

Written Statement from H.E. Li Zhanshu
Chairman of the Standing Committee of
The National People's Congress of
The People's Republic of China
To the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament
7 - 8 September 2021

Your Excellency President Wolfgang Sobotka,
Your Excellency President Duarte Pacheco,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to attend the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament.

The international landscape is undergoing profound and complex changes; waves of COVID-19 continue to ravage the world; and various regional and global issues keep flaring up. People's aspiration for health security and their call for peace and development are stronger than ever.

Over the past year or so, the world has been battling the COVID-19 pandemic. The most important takeaway is: winning this fight requires solidarity and must rely on science.

We must uphold the principle of human life first, put people's lives and health front and center, and contain the spread of the virus as soon as possible.

We must actively advance international cooperation on vaccine production and distribution, pandemic prevention and control, essential supplies, public health and other areas, and enhance vaccine accessibility and affordability.

While fighting the coronavirus, we must also combat the political virus and firmly reject any act of placing politics above science and politicizing issues such as COVID-19 origins-tracing.

All countries have a stake in one another's future. No country can live and develop in isolation. As President Xi Jinping pointed out, our world today needs true multilateralism. We need to respect other peoples' independent choice of development path and model of system, seek political and peaceful settlement of disputes and hotspot issues, jointly uphold the UN-centered international system and the international order underpinned by international law, and make global governance more just and equitable.

The National People's Congress of China will continue to deepen exchanges and cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and other legislatures to jointly meet global challenges and build a community with a shared future for mankind.

Thank you.