



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

## Eighth G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20)

### STRONGER PARLIAMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY

#### Concept note

*Every year, the G20 strengthens its work by engaging with various stakeholder groups. As the representatives of the people and of all interests in society, the parliaments of the G20 members need to be actively engaged in this influential gathering of global leaders. Parliaments can and should provide a substantive contribution to G20 deliberations alongside civil society, the private sector and the other constituencies of the G20.*

*Building on the success of past P20 meetings, the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) will jointly host the **Eighth G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20 Speakers' Summit)** on 6 and 7 October 2022, prior to the G20 Leaders' Summit.*

#### A. OBJECTIVES

The P20 Speakers' Summit has **three objectives**. First, to develop and contribute a parliamentary perspective on some of the key issues on the G20's agenda. Second, to promote better interaction and cooperation between governments and parliaments in the implementation of various G20 outcomes. Third, to strengthen the interaction between the Speakers of Parliament of G20 countries and partner countries on the one hand, and the United Nations and other relevant international organizations on the other. Moreover, the P20 Speakers' Summit is aiming to extend its parliamentary contribution toward strengthening recovery and resilience globally, as well as advancing countries' progress toward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda).

Elaborating on the main theme of this year's G20 Summit *Recover Together, Recover Stronger*, the P20 Speakers' Summit will engage the Speakers of Parliament of the G20 countries and other invited parliaments in a discussion on the theme **Stronger parliaments for sustainable recovery**. A strong parliament is a parliament that is effective and representative, and which serves as the cornerstone of democracy. In the post-pandemic world, parliaments must be strong to ensure that democracy delivers and that recovery puts citizens' welfare and well-being at the centre. Post-pandemic recovery must also be sustainable and contribute to the achievement of the global 2030 Development Agenda.

Peace and security are pre-requisites for development and are enablers of progress. The P20 Speakers' Summit is held during turbulent times. The ongoing war in Ukraine is a threat to global security and the rules-based multilateral system. It can bring about global uncertainties and complexities, impacting food and energy security, as well as the financial markets. In these globally testing and turbulent times, parliaments cannot distance themselves from reality on the ground. Parliaments, through diplomacy and dialogue, must take a constructive approach toward advancing international peace and security.

## **B. PRIORITY ISSUES AND QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **B.1. PRIORITY ISSUE 1: ACCELERATING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE GREEN ECONOMY**

It is widely recognized that, despite its enormous human and economic costs, the COVID-19 pandemic has also presented an opportunity to chart a new course towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other key commitments such as those of the Paris Agreement on climate change. In this context, the G20 countries need to rethink their economies and better harness the opportunities that arise from the transition to low carbon development.

The most recent P20 Speakers' Summit held in Rome in 2021 concluded with the Joint Statement *People, Planet, and Prosperity*, which underscored the need to devise plans that create employment opportunities, boost infrastructure investments, promote innovation and help people, with a view to reduce inequalities and leave no one behind. As Indonesia holds the G20 Presidency for 2022, green and blue economy through low carbon development is one of the priorities on the agenda. In order to meet the SDGs by 2030, G20 economies need to invest in clean energy, health, transportation, and other areas in the coming years.

The forthcoming P20 Speakers' Summit 2022 will allow for further engagement on the role of parliament in fostering stronger recovery and accelerating progress toward achieving the SDGs, including in filling the SDGs finance gap.

#### **Questions for discussion**

1. Are the G20 parliaments equipped to support the implementation of sustainable development policies, in particular that of low carbon development? What are the challenges? What are the success factors?
2. Means of implementation are the key to SDG achievement. According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the COVID-19 pandemic has created a US\$ 1.7 trillion shortfall which adds to the existing gap of US\$ 2.5 trillion in annual financing for developing countries towards achieving the 17 Goals of the SDGs. What can be done by the G20 parliaments to secure resources and close the current SDGs financing gap?
3. How do parliaments engage with their governments and other stakeholders in ensuring that the transition toward a sustainable economy provides equitable gains in terms of well-being, the environment and the economy?

### **B.2. PRIORITY ISSUE 2: EMERGING ISSUES: FOOD AND ENERGY SECURITY, AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES**

The rise in energy prices, compounded by the current dynamics in world politics and the related food shortages, make it harder for economies to avoid recession. Spill-overs from the current war in Ukraine, such as bottlenecks in global supply chains and significant increases in the price of many commodities, are set to sharply hasten the deceleration of the global economy. For the first time since the 1970s, the world is now likely to experience above-average inflation and below-average growth. The phenomenon is known as stagflation, with potentially destabilizing consequences for years to come.

People in low-income countries are particularly vulnerable to rising prices because they spend the greatest portion of their income on food. Many emerging and developing economies tend to continue to rely on existing policy measures such as energy and food subsidies. Subsidies lead to state budget reallocations and less fiscal room for scaling up social safety nets to protect the most vulnerable in society. In the case of many donor countries, significant financial resources are being re-directed towards humanitarian aid and increased military spending, to the detriment of development assistance.

The world needs decisive global and national policy actions to avert the worst consequences of conflicts to the global economy. The G20, as the premier forum for multilateral economic cooperation, must maintain its role and objective of maintaining strong, sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth. Parliamentary efforts are needed to support governments in this extraordinary era of overlapping global crises.

#### **Questions for discussion**

1. What efforts have been made by G20 parliaments in terms of temporary measures to cushion the impact of soaring prices, as well as to ensure food and energy security? What are some of the best practices parliaments can share with each other?
2. What could parliaments do to improve resilience to crises and support inclusive growth?
3. The overlapping global crises are challenging the capacity of multilateralism to respond with effective solutions. What efforts can the G20 parliaments undertake to maintain the relevance of the rules-based international system and thus ensure the effectiveness of multilateral cooperation?

### **B.3. PRIORITY ISSUE 3: EFFECTIVE PARLIAMENT, VIBRANT DEMOCRACY**

The COVID-19 pandemic erupted in the midst of a global democratic recession. Prior to the pandemic, democracy faced multiple challenges, such as increasing economic and structural inequalities, decreasing trust in political systems, and growing public disengagement. Democracy also suffers from the current wave of authoritarianism and populism in national politics, which in turn has global implications, including for the future of multilateralism. Parliaments could be part of the solution acting as a bridge-builder, bringing dialogue and diplomacy to the table.

The pandemic has also hampered the usual practice of procedural democracy. Elections were postponed due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic which spanned the globe. While postponing an election may be the most feasible and responsible option from the public health perspective, it could also lead to other risks related to citizens' trust in a country's political institutions, and political opportunism if incumbent political leaders extended their term of office without public consultation and further democratic backsliding.

Addressing the contemporary challenges to democracy and multilateralism requires collaborative efforts at national and international levels. As part of the solution, we need to renew our commitment to the principles of democracy, including good governance and rule of law. In practice, effective and accountable political leadership is the key to safeguarding democracy while working together toward an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery.

#### **Questions for discussion**

1. What roles can parliament take to ensure that democracy delivers and contributes to stronger post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery?
2. What are the priority areas where parliaments can act to restore, strengthen and nurture a more resilient democracy in the post-pandemic era? What have parliaments undertaken to develop those priority areas?
3. What actions can be taken to promote the political representation of all groups of society so that their perspectives can be included in decision-making processes?
4. How do parliaments guarantee that the various recovery actions are within the realm of democratic principles?

#### **B.4. PRIORITY ISSUE 4: SOCIAL INCLUSION, GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**

Social inclusion, gender equality and women's empowerment are central to sustainable development and inclusive growth. Studies show that discriminatory treatment against women is estimated to cost the global economy up to US\$ 12 trillion. In the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, gender equality as a goal has often temporarily been put on hold. This has caused a backlash on all gender equality gains achieved before the global pandemic and is derailing national efforts on gender equality. Within the G20 economies, a concrete commitment to advance women's economic status had been reached during the G20 meeting in Brisbane in 2014. The G20 Presidency of Indonesia in 2022 recognizes that women have enormous potential to encourage a nation's economic growth and that this potential must be expanded and supported. Women's economic empowerment through Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) is one of the focuses under the main theme of gender empowerment, disability, and social inclusion.

Parliaments play a crucial role in advancing gender equality and increasing the number of women in parliament can help to drive positive change. UN Women indicates that women are the most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and that the recovery of their incomes is taking longer. Therefore, national COVID-19 pandemic recovery plans and the global effort to rebuild more sustainable, inclusive, and socially equitable societies must include a reform of existing laws and the enactment of new legislation to ensure the rights of women and girls are secured and protected.

An inclusive and representative parliament is an integral part of any democracy. For a parliament to be inclusive, it must be open to society and reflect the diverse needs, interests, and experiences of all spheres of society. Increasing the number of women in parliament is crucial since women's presence in decision-making could significantly improve the substantive representation of women's perspectives, needs, and interests.

Questions for discussion

1. Gender inequality in politics correlates with broader gender inequality in society. What initiatives could be taken by parliament to support gender-sensitive parliaments and to advance equal participation of women in all aspects of parliamentary work?
2. Public health measures taken by the governments worldwide, such as restrictive movement and quarantine, have a disproportionate economic impact on women who are often laid off first. The pandemic has also had an uneven impact on businesses and has exacerbated gender gaps among SMEs. What actions could be taken to minimize the economic consequences of the pandemic on women?
3. Accelerating social inclusion through women's empowerment is crucial to elevating the status and well-being of women. What can parliament do to support improvements in the capabilities and opportunities of those disadvantaged by social identity?

#### **C. EXPECTED OUTCOME AND KEY DELIVERABLES**

The leaders of the major countries who gathered at the G20 Summit in Rome in 2021 showed a strong will to make united efforts to address global challenges, including how to improve collaboration through the multilateral system for global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In that same spirit, the P20 Speakers' Summit in Indonesia will engage parliamentary participants from the G20, guest countries, and the IPU, thus providing a platform for a frank discussion of global issues, including the COVID-19 pandemic, to identify relevant solutions.

The expected outcome from this meeting is a Declaration or Joint Statement. The host Parliament, working in cooperation with the IPU, will table a preliminary draft of the document, which will be distributed among members for further input.