



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

Chemin du Pommier 5  
Case postale 330  
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex  
Geneva – Switzerland  
[www.ipu.org](http://www.ipu.org)

## Speaking Notes

Ms. Tone Wilhelmsen Trøen  
Chair of the Summit

Closing session of the  
*13<sup>th</sup> Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament*  
Vienna, Austria

6 September 2021

### Closing Remarks

- Thank you to all of you who took part in the two sessions of exciting debates. All of your interventions, regardless of position, are a valuable contribution to the overall deliberations of today's Summit.
- During the first session "*Women in the pandemic: A tribute to everyday heroes*", we heard interesting discussions from fellow Speakers of Parliament on the effectiveness of women working in the front lines during the COVID-19 as opposed to men. We heard views on the fair compensation of women's domestic care work according to the national minimum wage, and we listened to discussions on the availability of universal gender-responsive social protection systems.
- During the second session "*Women in the post-pandemic recovery: Preserving achievements, furthering progress*", the debates centered around what we need to do by 2030 to achieve our shared goals. We discussed the strong relation between political will and gender parity in parliaments, and the policies that can achieve global economic recovery post-pandemic. We also shared how we can work towards the eradication of violence against women and girls in all forms.
- While the pandemic brought us new challenges, it also gave us new opportunities. And women in power are showing the way on so many fronts.
- This debate reinforced that having gender-responsive legal reforms and economic policies that recognize women's unique work should not be separate from COVID-19 recovery, but must be integral to it. And that for building back better, we need to build back more equal.
- As I mentioned, today's discussion will inform and contribute to the deliberations of the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament starting tomorrow. Making gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls a priority on the global parliamentary agenda is urgently needed, now more than ever.
- I would like to end by calling on each and everyone of us to act now, and to act together. We need to seize this opportunity to take bold, sustainable action for a gender equal tomorrow. Side by side, our parliaments can inspire the change we wish to see in our societies.
- Thank you again to everyone, and I'm looking forward to seeing you during tomorrow's Conference.