



British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union Online Newsletter: 8 September 2020



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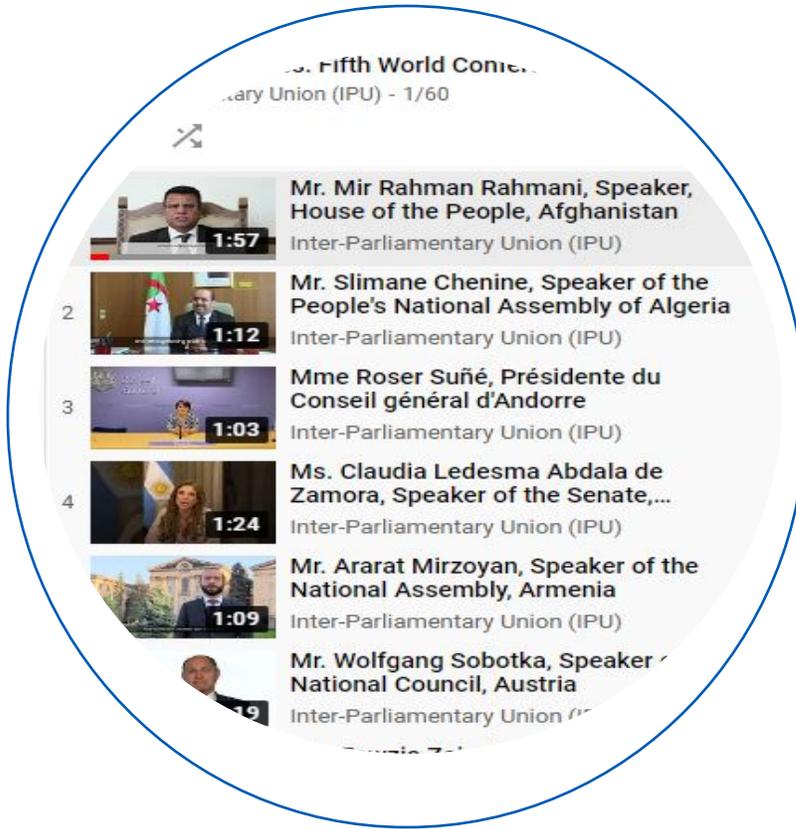
IPU CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF EMPOWERING YOUTH

On 12 August, International Youth Day 2020, the IPU [celebrated](#) the 10th anniversary of its resolution, [Youth participation in the democratic process](#).

Adopted by IPU Member Parliaments in 2010 in Thailand, the resolution is a call to action to include more young people in political decision-making. It also led to the creation of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, which has become the premier meeting space for the world's young MPs.

In the past decade, many of the measures proposed in the resolution – from youth quotas to lowering the age of eligibility to run for office – have been adopted by IPU Members. Still, although more than half of the world population is under 30 years of age, according to IPU data only about 2 per cent of MPs are under 30.

[Watch young MPs](#) tell their story of how they are implementing the 2010 resolution.



VIDEO HIGHLIGHT: SPEAKER SOUNDBITES

In the lead-up to the World Speakers Conference held virtually on 19-20 August, the IPU asked what leadership role can parliaments play in managing the COVID-19 health crisis and building back better after the pandemic?

Discover what the most senior figures in parliament have to say in these short videos as part of the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament.

There are 60 [Speaker videos](#) in total covering a myriad of issues and perspectives from Presiding Officers around the world.



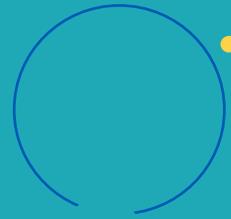
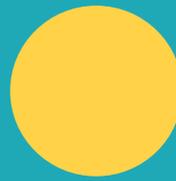
IPU STATEMENT ON EXPLOSION IN BEIRUT

The IPU and the parliamentary community express their shock and sadness at the devastation and loss of life caused by the blasts in Beirut, Lebanon on Tuesday 4 August.

We convey our deepest condolences to those who have lost loved ones, wish a speedy recovery to those who have been injured, and express our solidarity with all those affected by the explosions.

The IPU and its Member Parliaments stand with the people of Lebanon in these exceptionally difficult times.

The Majlis Al-Nuwwab or National Assembly of Lebanon has been a member of the IPU since 1948 and suffered damage in the blast on 4 August but quickly resumed its operations to contribute to Lebanon's recovery efforts.



“The IPU and the parliamentary community express their shock and sadness at the devastation and loss of life caused by the blasts in Beirut”





“...Speakers issued a clarion call for emission reductions and efforts towards a carbon-neutral economy. They stressed that parliaments have the power and duty to translate key international commitments – like the Paris Agreement on climate and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – into national legislation and policy”



SPEAKERS JOIN FORCES TO TACKLE HEALTH, ECONOMIC AND CLIMATE CRISES

Over 115 of the world’s top legislators took part in the virtual [Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament](#) on 19 and 20 August 2020, under the overall theme of Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and planet. Deputy Speaker Evans and Lord Kinnoull participated in the opening for the UK Parliament.

The Conference was organised by the IPU in partnership with the Parliament of Austria and the United Nations. Originally planned to take place in Vienna, Austria, the physical conference has been postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Speakers were joined by other members of parliament, diplomats, scientists and representatives of multilateral organisations to discuss international parliamentary cooperation to address the challenges facing a COVID-19 world, including access to health, social and economic inequalities and the climate emergency.

The Speakers of parliament heard directly from experts who urged them to hold their governments to account in their health and economic responses to the pandemic. They called for parliaments to listen to the science, to allocate more money to strengthen public health, to support health-care workers, and to invest in greener research.

Several Speakers issued a clarion call for emission reductions and efforts towards a carbon-neutral economy. They stressed that parliaments have the power and duty to translate key international commitments – like the Paris Agreement on climate and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – into national legislation and policy.

The World Conference of Speakers of Parliament takes place every five years. Organised in cooperation with the United Nations, its objective is to reinforce the parliamentary dimension of global governance.

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OUTCOME OF WORLD SPEAKERS' CONFERENCE CALLS FOR ROBUST ACTION



At the end of the conference, the Speakers adopted (with some significant reservations expressed by a number of parliaments) an aspirational political declaration setting forth their commitment to robust parliamentary action for a safer, healthier and more prosperous world. [The Declaration on parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and planet](#) commences and concludes as follows:

“(1) We, the Speakers of parliament, stand with our fellow parliamentarians and citizens at a defining moment in global history. The COVID-19 pandemic is a health emergency of unprecedented global proportions, affecting all manner of peoples, societies and economies. The pandemic knows no borders: it is an unprecedented crisis, whose impact is felt at all levels. The pandemic has evolved into one of the greatest challenges we face as a community of nations since the Great Depression and the Second World War. Countries everywhere have taken extraordinary measures, including states of emergency, border closures and lockdowns, in an attempt to curb the deadly spread of the virus. What started as a health emergency has rapidly grown into an economic crisis with unfathomable numbers of people losing their jobs and the global economy shrinking to record levels. All countries face huge challenges in securing the health and well-being of their citizens. That said, the burden on developing countries is overwhelming.....

(20) We are convinced that, as the world organisation of parliaments, the IPU is the international body best suited to help us build and consolidate a meaningful relationship between parliaments and the United Nations. It is our world organisation of parliaments, and we call on all our parliaments to help strengthen the IPU and further enhance its strategic partnership with the United Nations. We underscore that the IPU is a parliamentary political organisation which must be endowed with stronger parliamentary leadership, direction and control.

(21) We are resolute in our commitment to work for the good of the people and the planet – to represent our peoples effectively in order to advance their hopes and aspirations and deliver progress and solutions. We also commit to upholding and revitalising multilateralism, with a strong parliamentary dimension. As the world struggles with a pandemic of epic proportions that can be addressed only if all countries work together and in solidarity, parliaments, through their law-making and oversight functions, have a pivotal role to play.

(22) We undertake to convey this Declaration to our parliaments and to report on action taken to follow through on our commitments. We will do our part to exemplify parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and the planet. We ask the President of the IPU to present this Declaration to the United Nations in the context of the UN75 Summit.”

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