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Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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#15SWSP

Closing Remarks for Ms. Maja Riniker, President of the National Council of Switzerland, President of the Summit

15th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament

“Leading for inclusive and lasting peace”

Monday, 28 July 2025

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Dear colleagues, Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,

As we come to the close of this deeply **enriching 15th Summit of Women Speakers** of Parliament, I want to **thank** each of you—for your presence, your **powerful voices**, and your unwavering commitment to peace, equality, and justice. Over the past day, we have come together not only as fellow Speakers of Parliament, but as **women leaders** entrusted with the hopes and expectations of women and girls around the world.

We have **shared our realities**, we have listened, we have debated. What emerged from our discussions is **clear: Peace is** not simply the absence of war. It is **the presence of fairness, of inclusion, of opportunity**. And therefore, peace cannot be sustained if it remains blind to gender equality, **deaf to women’s voices**, or untouched by the hands of those who know conflict not as a headline, but as a lived experience

We agreed that the “**Women, Peace and Security-agenda**” is not merely a policy framework—it is a **moral imperative** and a **strategic roadmap**. Because when women are excluded from peace talks, peace agreements fail, and diplomacy loses impact. When girls are kept and excluded from spaces where realities are shaped and decisions are taken, innovation stalls and injustice multiplies.

This summit has proven once again that the **solutions are within our reach**. As Speakers of Parliament, we must **champion multilateral cooperation**, we must defend human rights and humanitarian law, and we must **place gender equality** at the **core** of our **governance**.

We **can and must shape peace processes** that are inclusive from the ground up, where women’s leadership is not an exception, but the norm.

We know that it is not enough to **support women’s participation**; we must **actively enable it**. From negotiating tables to diplomatic service, from parliaments to peace missions, we must **break down barriers**, challenge exclusionary norms, and ensure that institutions are designed to empower. This **requires** not only policies and budgets, **but a collective cultural shift**—one that we, as women Speakers, are uniquely placed to lead.

At the heart of this shift lies mentorship and example. It is no secret that women and girls around the world look to us. **They look to us for proof that their voices matter**, that their dreams are valid, and that leadership is possible, no matter where they come from. And we must not—we cannot—diminish their dreams. We owe them institutions that reflect their realities. We owe them leadership that lifts others up.

We discussed the **urgent need** to address the climate crisis through a gender-responsive lens, to ensure that **technology and artificial intelligence** are governed in ways that uphold dignity and eliminate bias. Above all, we must shield women from the **devastating physical and digital violence** that still erodes their

safety and limits their participation. These are not side issues; **they are central to sustainable peace.**

We also recognized the need for **renewed trust in democracy.** Our **parliaments** must not only legislate—they **must inspire.** We must reach across generations, embracing younger women, particularly from underrepresented communities, and guide them into spaces of influence. Parity is not a distant goal; it must be our shared standard. And for that, we need to partner with men, as allies in reshaping institutions, challenging harmful norms, and building truly inclusive leadership.

Colleagues, in **2025**, as we mark the **30th anniversary since the Beijing Platform for Action** and the **25th anniversary of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda**, we are not just looking back—we are claiming the future. This **Summit** has charted a **path forward rooted in inclusion**, driven by solidarity, and **led by women.**

All these important statements and related **commitments are included in the Outcome document** of this Summit. I thank you most warmly for having enriched it with your views, ideas, and inputs and I take it that this outcome document can now be adopted...

Dear colleagues, you have received a small bag with a **bell.** It is a **gift** from me as President of the Swiss National Parliament. **I invite you to take it in your hands and proceed together with the adoption of this declaration.**

...

... It is so decided. Thank you, dear colleagues!

This document will serve as a **powerful expression** of our shared resolve and will carry our voices into our parliaments and nations as well as into the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament beginning tomorrow.

With that, it is my honour to now pass the floor to the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, **Madam Tulia Ackson**, for her closing remarks.

Thank you.