



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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IPU Statement

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President of the IPU

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Mr. President,

The challenges we are facing today require women's leadership more than ever. We have seen women leaders respond in a bold way to COVID-19.

And yet, progress has been too slow. Since Beijing, we have gone from 11 to 25 per cent women in parliaments. At this pace, it would take us another half-century to reach parity.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union has been monitoring progress and drawing lessons from across the globe.

First, we know gender parity is possible. In every region there are today parliaments with at least a 40/60 gender ratio.

Second, women's full participation in decision-making requires a gender-responsive environment, free from sexism, harassment and violence, and gender-sensitive institutions.

Third, women's leadership has a transformative potential both on the way politics is done and what priorities are set. Data shows that gender parity is good for governance, development, climate action and peace.

Now, how do we accelerate progress? Only through strong leadership, collective efforts, and a robust feminist agenda.

At the global level, platforms such as the IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians and General Equality are critical. We are glad to be one of the leaders of the Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership, and to bring the voices of MPs from around the globe and their political will to mobilize action.

We are also pleased to have strong partnerships, in particular with UN Women on the multi-stakeholder strategy on equality in the law for women and girls by 2030, as well as with the CEDAW Committee and other entities.

The task is immense. Today, discrimination in laws still affects 2.5 billion women and girls. With the current crisis, we could lose ground on hard won gains on women's rights and gender equality.

At the IPU we are committed to promoting gender parity and mobilizing parliamentary leadership. This will be a game changer for the women and girls of today and tomorrow.

Thank you.