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O'zbekiston Respublikasi  
**OLIY MAJLISI  
SENATI**

# 14th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament (14SWSP)

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

*Tashkent City Congress Hall, Tashkent, Uzbekistan  
8 to 9 September 2022*

*Organized by the Senate (Oliy Majlis) of Uzbekistan and the Inter-Parliamentary Union*

## **Tashkent Declaration**

Tashkent, 9 September 2022

We, *women Speakers of parliament*, gathered at the 14th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on 8 and 9 September 2022,

- (1) *Recognizing* our vital leadership role in building resilient societies and delivering sustainability and prosperity for all,
- (2) *Stressing* that the COVID-19 pandemic has triggered a multitude of crises and worsened existing ones, resulting in worldwide increases in poverty, inequalities and vulnerabilities, and undermining progress with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),
- (3) *Recognizing* women's significant contribution in response to crises, whether they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic, armed conflict or environmental disasters, while being disproportionately affected by the social, economic and societal fallouts of such crises and often left out of decision-making spaces,
- (4) *Reaffirming* the High-Level Declaration adopted at the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament held in Vienna in 2021, and *reiterating* the imperative of building forward in a more gender-inclusive way and creating a new global social compact for gender equality enabling the full and effective participation of women in all spheres of society,
- (5) *Further reaffirming* that the global economic recovery must be social, just, sustainable and inclusive, recognize unpaid care work, and pay special attention to women, youth and children, persons with disabilities, and marginalized communities, so as to ensure a better future for all and build long-term resilience,
- (6) *Understanding* that advancements in the digital economy are a key component of economic resilience and recovery and are an opportunity for enhanced progress if implemented in a gender-sensitive way, yet *highly concerned* about related risks such as the growing digital gap, mass surveillance, online harassment, fake news, hate speech and violence, which hinder the rights and freedoms of women and girls,
- (7) *Acknowledging* from the experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic that mental health and the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls are at particular risk during crises where resources and attention are often drawn away from the issue, and recognizing that sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice are central to the realization of social justice and to the achievement of global, regional and national commitments for sustainable development,
- (8) *Celebrating* the tenth anniversary of the *IPU Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments* after its adoption by the 127th Assembly of the IPU in 2012, as a means to ensure our institutions are able to deliver sustainability and prosperity for all, *recognizing* progress made so far in its implementation, and *reiterating* the commitment of the global parliamentary community towards its fulfilment,
- (9) *Recognizing* the role of gender-sensitive parliaments in encouraging gender-responsive legislation, furthering parliamentary diplomacy, development cooperation and peace efforts, and supporting the eradication of violence against women and girls,

- (10) *Highlighting* the importance of parliamentary leadership, particularly by women Speakers of parliament, in welcoming and empowering women in parliament as well as in responding to crises-related risks,

Commit to:

1. *Step up* concrete, immediate and robust measures to achieve gender-sensitive parliaments that better respond to crises with equality, fairness and sustainability, by:
  - Conducting an assessment of our parliamentary policies, processes, structure and outputs through a gender lens, using the IPU self-assessment toolkit to evaluate the gender-sensitivity of our Parliaments
  - Based on this assessment, developing and implementing an action plan to make our Parliaments more gender-sensitive
2. *Take* concrete, immediate and robust action to implement the *IPU Plan of Action for Gender-Sensitive Parliaments* in our own parliaments by:
  - Working towards having equal numbers of women and men in parliament and across all parliamentary bodies, including in leadership positions
  - Putting in place strong legal and policy frameworks for gender equality
  - Mainstreaming gender across all of our parliaments' work
  - Instituting or improving gender-sensitive and family-friendly infrastructure and promoting a culture that respects work-life balance
  - Setting up and implementing policies that effectively address sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament and promoting a parliamentary culture of zero tolerance in this regard
  - Ensuring that the responsibility for gender equality is shared by all parliamentarians, both men and women
  - Working for gender equality in strong partnership with political parties and parliamentary staff;
3. *Support* efforts to enhance the participation of young women and young people in parliament, including in decision-making roles and leadership positions;
4. *Prioritize* the protection and advancement of women's rights and empowerment throughout our work;
5. *Enhance* our capacity to develop gender-responsive approaches to decent work and building an economy which advances social protection for groups in situations of vulnerability, while recognizing the value of care and unpaid work;
6. *Advocate* for the prioritization of efforts to address vulnerabilities resulting from gaps in the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls, especially during crisis response and recovery efforts, and promote and protect universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights as a prerequisite to advancing gender equality, social justice and achieving sustainable development;
7. *Ensure* that social and economic recovery from crises remain responsive to climate change and are grounded in advancing environmental protection;
8. *Promote and protect* the rights and freedoms of women and girls online in the midst of tech-related transformations in the economy, particularly in relation to addressing the digital divide, promoting online privacy, freedom of expression, and the eradication of hate speech, fake news, and online harassment and violence;
9. *Feed* the outcomes of our 14th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament into the deliberations of the upcoming 145th IPU Assembly in Kigali, Rwanda, which will focus on gender equality and gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers of change for a more resilient and peaceful world.

We thank our gracious host the Chairwoman of the Senate of Uzbekistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan for their warm welcome and for the organization of our 14<sup>th</sup> Summit.