



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Chemin du Pommier 5
Case postale 330
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex
Geneva – Switzerland
www.ipu.org

IPU Statement

**Hon. Ms. Gabriela Cuevas
Barron**
President of the IPU

Delivered by pre-recorded video

**High-level meeting to commemorate
the 75th anniversary of the United
Nations (UN75 Summit)**

New York, 21 September 2020

Excellences,

It is a great honour to join the UN's 75th birthday celebrations, to convey the key messages of the 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament which met virtually in August 2020.

The Speakers developed a common platform to meet global challenges: poverty and inequality, gender-based discrimination, climate change, environmental degradation, mass migration, nuclear proliferation, and other security threats.

These global challenges are interconnected and face all of us. The Covid-19 pandemic crisis is the latest and most dramatic illustration of this.

In their Declaration, the Speakers endorsed strongly the SDGs as the only viable policy course to lead the world out of its current crises and to advance human well-being with no one left behind.

We simply cannot afford to fail the SDGs. Political will is needed if we are to succeed.

The World's Speakers pledged to support measures to make parliaments more open and inclusive of all people, particularly women and youth, to ensure democracy and good governance.

They called for stronger rules-based multilateral responses to global challenges based on the principles of the UN Charter and organized through the UN as the most important institution of global governance.

Multilateralism does not entail a weakening of national governments. The current crisis of multilateralism comes in part from a general lack of accountability, with too many governments failing to deliver on their own commitments at the UN.

As oversight bodies, parliaments must be more engaged with the UN to ensure that governments' commitments are respected, restoring peoples' faith in multilateralism.

As the Speakers said, "decisions taken in a multilateral framework in which the voice of our parliaments is heard are more democratic, inclusive and sustainable."

Parliaments need to be more actively engaged with the United Nations, and further UN reforms must facilitate more input from parliaments, ensuring governments' decisions at the UN reflect more closely the will of the people.

In several resolutions over the past twenty years, the General Assembly has expressed strong support for this same vision of a parliamentary dimension to the UN's work. Yet, despite much progress, this vision has not been fully realized.

I hope that this 75th anniversary of the United Nations will mark a new beginning in the relationship between the UN, parliaments and the IPU.

Let's not fear change.

The time has come for us to work together more closely for a better world for all.

Thank you.