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For democracy. For everyone.

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Reports on recent IPU specialized meetings

(b) Parliamentary Speakers' Summit at the G20

Buenos Aires (Argentina), 31 October - 2 November 2018

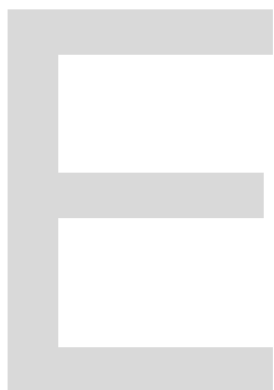
Since 2008, the leaders of the G20 countries have been meeting annually in a high-level summit to discuss global economic governance and other far-reaching socio-political, environmental and security issues.

Parliamentary contribution—which could be decisive—is notoriously absent in this mobilization at the highest level where important decisions, which affect the lives of populations world-wide, are taken.

In order to overcome this deficit, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in collaboration with the National Congress of Argentina, conceived and organized the first Parliamentary Forum and Parliamentary Speakers' Summit which were held from 31 October to 2 November 2018.

The aim of the Forum and Summit was to give the parliamentarians of the G20 and invited countries the opportunity to gather the advice of experts and first-hand information on the theme of the G20 Summit *Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development*, as well as solutions that would help build such a consensus in support of their initiatives for fair and sustainable development.

More than 300 participants representing 24 parliaments took part in these meetings and discussed key issues debated at the G20 Summit of Heads of State and Government, including *the financing of development; guaranteeing corruption-free, transparent and effective governance; the future of work; and the empowerment of women*. The participants offered a parliamentary perspective regarding their implementation and gave recommendations to this effect which are contained in the joint declaration in [Annex](#) to this report.



#IPU140



JOINT STATEMENT

Parliamentary Speakers' Summit in the context of the G20 Leaders' Summit

*Buenos Aires (Argentina)
1–2 November 2018*

We, the Speakers of Parliaments of the G20 member and guest countries (P20), gathering in Buenos Aires on 1 and 2 November 2018 in the lead-up to the G20 Leaders' Summit at the invitation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the National Congress of Argentina, issue the following

JOINT STATEMENT

1. We acknowledge that the G20, which brings together the leaders of the world's major economies, has become a key forum for global macroeconomic coordination and governance which strives to build consensus and common action towards meeting our shared goals.
2. We take note of the fact that the G20 has widened its thematic agenda while retaining its focus on the promotion of growth and sustainable development, and that it maintains a comprehensive and pluralistic dialogue with representatives of various civil society stakeholders. G20 Engagement Groups, composed of representatives from different sectors have submitted recommendations through their respective meetings held between July and October this year.
3. In both the Parliamentary Forum and our Speakers' Summit of G20 member and guest countries, after having examined the contributions from the various stakeholders, we made a commitment to work together to find and implement lasting solutions to the key challenges of our ever-changing world. These include, in particular, the future of work, financing for development, the fight against corruption, the empowerment of women and youth, education for the new era of technology and innovation, and the renewed commitment to multilateralism.
4. We take note of the various initiatives that G20 member countries have put forward through their summit meetings since 2008. We encourage G20 leaders to actively pursue their shared objective of strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth, and to find solutions to the common challenges facing the global community, all with a renewed commitment to peace, democracy, prosperity and well-being.
5. We reconfirm that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its accompanying Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) constitute a roadmap for a fair, equitable and sustainable development of our planet. We will pursue our efforts to increase the capacity of our respective parliaments to transform these global commitments into national realities. In the process, we will also endeavour to enhance international collaboration and solidarity in achieving these shared objectives, including through active parliamentary engagement in the United Nations High-Level Political Forum, the main international mechanism for monitoring the SDGs.
6. We consider that the engagement of the private sector is of crucial importance for the achievement of the SDGs and that, as the engine of economic growth and job creation in developing countries, private-public partnerships can play a major role in bringing about structural and systematic transformations for sustainable development.
7. We acknowledge that the world is witnessing an unprecedented scale of human displacement. In today's interconnected world, this can only be addressed effectively by the international community acting together, and we therefore take note of the adoption this year of new Global Compacts for Migration and for Refugee Protection. While tackling the root causes, we need to increase our preparedness and capacity to protect vulnerable groups, better manage migration and refugees flows, and generally address these issues in line with the SDGs.

8. We are keenly aware of the fact that armed conflicts around the world not only create humanitarian catastrophes but also place a strain on the global economy. We believe that prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflict are paramount to building safe and prosperous societies.

9. We also strongly condemn terrorism in all forms and manifestations and remain committed to combatting terrorism and violent extremism as a dangerous threat to our efforts to ensure peace, development and the rule of law.

10. We reiterate that women play a major role in socio-economic development. It is therefore essential that we continue to pursue SDG 5 for gender equality and empowerment of all women, so as to enable their economic empowerment and independence. We welcome the strategy fostered by the Argentine Presidency to mainstream gender throughout the G20 agenda and urge the G20 Leader's Summit to build consensus and inspire further gender-responsive development policies that favor the economic empowerment of women, equal opportunities between men and women in employment, science, technology and education, and the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence. As parliamentarians, we will play our role in providing an enabling legislative environment and facilitating the allocation of resources for the implementation of related policies and programmes.

11. We are concerned by the erosion of public trust in the institutions of democratic governance, and we reaffirm our commitment to continue building effective, representative, inclusive and accessible parliaments that serve the people and hold governments to account. We are determined to combat corruption in all its forms, to deny safe haven to corrupt persons and their corruption proceeds, and ensure open, transparent and accountable governance at all levels. To this end, we will support the enactment of legislation, including anti-corruption measures, which will foster renewed confidence of the people in their institutions and generally help advance Goal 16 of the SDGs for peaceful societies and good governance.

12. We are aware that globalization has transformed our world and has lifted millions of people out of poverty, bringing about growth and development. Nevertheless, we also need to bear in mind that we are confronted with growing inequality and that segments of the population have not fully benefitted from globalization. This is a challenge we must address together in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation.

13. We believe that an open, transparent, fair and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system, based on clear rules respected by all and adapted to the realities of the world today, plays an important role in promoting global economic growth and sustainable development, job creation and well-being. However, we are concerned by the emerging trend of protectionism and unilateralism that hinder global trade and economic growth and that can take a heavy toll on people's well-being and on the sustainable development of our societies. As such, these are challenges that we must address together.

14. Sustainable development must be at the heart of multilateral trade negotiations and priority must be given to the developing and least developed countries with a special focus on the concerns and interests of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises as creators of jobs including through e-commerce. Multilateralism remains the best option to promote a global trade regime that is fair to all. We therefore remain committed to multilateralism and to further strengthening the role of the WTO as the pillar of the multilateral trading system.

15. We acknowledge the importance of an inclusive, sustainable and adaptable social protection system, and of new technologies in terms of employment creation and human well-being. From this perspective, we strongly advocate for decent work for all as well as for stronger safety nets to ease the transition of displaced workers to new jobs. We also call for an adequate and up-to-date regulatory framework and special measures to help young people, the older generations and people with disabilities enter the labour market as entrepreneurs or workers.

16. We are convinced that, in view of the increasing interdependence of our societies and the growing threats to democracy, the current system of global governance needs to be strengthened so that it better reflects the perspectives and interests of all people everywhere, including those of vulnerable groups. We are strongly committed to promoting a rules-based global order with multilateralism as its key principle.

17. Our Parliamentary Speakers' Summit of G20 member and guest countries is founded on the paradigm of "global challenges, global solutions" and, to this aim, we reiterate the need to increase dialogue and cooperation among our States, governments, and parliaments.

18. We acknowledge the relevance of initiatives aimed at providing a parliamentary contribution to major global processes, such as the Speakers' conferences in the context of G20, the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organization (PCWTO), and the World Conferences of Speakers of Parliaments.

19. Moreover, we believe that it is necessary to address a persistent democracy gap in international relations and that the voice of our Parliaments should be heard in the context of multilateral meetings, including the G20 Leaders' Summits. Building on the experience gained here in Buenos Aires and at the previous G20 Parliamentary Speakers' consultations, we reaffirm our commitment to continuing our joint work at the level of Speakers of Parliament in support of the G20 process.

20. We welcome Japan's taking over the G20 Presidency as of 1 December 2018 and request the House of Councillors of the National Diet of Japan to host the next Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20), with the hope of meeting again in the latter half of 2019.

21. We express our sincere appreciation towards Argentina for hosting the G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit, as well as for its warm hospitality.

N.B: Given the long-standing tradition that the Speaker in the Westminster Parliamentary system must be entirely apolitical in matters of public policy, participation in this summit by the UK delegates should not be construed as the Speaker of either House of the UK Parliament formally endorsing or supporting the policy content or conclusions of this outcome document.