



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
Parliament

Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

United Nations Office, Vienna (Austria), 19–21 August 2020

20 December 2019

Dear Madam Speaker,
Dear Mr. Speaker,

We take great pleasure in inviting you to the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in close cooperation with the United Nations and the Austrian Parliament, is organizing the Speakers' Conference that will be held from **19 to 21 August 2020 at the United Nations Office at Vienna**. It will be preceded by the Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament on 17 and 18 August 2020.

The Conference, which will bring together Speakers of parliament from across the world, is meant to be a unique forum for dialogue and engagement between parliaments at the highest level. The past four Speakers' Conferences, held every five years since the 2000 Millennium Summit, have proved to be seminal events that have shaped the parliamentary dimension of global governance and helped to bridge the democracy gap in international relations.

The Speakers' Conference promises to be the largest ever gathering of Speakers of parliament and will be the culmination of two years of work by a Preparatory Committee composed of around 20 Speakers of parliament. For the first time, the Preparatory Committee members were democratically elected by the IPU Member Parliaments and its gender-equal composition is geographically representative of all regions of the world.

The Conference will take place under the overarching theme of ***Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and planet***, and it will help inform the outcome of the UN 75th Anniversary Summit in September 2020.

The general debate of the Speakers' Conference will be complemented by interactive panel discussions focusing on climate change, the humanitarian agenda, democratic governance, and inclusive economic growth, as well as parliamentary action to combat hate speech and violent extremism. At the end of the Conference, the Speakers will be called upon to adopt a solemn political declaration. A draft text will be shared with you for comments in May 2020. Conference documents and other relevant information will be made available to you as well as being posted on the IPU website at www.ipu.org/event/fifth-world-conference-speakers-parliament.

Needless to say, your personal participation in the Conference is very important to ensuring its successful outcome. We therefore very much hope that you will accept our invitation and join your fellow Speakers from around the world for this unique event.

Yours sincerely,

Gabriela Cuevas Barron
President
Inter-Parliamentary Union

Wolfgang Sobotka
President
Austrian National Council