

**PARTICIPATION OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF THE
MEXICAN SENATE, SENATOR MÓNICA FERNÁNDEZ, FOR THE
PANEL "TOWARDS A BETTER MANAGEMENT OF
EMERGENCY SITUATIONS"**

**13th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament
August 17, 2020**

From the Mexican Senate I send you an affectionate greeting and express my hope that all of you, your families and fellow citizens are in very good health.

I want to express my gratitude to the Inter-Parliamentary Union for the enormous effort carried out in the execution of this Summit and to virtually bring together a large number of women, speakers of parliaments, to listen and reflect among colleagues. Good morning everyone!

25 years after the approval of the most important program for the empowerment of women, the Beijing Platform for Action, many women and girls around the world still face poverty, lack of access to education and health services, violence, exclusion and violations of their rights.

Priorities for gender equality, prior to the pandemic, have become even more urgent. Half of the world's population, that is, women, face great disadvantages and greater obstacles for our development.

In addition to that, we must consider the irruption of this health crisis, which has led to many other crises and has made the weaknesses and inequalities in all areas of our society more evident.

Thus, we believe that the response to this pandemic should not be limited to the changing, restructuring or strengthening of national health systems, but should also be an opportunity to open new possibilities in order to redirect our priorities and act accordingly.

The legislative field offers us one of those opportunities, to renew and modify structures that place girls and women in a vulnerable situation, as well as to influence inclusion policies from childhood and crisis response budgets with gender and multisectoral perspectives.

Women and girls must play a central role in economic recovery for it to be faster and more effective. In our Mexican experience, the equal participation of women legislators in parliament has made it possible for many pending issues to be regulated for economic, social, educational and rights development to ensure a better quality of life for women.

In this task, all citizens must be our allies, we are all necessary to address the emergencies that the current pandemic represents.

If we seek a more equitable, inclusive and sustainable world, one that is better prepared for emergencies, half the world, which is represented by women, must unite beyond political interests to provide an effective response.

Half the world is ready to have their rights, education, health, justice, access to employment and economic recovery respected. Without that half of the world, our societies will not be able to advance, and may not be as conceivable as we wish.

Wishing for success and congratulations on this Forum!