



28 July 2025 Geneva, Switzerland

15th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Nationalrat
Conseil national
Consiglio nazionale
National Council



#15SWSP

INFORMATION NOTE

The 15th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament (15SWSP), convened by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in close cooperation with the Swiss Parliament, will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, on Monday, 28 July 2025. The Summit will precede the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (6WCSP), which will also take place in Geneva, from 29 to 31 July 2025.

The 15th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament will be held at the premises of the International Labour Organization. It will be preceded by a gala dinner starting at 18:30 on Sunday, 27 July 2025, at the Four Seasons Hôtel des Bergues.

The Summit is intended to bring together women in the highest parliamentary decision-making positions to shape the parliamentary agenda based on emerging political, economic, environmental and social changes that require united and gender-responsive global governance solutions. It offers a platform for women leaders to network and exchange views and experiences.

The 15th Summit is taking place during a year of many milestones for the women and girls of the world. 2025 marks the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the ten-year milestone of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The women, peace and security agenda is marking 25 years of existence, and is needed even more today than when it was established.

At this critical juncture, the 15th Summit will be the meeting point for women Speakers from around the world to network, exchange views and experiences, and to build on the milestones being marked in 2025 to craft the next chapter for gender equality and women's empowerment and leadership.

With this in mind, the Summit will focus on the role of women speakers in ***Leading for inclusive and lasting peace***.

As the Summit will immediately precede the 6WCSP, the results of its deliberations will feed into the proceedings of the 6WCSP, thus offering an opportunity to prioritize gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls on the agenda of all parliaments.

PARTICIPATION

The Summit is open to women Speakers or Presidents of Member Parliaments of the IPU or national parliaments of countries that are recognized by the United Nations. In the case of bicameral parliaments, the Summit is open to women Speakers of both chambers.

Women Speakers who are unable to attend the Summit may only be replaced by women deputy Speakers.

The Summit is also open to the regional and international parliamentary assemblies and organizations that are Associate Members or permanent observers of the IPU and that are presided over by a woman President.

A limited number of high-level international experts will be invited to attend the Summit and contribute to its key focus areas as special guests.

SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF DELEGATIONS

The size of delegations of each parliament shall not exceed four persons (six persons in the case of bicameral parliaments with two women Speakers), including the Speaker(s).

Delegations are encouraged to include one or more young women parliamentarians (under 40 years of age).

Associate Members may register a maximum of three delegates. Invited permanent observer delegations shall be composed of no more than two persons.

High-level guests shall be accompanied by no more than one person.

Seating arrangements at desks will be made according to this formula.

ORGANIZATION OF PROCEEDINGS

The President of the National Council of Switzerland will preside over the Summit.

Women Speakers of Parliament or Presidents of regional or international parliamentary assemblies that are Associate Members or permanent observers of the IPU and a limited number of high-level guests invited may take part in the debates.

The Summit will start with an opening session, followed by a keynote address. Two sessions of debate will then focus respectively on *The women, peace and security agenda 25 years on: Persisting challenges and the way forward* and *Emerging challenges to inclusive and lasting peace and the way forward*. The Summit will end with a closing session.

The first debate session will include a keynote address and statements by women Speakers and Presidents.

The second debate session will include a keynote address, followed by a Doha-style debate among women Speakers and Presidents. The Doha-style debate will aim to stimulate lively exchanges among the women Speakers and Presidents. It involves focusing on controversial motions, with some participants speaking in favour and others against.

Two motions will be debated: (1) *Climate change is gender neutral, it has the same impact on men and women* and (2) *It is already too late to make AI gender-sensitive and to eliminate violence against women online*.

Women Speakers are invited to indicate the motion to which they would like to contribute by filling out the sign-up form (attached and also available [here](#)). 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.

SPEAKING RIGHTS AND ORDER

Each woman Speaker of Parliament or President of a regional or international parliamentary assembly that is an Associate Member or permanent observer of the IPU shall in principle be entitled to deliver remarks during one of the sessions of the Summit.

Each woman Speaker of Parliament shall be entitled to three minutes' speaking time during the sessions and debates.

If time permits, women Presidents of the official parliamentary assemblies that are Associate Members or permanent observers of the IPU, and invited guests shall be entitled to one minute of speaking time.

Women Speakers of Parliament and women Presidents of regional or international parliamentary assemblies that are Associate Members or permanent observers of the IPU may submit their interventions in writing or as pre-recorded video messages.

Written statements and, if necessary, pre-recorded videos, should be submitted in advance to enable the IPU Secretariat to share them with the interpreters and the IPU Communications team.

The President of the Summit and/or the moderator of a debate of the Summit 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 President of the Summit and/or the moderator of a debate of the Summit 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 at the end of the Summit. It will contain a summary of the conclusions and a series of actionable recommendations.

The outcome document will feed into the proceedings of the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (6WCSP) with a view to prioritizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls on the agenda of all parliaments.

LANGUAGES

Interpretation will be provided in Arabic, English, French, German, Russian and Spanish.

Speakers addressing the Summit in any other languages will need to have their individual statements translated into one of the official IPU languages (English or French).

DOCUMENTS

Electronic versions of written statements will be provided to participants as they become available.

REGISTRATION

Registration for the 15th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament is open at the following link: <https://15swsp.vfairs.com/en/registration>

Participants are invited to register by the deadline of 30 June 2025.

In addition to online registration, please send a formal communication by email to Ms. Marie-Graziella NGUINI (mgn@ipu.org) and postbox@ipu.org with the composition of the official delegation.

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 Summit.

GALA DINNER

A gala dinner will be held on the eve of the Summit, Sunday, 27 July 2025, hosted by the President of the Swiss National Council, Ms. Maja Riniker.

The gala dinner will take place at the Four Seasons Hôtel des Bergues from 18:30.

Dress code: business attire or traditional national dress (highly encouraged)

Participation at the gala dinner is limited to a maximum of 1+3 delegation members. Any interpreters in the delegations are included in this 1+3 limit. Interpreters will be seated behind the respective Speakers during the meal.

SECURITY

The security of participants is the responsibility of the Swiss authorities, as host State of the Summit.

Official delegations visiting Switzerland must send a note verbale to the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs via the eVIP platform only, which is accessible to all diplomatic missions accredited in Switzerland.

Based on a security assessment carried out by the Federal Security Service (FSS), the Swiss Government may take additional security measures for certain official delegations. In cooperation with the FSS, the Geneva cantonal police will implement operational security measures. Access to the event venues may be restricted for security personnel.

Security officers (armed or unarmed) must be notified with the usual details in the note verbale. A maximum of five (5) permits to carry firearms (handguns only) are authorized. The note verbale should also indicate the radio frequencies for voice communication (if any).

If you have any questions about close protection or specific measures for official delegations, please contact: Federal Office of Police, Federal Security Service, bsd-spo2@fedpol.admin.ch

Security at the Summit's premises and during the gala dinner will be subject to strict criteria and regulations. One such regulation obliges all participants to display their identity badges visibly upon entering and at all times while on the Summit's premises and at the site of gala dinner.

Identity badges can be collected by participating delegations at the IPU Headquarters in Geneva (Chemin du Pommier 5, Le Grand-Saconnex, Geneva) on Friday, 25 and Saturday, 26 July from 10:00 to 17:00 and at the Four Seasons Hôtel des Bergues on Sunday, 27 July, from 14:30 to 17:30.

ACCOMMODATION

The IPU has made provisional block bookings at hotels in Geneva (see the [event webpage](#) for more information).

July is a particularly busy month for hotels in Geneva. Delegates are therefore advised to make their hotel reservations as soon as possible. Delegations from countries with an embassy or permanent mission in Geneva are invited to contact them, as they are accustomed to receiving delegations to UN meetings and handling hotel reservations. In keeping with the practice of hotels in Geneva, only reservations made with a credit card guarantee will be confirmed.

VISAS

Switzerland is a member of the Schengen Area.

Should you require an entry visa for Switzerland:

- It is highly recommended that appointments are made, and Schengen visa applications lodged well in advance with the Swiss Embassy/Consulate responsible for the delegate's legal residence. For details, please refer to www.swiss-visa.ch/ivis2/#/i210-select-country.
- Visa applicants must consult the website of the responsible Swiss Embassy/Consulate to check the current appointment and visa application procedure.
- It is high season for some Embassies/Consulates, meaning appointments must be made well in advance.
- Depending on where delegates have their legal residence, some may have to travel to a different country to lodge their visa application and register their biometric data.
- Some nationalities are subject to a Schengen consultation, which lasts 8-10 days.

- Under exceptional and urgent circumstances, Swiss Embassies or Consulates may issue visas with limited territorial validity (LTV) in accordance with Schengen regulations. This only applies to individual cases that are duly justified. A holder of an LTV visa, which is only valid for Switzerland, cannot visit nor transit through another Schengen State (they must enter and exit the Schengen area via Switzerland only).

If the IPU is required to provide a nominative invitation for a participant's visa application, please ensure that a copy of the delegate's passport is sent to IPU Headquarters (ts@ipu.org).

TRANSPORTATION

Transport and escort arrangements are the responsibility of the respective delegations. Delegations are invited to coordinate with their respective embassies or permanent missions.

BILATERAL MEETINGS

- A limited number of rooms will be dedicated to bilateral meetings/closed meetings on 28 July 2025, in the Gobelins area of the International Labour Organization building, Level R2 South, from 09:30 to 18:00.

Bilateral meeting rooms can be reserved for 30-minute slots, according to availability of rooms, on a "first-come, first-served" basis.

Reservation of bilateral meeting rooms will be opened from 1 July 2025 and can be addressed to IPU Conference Services at conf-services@ipu.org and to Ms. Marie-Graziella NGUINI (mgn@ipu.org) with the subject line "15SWSP bilateral meeting request".

LUNCH

Lunch will be provided at 13:00 on Monday, 28 July.

Lunch will be served to women Speakers of Parliament and women Presidents of regional or international parliamentary assemblies that are Associate Members and Permanent Observers of the IPU and high-level guests in the "Marble Room" on the 11th floor (access via 10th floor) of the International Labour Organization building.

A lunch buffet for the delegations accompanying women Speakers of Parliament and women Presidents of regional or international parliamentary assemblies that are Associate Members and Permanent Observers, and all other participants is offered at the Restaurant "Les Morillons", on floor R2 North of the International Labour Organization building.

COFFEE BREAK

Refreshments will be provided throughout the day in the "Gobelins Area" of the building for all participants in the Summit.