



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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Speaking Notes

Mr. Martin Chungong
Secretary-General of the IPU

Closing session of the
13th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament
Vienna, Austria

6 September 2021

Closing Remarks

- Dear Speakers of Parliament, friends and colleagues, I am honored to be closing the 13th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament—the first in-person IPU gathering in a while— that signifies a life after COVID-19.
- We have heard interesting discussions today on the crucial role of women during the height of the pandemic, and their instrumental role now in our societies as we strive to recover from COVID-19.
- We discussed gender-responsive economic recovery strategies that include the just compensation of domestic care work, and the need for universal social protection systems.
- As mentioned by the Chair of the Summit, Speaker Trøen, the notion of building back better through building back more equal needs to be emphasized.
- The pandemic has shown us our flaws as a society. As we move towards COVID-19 recovery, we need to ensure that strong policies are in place that can fill in the gaps, and it is Parliament's role to lead in that. Moreover, it is your role as Speakers to lead your Parliaments.
- As you all know, your deliberations today will feed into the Fifth World Conference of Speakers that will begin tomorrow. The theme of the Conference looks into how parliamentary leadership can lead to more effective multilateralism that delivers on peace and sustainable development.
- We are confronted with a global problem, so we must approach this through global solutions. We cannot sustainably recover from the effects of COVID-19 if we do not act together. We are far more effective when we are learning from each other, pushing each other, and working together.
- We owe this to the current and future generations of women and girls everywhere, who are striving for a more gender equal tomorrow.
- Thank you and enjoy the rest of the evening.