



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
Parliament

13th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament

Virtual meeting, 17 and 18 August 2020

INFORMATION NOTE

The 13th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament, convened by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in close cooperation with the United Nations and the Austrian Parliament, will be held virtually on 17 and 18 August 2020. It will be followed by an in-person Summit to take place next year in Vienna.

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 exchange views and experiences and to network.

The virtual Summit will focus on ***Women's parliamentary leadership in a time of COVID-19 and recovery***. The aim is to offer a platform for the women Speakers to identify the collective and individual action needed to step up equality between men and women at all times, building on the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This virtual edition of the Summit will focus specifically on three priority areas where bold action is needed: better managing climate and health emergencies; stepping up women's economic empowerment and financial inclusion; and putting an end to violence against women and girls.¹

The Summit will precede the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (5WCSP), which will also be held virtually, on 19 and 20 August 2020. The outcomes of the deliberations of the Summit will feed into the proceedings of the 5WCSP, thus offering an opportunity to make gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls a priority on the agenda of all parliaments.

PARTICIPATION

Women Speakers of national parliaments of countries that are recognized by the United Nations and/or Members of the IPU are invited to participate in the Summit. In the case of bicameral parliaments, women Speakers of both chambers are invited. Women Speakers who are unable to attend the Summit may only be replaced by their female deputy Speaker.

Women Speakers attending may be accompanied by a delegation that should not exceed two members of parliament per chamber, including the Speaker.

Women presidents of regional and international parliamentary assemblies that are Associate Members of the IPU are also invited to attend the Summit. Delegations from regional and international parliamentary assemblies and organizations that are Associate Members should not exceed two persons.

A limited number of high-level international experts in gender-responsive climate action, empowering women and girls, and combating gender-based violence are invited to attend the Summit and inform its three key themes as special guests.

ORGANIZATION OF PROCEEDINGS

Women Speakers of parliament, women presidents of regional and international parliamentary assemblies that are Associate Members of the IPU are invited to take part in the debates by completing the sign-up form available on the IPU website page dedicated to the event: <https://www.ipu.org/event/13th-summit-women-speakers-parliament>.

¹ The three themes were identified by the women Speakers on the Preparatory Committee for the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament and the President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians during consultations in November 2019.

Each part of the programme will be introduced by a special guest and followed by remarks provided by women Speakers who registered using the sign-up form. A moderator will facilitate the conduct of each part of the programme and interaction among the participants.

In addition, women Speakers or presidents of regional or international parliamentary assemblies that are Associate Members of the IPU may contribute shorter remarks limited to one minute in the other parts, time permitting.

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 during their preferred part chosen through the sign-up sheet. Statements should be submitted in advance to enable the IPU Secretariat to draw up the order of speakers. Statements may be delivered “live” during the Summit or via pre-recorded video message.

To ensure the event runs on time and smoothly, the participants registered to provide remarks during a part of the programme are invited to avoid reading prepared speeches and to limit their statements to a **maximum of four minutes**.

The order of speakers shall be established by the moderator with support from the IPU Secretariat, taking into consideration, as far as possible, the preferences expressed by each registered woman Speaker. The moderators, assisted by the Secretariat, shall deal with all matters relating to the order of speakers.

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 moderator may, if necessary, withdraw permission to speak, and may have the objectionable words withdrawn by the speaker and/or struck from the record.

EXPECTED OUTCOME

At the close of the Summit, an outcome document will be issued. It will contain a summary of the conclusions and a series of actionable recommendations of the 13th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament.

The outcome document will feed into the proceedings of the 5WCSP with a view to prioritizing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

LANGUAGES

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

Speakers addressing the Summit 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

The registration deadline is **1 August 2020**.

All invited participants should use the IPU online registration system. Instructions on how to use the system are available at <https://registration.ipu.org/events/fifth-world-conference-of-speakers-of-parliament-and-13th-summit-of-women-speakers-of-parliament/event-summary-28ae1cbe763c4e8aadd5f5f782cbd7a3.aspx?5S,M3,28ae1cbe-763c-4e8a-add5-f5f782cbd7a3=> .

Only one person should be designated as the delegation coordinator and have access to the system.

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.