



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
Parliament

Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

Closing remarks by the IPU President

- Speakers, colleagues, I thank the Austrian Speaker for his remarks and everyone who was involved in bringing the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament to fruition. We have had two days of enriching discussions that showcased the vibrancy, leadership and expertise of the global parliamentary community.
- We've heard from a diverse group of Speakers, and experts, ensured we were gender-balanced and geographically and politically represented.
- We have heard 5 Conference reports and engaged in 5 panel discussions, covering the important topics and challenges facing the world today, including youth empowerment, gender equality, the future of democracy, sustainable development, climate change, building inclusive economies, science and technology, and counter-terrorism.
- Despite the time and technical limitations of the virtual format, more than 50 Speakers of parliament have taken the floor, alongside eminent experts and influential figures. Over 115 national parliamentary delegations have followed the proceedings, many amplifying the messages through social media and other channels.
- Our discussions and deliberations have culminated in the adoption of our Declaration on parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and planet.
- Now it is up to each of us, to you, and me, to our national parliaments, to take up the torch and build on what we have achieved here, paying attention to parliaments' critical role in policymaking, law-making, fulfilling its budget and oversight responsibilities.
- The voice of parliaments has been heard loud and clear! We will reinforce parliaments role in global governance, and we have charted a path forward, in the right direction.
- This Conference was an important platform to deepen our ties with the United Nations and IPU's other partners, very much in keeping with our theme of more effective multilateralism.
- In this virtual setting, we have proved that technology can be harnessed to serve parliamentary diplomacy and leadership. I know that there really is no perfect substitute for face-to-face interaction. I miss seeing you all! This is why the Executive Committee will propose the Governing Council to hold the Speakers' Conference in person at Vienna next year. I very much look forward to it!

- Next year, at the Conference in Vienna, we can all take stock. We can see where our parliamentary community stands one year on, and we can report back on the commitments we have made here today, and adjust our course if need be.
- I am grateful to our Austrian hosts, the PrepCom members and the IPU Secretariat - this Fifth World Conference would not have happened but without your dedication and diligent efforts. But most importantly, I also want to thank ALL of YOU! You've invested your time and your ideas on behalf of the people. You represent. Together we can build a better world. Together we can ensure no one is left behind.
- I wish you and your families continued good health, and continued success in parliament and in this multilateral world.

Thank you. Gracias. Merci. Vielen Dank. Shukraan. Spasiba. Xièxiè