



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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# 14th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament (14SWSP)



O'zbekiston Respublikasi  
**OLY MAJLISI  
SENATI**

## ***Parliamentary leadership: Anticipating risks to better deliver sustainability and prosperity***

*Tashkent City Congress Hall, Tashkent (Uzbekistan)  
8 and 9 September 2022*

## INFORMATION NOTE

The 14th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament (14SWSP), convened by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in close cooperation with the Oliy Majlis (Supreme Assembly) of Uzbekistan, will be held in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) on 8 and 9 September 2022.

The Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament brings together women in the highest parliamentary decision-making positions to shape the parliamentary agenda based on emerging political, economic, environmental and social issues that require united and gender-responsive solutions. In this endeavour, it offers a forum for women leaders to network and exchange views and experiences.

The aim of the theme of the 14SWSP ***Parliamentary leadership: Anticipating risks to better deliver sustainability and prosperity*** is to focus on priority areas of action for parliamentary leaderships to better deliver sustainability and prosperity while building on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and related crises, and anticipating future risks.

The outcome of the 14SWSP's deliberations will offer an opportunity to make gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls a priority on the agenda of all parliaments.

### PARTICIPATION

**The Summit is open to national parliaments of countries that are recognized by the United Nations and/or are IPU Member Parliaments and that are presided over by a woman Speaker or President.** In the case of bicameral parliaments, the 14SWSP is open to women Speakers of both chambers.

Women Speakers who are unable to attend the 14SWSP **may only be replaced by a female deputy Speaker from the same parliamentary chamber.**

**The 14SWSP is also open to regional and international parliamentary assemblies and organizations that are Associate Members of the IPU and that are presided over by a woman President.** Additional invitees include women members of the IPU Executive Committee.

A limited number of high-level international experts will be invited as special guests to attend the 14SWSP to inform its key themes.

### SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF DELEGATIONS

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and current regulations in place in Uzbekistan, the size of delegations to the 14SWSP is limited to four persons (woman Speaker plus three others, MPs and/or staff) or six persons in the case of bicameral parliaments. Seating arrangements at desks will be made according to this formula.

Delegations from regional and international parliamentary assemblies and organizations that are IPU Associate Members should be composed of no more than two persons.

### ORGANIZATION OF PROCEEDINGS

Women Speakers of parliament and women Presidents of regional and international parliamentary assemblies that are Associate Members of the IPU are invited to take part in the debates.

The 14SWSP will start with an opening session, followed by two main sessions. These debate sessions will be held on the first day of the Summit, on 8 September, and focus respectively on the

themes *Addressing risks of the post-pandemic global recovery* and *Preventing tech related risks and preserving human rights and gender equality in a tech world*.

During the second day, on 9 September, a special segment will be held to mark the tenth anniversary of IPU's [Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments](#). The special segment will follow an innovative format inspired by the Doha Debates as a way of stimulating lively exchanges among the women Speakers and Presidents. The Doha Debate format involves focusing on controversial motions, with some participants speaking in favour and others against.

Once the speakers have presented an outline of their arguments, a moderator will put questions to them, following which the floor will be opened for comments. At the end of the debate, the moderator will sum up key findings, conclusions and recommendations.

A list of the motions to be debated is provided in advance and women Speakers and Presidents shall indicate the motions to which they would like to contribute by filling out the sign-up form (attached and also available in the "documents" section of the following webpage: <https://www.ipu.org/event/14th-summit-women-speakers-parliament>). The contributions to motions (for or against) shall be limited to three minutes each. In addition to their contribution to one or more chosen motions, women Speakers and Presidents may also make spontaneous contributions by answering questions and making comments on the motions being debated. Such additional contributions shall be limited to one minute each.

A roundtable session platform – for women Speakers and Presidents only – will be held *in camera* to agree on the Summit's conclusions and main recommendations. Based on their discussion, women Speakers and Presidents will adopt the Tashkent Declaration.

The 14SWSP will end with a closing session which will present the Tashkent Declaration and close the Summit.

## **SPEAKING RIGHTS AND ORDER**

Each woman Speaker of parliament or President of a regional or international parliamentary assembly that is an Associate Member of the IPU shall in principle be entitled to deliver remarks in the sessions and on the topics that they have selected in advance. Written statements should be submitted in advance to enable the IPU Secretariat to share them with the interpreters and the IPU Communications Team.

The chairperson and/or the moderator shall call to order any speaker who does not respect time limitations, fails to keep to the subject under discussion or prejudices the debate by using abusive language. The chairperson and/or moderator may, if necessary, withdraw permission to speak, and may request the speaker withdraw any objectionable words and/or have them struck from the record.

## **EXPECTED OUTCOME**

An outcome document will be issued after the 14SWSP which will contain a summary of the Summit's conclusions and a series of actionable recommendations.

## **CULTURAL PROGRAMME**

In order to allow inter-parliamentary dialogue to continue outside the Summit's formal setting, included in the programme are Uzbek culture and hospitality events as well as a formal reception. For private guests accompanying women Speakers of parliament, an optional programme will be available showcasing the history, beauty and cultural opportunities of Tashkent and its surroundings. Preparations for this programme are under way. Additional information will be provided in due course.

## LANGUAGES

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided into and from Arabic, English, French, Spanish, Russian and Uzbek.

Requests for additional languages shall be submitted to the IPU Secretariat prior to the Summit by **10 August at the latest**. Delegations of women Speakers wishing to make their own arrangements for simultaneous interpretation are requested to notify this as soon as possible, prior to the registration deadline of the Summit.

Speakers addressing the 14SWSP in any other languages will need to have their individual statements translated into one of the six official languages.

## DOCUMENTS

Electronic versions of the statements or presentations made will be provided to participants as they become available.

## REGISTRATION

Online registration for the 14SWSP was opened on 1 July and will be closed on **10 August 2022**. Women Speakers and delegates will be able to register through the online form available [here](#).

A provisional list of participants will be compiled based on the registrations received. Delegates will have an opportunity to check the accuracy of this list before the end of the 14SWSP.

## ENTRY PASSES

Due to strict security measures in effect at the Tashkent City Congress Hall, every delegate to the 14SWSP must have an identity badge, prepared by the Senate of Oliy Majlis (Supreme Assembly) of Uzbekistan, in order to enter the venue premises.

## ACCOMMODATION

The Uzbek Supreme Assembly has made provisional block bookings in several hotels in Tashkent (see hotel reservation guide for more information) both in the city centre and close to the Summit venue. September is a particularly busy month for hotels in Tashkent. Delegates are therefore advised to make their hotel reservations as soon as possible. Delegations from countries with an Embassy or Permanent Mission in Tashkent are invited to contact them, as they are accustomed to receiving delegations to meetings and handling hotel reservations. In keeping with the practice of hotels in Tashkent, only reservations made with a credit card guarantee will be confirmed.

## IMMIGRATION FORMALITIES – VISAS

The visa-free regime for up to 30 days applies to citizens of a number of countries.

Citizens of countries that do not fall under the visa-free regime can get visas at the diplomatic representations and consular missions of the Republic of Uzbekistan abroad. In exceptional cases, visas may be issued at the Tashkent International Airport upon arrival. Participants who have registered for the 14SWSP will be issued entry visas without any consular fees or any other charges.

More information can be found on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan: <https://mfa.uz/en/pages/visa-republic-uzb>.

## PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

As of 10 June 2022 all coronavirus restrictions for tourists and citizens of Uzbekistan entering

Uzbekistan have been lifted. Vaccination certificates, PCR / antigen tests are no longer required at any point of entry – road, air, or rail.

However, in spite of that said above, under the recommendation of the Service for Sanitary and Epidemiological Welfare and Public Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan, **all participants of the 14SWSP and their accompanying persons:**

- Will undergo a PCR laboratory test upon arrival at their respective hotels.
- Will be required to adhere to physical distancing and general COVID-19 preventive measures, such as, washing hands and wearing a mask.

**A public health information note with additional details is provided in annex and will be updated as required by the host Parliament.**

## **NATIONAL SECURITY OFFICERS / FIREARMS REQUESTS**

If national security officers travelling with Speakers and Presidents intend to carry firearms during their stay in Tashkent, permission to use them must be requested by note verbale sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan or the diplomatic representations or consular missions of Uzbekistan abroad no later than two weeks before arrival in Tashkent. The note verbale must include detailed information about the national security officers and the firearms.

Please note that only non-automatic handguns and only one firearm per security officer will be authorized.

## **RADIO FREQUENCIES**

If radio equipment is to be used during the Speaker's or President's visit, a request to use specific frequencies must be submitted. Permission to use such frequencies must be requested by note verbale sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan no later than two weeks before arrival in Tashkent. The requested frequency as well as a possible alternative frequency, the transmission power, the time frame and approximate geographical indications (i.e. province) should be specified in the note verbale.

## **FLIGHT CLEARANCE**

Delegations arriving in government, military or custom aircraft must request diplomatic overflight and landing clearances by note verbale sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan or the diplomatic representations or consular missions of Uzbekistan abroad no later than two weeks before arrival in Tashkent. The note verbale must include the following information: arrival date and time, handling company, aircraft registration number, flight number (if applicable) and full details of all passengers as well as their passport numbers.

## **SECURITY**

Security at the Tashkent City Congress Hall and during the social events will be subject to strict criteria and regulations. One such regulation obliges all Conference participants to display their identity badges, provided by the Oliy Majlis (Supreme Assembly) of Uzbekistan, visibly upon entering and at all times while on Tashkent City Congress Hall premises and at the sites of social events. No weapons are allowed at the Summit venue and at the sites of social events.

## **TRANSPORT**

The Oliy Majlis (Supreme Assembly) of Uzbekistan will provide transportation upon arrival and departure to and from Tashkent International Airport to the accredited Summit hotels. Shuttle services are available from the official hotels to the Summit venue (Tashkent City Congress Hall) as well as to

all official events for the duration of the Summit. Timetables will be displayed at information desks in the official Summit hotels.

## LUNCHES

Lunch breaks on 8 and 9 September will be provided by the Oliy Majlis (Supreme Assembly) of Uzbekistan at noon at the Hilton Tashkent City, walking distance from the Summit venue. All Women Speakers and high-level guests are invited to attend these lunches. Each of the aforementioned invitees are welcome to attend with one accompanying person from their delegation.

## COFFEE BREAK

Refreshments will be provided by the Senate of the Oliy Majlis (Supreme Assembly) of Uzbekistan at the Tashkent City Congress Hall for all participants of the Summit on 8 and 9 September 2022.

## SOCIAL EVENT

At the end of the first day of the Summit, the Senate of the Oliy Majlis (Supreme Assembly) of Uzbekistan will organize an official reception and concert in honour of the Women Speakers of Parliament at the Hilton Tashkent City. This is open to all participants of the Summit.

## DAY FIELD TRIP

The Oliy Majlis (Supreme Assembly) of Uzbekistan invites all women Speakers and Presidents and delegates to a day field trip to the city of Samarkand. Transportation from hotels to the Tashkent train station will be organized by the host Parliament. Due to a restricted number of seats available, reservations will be made only for delegations who will have confirmed their participation to the IPU Secretariat prior to 10 August. The schedule of the day field trip is as follows:

- **7 a.m.: Departure from Tashkent**
- **9.15 a.m.: Arrival in Samarkand**
- **9.15 a.m. to noon: Visit of cultural sites**
- **Noon to 1.30 p.m.: Lunch offered by the Uzbek Parliament**
- **1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.: Visit of cultural sites**
- **5 p.m.: Departure from Samarkand**
- **7.45 p.m.: Arrival in Tashkent**

Transportation will be arranged for women Speakers and Presidents upon arrival in Tashkent train station, including for those with a flight departure on 10 September.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION**

last updated: 25 July 2022

All delegates should also have international health insurance to attend the Summit. First-aid services and medical staff will be available at the respective hotels and the Summit venue. All other medical services will be at the participants' own expense. Persons under special medical treatment are advised to bring sufficient quantities of necessary medication. The Secretariat of the host Parliament must be informed of specific medical or other indication (dietary needs, allergy, limited mobility) as soon as possible (this information may be included during online registration) so that the necessary precautions or measures can be taken speedily.

### **Entry regulations for Uzbekistan**

All participants should familiarize themselves with the entry rules for Uzbekistan before arrival.

As of 10 June 2022, all coronavirus restrictions for tourist and citizens of Uzbekistan entering Uzbekistan have been lifted. Vaccination certificates, PCR / antigen tests are no longer required at any point of entry - road, air, or rail.

Entry requirements for Uzbekistan are the same for all travellers, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status. You don't need to provide proof of your vaccination status for entry to Uzbekistan.

### **Current public health situation in Uzbekistan**

Given the worsening epidemic situation in June and July of this year in a number of countries around the world regarding COVID-19 infection, the Service for Sanitary and Epidemiological Welfare and Public Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan recommends the following:

- All participants of the Summit, including service personnel, will be required to take a PCR test.
- It is recommended to wear masks indoors.

### **PCR testing at hotel lobbies**

Upon arrival at the designated hotel lobbies, all participants at the 14SWSP, regardless of their vaccination status, will undergo a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) laboratory test.

If someone has tested positive for COVID-19, he or she will be isolated and proper medical care will be provided by the government of Uzbekistan.

As all participants will undergo a PCR test at their respective hotel lobbies, those who tested positive for COVID-19 will be immediately flagged to the Summit organizers and will not be allowed to enter the Summit venue.

### **Coronavirus safety measures at the Summit venue**

All participants must adhere to physical distancing and general COVID-19 preventive measures, such as, washing hands and wearing a mask.

First and foremost, the organizers will comply with all bio-safe measures being put in place by the government of Uzbekistan to ensure the safety of participants. As well as any regulations and venue policies, the organizers will look to maintain social distancing, increase sanitisation, decrease congestion in all areas. Attendees will be asked about their health and those with flu-like symptoms may not be permitted to attend. These measures may change in line with the most up to date health advice.