

26 May 2021

Dear Madam Speaker,
Dear Mr. Speaker,

We are pleased to follow-up on our communication of 22 March 2021 and formally invite you to join us for the in-person segment of the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (5WCSP) and the Summit of Women Speakers, which will take place in **Vienna from 6 to 8 September 2021**. We are pleased to share with you the overall programme of the Conference and an overview of the main panel discussions, as well as a practical information note on travel to Austria and COVID-related measures in place.

The Preparatory Committee has decided that the general debate will take place in an interactive format, following the Doha-style format of motions on highly topical issues. All Speakers of Parliament will also be invited to submit their formal statements in writing or as pre-recorded videos. These will be disseminated during and after the Conference, and will form part of the official records of the event.

Needless to say, the Conference will provide an invaluable opportunity for direct interaction and exchange – this is all the more timely as it comes after over a year when we have not been able to meet due to the pandemic. The Conference will conclude with a Declaration on *Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and planet*. We aim to share with you a preliminary draft, based on the work of the Preparatory Committee, by late June.

As we have mentioned previously, the Speakers' Conference will be preceded by the Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament, to be held in Vienna on Monday, **6 September** (the relevant documents will be circulated to the Women Speakers of Parliament separately). 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.

Online registration for these events will open on 4 June 2021. In order to make the necessary arrangements on the ground, in particular with regard to the COVID situation, we would be most grateful if by 15 June you could indicate your intention to attend the Conference in Vienna in person (email to postbox@ipu.org). More information about the Conference will be shared with you as it becomes available and posted on the event webpage at <https://www.ipu.org/event/fifth-world-conference-speakers-parliament-september-2021>.

We look forward to welcoming you to Vienna and to working closely with you towards an impactful World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, which will help build bridges and allow us to identify solutions to the daunting challenges of our time.

Yours sincerely,



Duarte Pacheco
President
Inter-Parliamentary Union



Wolfgang Sobotka
President
Austrian National Council

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