

**STATEMENT BY THE RT HON. ANITA ANNET AMONG, DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA AT THE 13<sup>TH</sup> SUMMIT OF WOMEN SPEAKERS AND THE FIFTH WORLD CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS, 6<sup>TH</sup> – 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021, VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

***Theme:***

***“Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and the planet”***

The 13<sup>th</sup> Summit of Women Speakers and the Fifth World Conference of Speakers in Vienna, Austria are a demonstration of the commitment and involvement of Parliaments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic amidst the health crisis faced by the world population.

Parliamentary leadership in addressing the challenges facing humanity guarantees the participation of Members of Parliaments, women, youth, and people with special needs as well as the vulnerable in society in issues that concern them. Notably, the current health crisis disproportionately affects women and girls, thus Parliaments need to be conscious of the human rights and freedoms for all.

The 2030 agenda for sustainable development should be central to the efforts of Parliaments. They need to work tirelessly and lead by example, thus cooperation and multilateral actions are needed more than ever before. Uganda has embraced sustainable development as a key pillar of its development agenda. The National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, specifically National Objective no. XXVII 1995 provide for adherence to the principle of sustainable development. The concept of sustainable development is also reflected in several Acts of Parliament. For instance the National Environment Act, 2019 provides for management of the environment for sustainable development.

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Parliaments have a key role to introduce required legislations, approve government policies, monitor government performance through the oversight function, as well as appropriation of resources required to address these challenges that have been raised internationally. The representation of the peoples of the world through their Members of Parliaments, ensures that important issues that concern the people are at the forefront especially issues concerning; gender equality, human rights, sustainable development, the environment, population growth, health, and education. Thus, the peoples' voices will be heard when addressing these issues and adopting realistic solutions together.

Multilateralism emphasizes the degree to which governments, scientists, businesses and of course parliaments can cooperate together across borders and continents. It is not an ideology; it is simply a methodology, the best one we have, to deal with truly global challenges.

Today's challenges demand a networked multilateralism, in which the United Nations and its agencies, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, regional organizations, trade organizations and others work together more closely.

There is also need for an inclusive multilateralism that does not only involve Governments and executive branches but also takes into consideration Civil Society Organisations, the business community, local authorities, cities and regional governments noting that they are assuming more and more leadership roles in today's world. This, in turn, can help lead to an effective multilateralism with power and mechanisms to make global governance work where it is needed.

Consequently, leaders of parliaments should issue a strong call for transformative actions that would be life-changing for humanity.

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*Signed*

*Anita Annet Among*

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**Rt. Hon. Anita Annet Among**

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