hold the first Global Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism, which we would also encourage you to attend.

We trust that the in-person Conference in Vienna, taking place at a critical time as the international community strives to recover from what has been a devastating pandemic, will allow parliamentary leaders to come together, identify lasting solutions and make a parliamentary contribution to global governance as we take robust action to advance peace, sustainable development, democracy and the rule of law.

We look forward to welcoming you to Vienna and to working closely with you towards an impactful World Conference of Speakers of Parliament.

Yours sincerely,



Duarte Pacheco
President
Inter-Parliamentary Union



Wolfgang Sobotka
President
Austrian National Council

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