



CONGRESO DE LA NACIÓN
ARGENTINA



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Parliamentary Forum and Speakers' Summits

Jointly organized by the National Congress of Argentina
and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

31 October - 2 November 2018

Concept note

Background

The Group of Twenty (G20) is a leading forum of the world's major economies that seeks to develop global policies to address today's most pressing challenges. Collectively, G20 members represent all inhabited continents, 85 per cent of global economic output, two-thirds of the world's population, and 75 per cent of international trade.

This year Argentina will host the 13th G20 Leaders' Summit that will take place in Buenos Aires on 30 November and 1 December, ten years after the first G20 Leaders' Summit took place in 2008 in Washington, DC.

In the context of this important event, following the meetings of the engagement groups² and before the Leaders' Summit, the National Congress of Argentina and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) will jointly organize a Parliamentary Speakers' Summit of the G20 countries and other guest parliaments on 1 and 2 November 2018.

In order to understand the strategic importance of the date on which the Parliamentary Speakers' Summit will take place, it is essential to remember that the G20 has a yearly agenda of more than 50 meetings, supplemented by working groups and discussion panels involving G20 permanent members and guests. This cycle ends with the Leaders' Summit, and the signing of a final declaration where the participants commit to addressing and following up on all the topics that had been discussed.

G20 meetings are conducted in two tracks: the Finance track and the Sherpa track, which encompasses nonfinancial matters, such as political commitment, fight against corruption, development, gender equality, commerce and energy, among others. Each G20 country is represented in each meeting by a Sherpa (or emissary) and the minister specialized in the subject under discussion. Subsequently, the Sherpa advises his/her Head of State or Government on the relevant subject and directs the discussion to the relevant working groups.

In order to enhance the extent and impact of the G20, and adopt a truly global approach, leading international organizations are also invited to participate in the G20 Leaders' Summit and meetings.

The G20 also aims to enrich the content of its dialogues by encouraging the participation of civil society through its engagement groups. Each group focuses on a subject of global importance and meets throughout the year in an independent manner. Based on the dialogue at the different meetings, each group submits a number of recommendations to the G20.

¹ See: <https://www.g20.org/en/g20/what-is-the-g20>.

² The G20 engagement groups are representatives of different civil society stakeholders from the G20 states. For more details see: <https://www.g20.org/en/g20-argentina/engagement-groups>.

As people's representatives, parliamentarians are ideally placed to listen to and respond to citizens' concerns and aspirations by providing a conducive and legal environment and by coordinating the efforts of different stakeholders to this end. Parliaments therefore can and should provide a substantive contribution to the achievement of the main objectives of the G20 countries.

Objective

The Buenos Aires Parliamentary Speakers' Summit will provide the Speakers of the G20 and the other invited parliaments with the opportunity to obtain expertise and first-hand knowledge on the theme of the G20 Summit entitled *Building consensus for fair and sustainable development* and on how to build such a consensus which, in turn, will support future actions of parliaments in favour of fair and sustainable development.

The Buenos Aires Parliamentary Speakers' Summit will also facilitate interaction with the G20 Ministers and senior officials of the United Nations. It will allow the Speakers to exchange views and experiences with colleagues from other parliaments and to bring them on board for the implementation of the G20 recommendations. The Speakers will be updated on the progress made in the implementation of the G20 recommendations which will help them to identify existing challenges and required parliamentary actions.

In addition, the Buenos Aires Parliamentary Speakers' Summit seeks to explore possibilities to strengthen cooperation and harmonize policies with regions that are not part of the G20, especially in the field of sustainable development which is considered a critical tool and engine for the promotion of people's well-being.

The Speakers will therefore have a unique opportunity to interact among themselves and to explore avenues to link parliamentary perspectives in support of the implementation of the G20 decisions.

The Parliamentary Speakers' Summit will be preceded and complemented by a Parliamentary Forum that will allow the participants to explore the G20 contribution to the global efforts addressing core challenges the world is facing. The Summit will be followed by a Parliamentary Women Speakers' Summit on the theme *Mainstreaming the empowerment of women into the global agenda*.

Date and Venue

The Parliamentary Speakers' Summit will take place on 1 (afternoon) and 2 (morning) November 2018 on the premises of the National Congress of Argentina.

The Parliamentary Forum will take place on 31 October and the morning of 1 November with the participation of other interested parliamentarians from the G20 countries.

The Parliamentary Women Speakers' Summit will take place in the afternoon of 2 November 2018.

Proceedings

During the Parliamentary Speakers' Summit, following a hearing with ministers and key G20 officials meant to explore avenues to strengthen the collaboration between the executive and the legislative on the core issues³ of the G20 agenda, the Speakers will engage in an interactive debate to identify the role of parliament in the G20 architecture. They will explore targeted parliamentary intervention as a contribution to the implementation of the recommendations of the Buenos Aires G20 Summit. The Speakers will share with their colleagues their perspectives on parliamentary contribution to the G20 efforts in tackling important worldwide challenges. They will then adopt by consensus an outcome document which attending parliamentary officials will finalise in the morning of Thursday, 1 November.

The Parliamentary Forum will be addressed by a number of G20 ministers of finance and economy, senior officials of specialized agencies of the United Nations and the European Commission, and Speakers of Parliament. The discussion will focus on financing for development through an SDG perspective. Participants will review the implementation of the related G20's action plans (the 2016

³ Such as agriculture, commerce and investments, development, digital economy, education, jobs, health, climate sustainability, and energy transitions.

Hangzhou Summit Action and the 2017 G20 Hamburg Action Plan) to identify parliamentary support to their successful implementation. In the same vein, participants will explore avenues to strengthen multilateralism to promote sustainable trade and development that would be beneficial to all.

The Parliamentary Forum will also reflect on other aspects related to development including corruption free governance and the future of work as the major springboard for human development.

The gender issue—the empowerment of women—will be addressed through a transversal approach during the sessions of the Forum.

Participants

The Parliamentary Speakers' Summit is intended for the Speakers of parliaments of the G20 countries. The parliaments of Spain, as a permanent invited guest to G20 meetings, and Chile and Netherlands which are invited by Argentina that is presiding the G20 Summit, are also expected to attend.

The Parliamentary Forum is open to the G20 Speakers of parliaments, members of parliament and parliamentary staff, as well as to the other stakeholders, including the G20 Sherpas who are invited and involved in the management of the G20 agenda issues.

The Parliamentary Women Speakers' Summit is dedicated to the G20 Women Speakers of Parliaments, and will focus on the theme *Mainstreaming the empowerment of women into the global agenda*.

Outcome document

The Speakers will adopt, by consensus, an outcome document. A preliminary draft of this document will be sent in advance to the Speakers for their consideration.