

WORDS THAT COUNT

Welcome to Tokyo, Japan!



national and local assemblies. I hope that all women leaders participating in the Summit will actively exchange views on best practices to ensure that "no women will be left behind" and, in turn, that "no one will be left behind" And let's associate with G20 leaders by making recommendation of our voices.

- Yoko Kamikawa, Member of the House of Representatives, Japan; Minister of Justice, Japan (2014-2015, 2017-2018); WPL Ambassador

Welcome to Tokyo, Japan! It is our pleasure to welcome more than 300 women leaders from all over the world for the WPL summit 2019.

The main theme of this WPL Summit is "Taking Actions to Advance Society through SDGs." Gender equality and women's empowerment has been set as Goal 5 of the SDGs. We will discuss not only how to achieve this goal but also ways to promote all the goals by women's power.

Japan's society is changing very rapidly toward a society in which all women shine. The reform of labor system is progressing for providing diversified labor force to suit one's lifestyle. Last year, the Diet passed a law to achieve greater representational equality in the

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WPL Summit 2019: Taking actions to advance society through SDGs

On 25-27 June, 2019, more than 300 women political leaders are gathering in Tokyo for the WPL Summit 2019 to find collective approaches to advance society with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This year's WPL Summit raises awareness on vital issues and debates as a forum of powerful women representing citizens of all parts of the globe. Immediately preceding the G20 Leaders Summit of the Japanese G20 Presidency, the WPL Summit 2019 aims to set the scene for the pivotal discussions.

The conclusions of the WPL Summit 2019 will be brought to the attention of the Heads of State and Government at the G20 Leaders Summit, which Japan hosts in Osaka on June 28-29. WPL is contributing to Japan's determination to resolve the many challenges and opportunities confronting the international community.

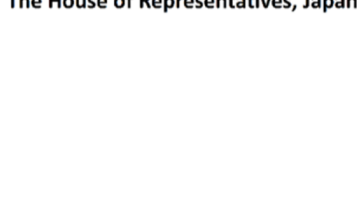
Thanks to the insights of the women political leaders coming from more than 80 countries around the world, the WPL Summit aims at redefining to what extent good governance is directly linked to women in power and look at women participation in politics as marker of societal progress. From education to finance and defence, from environment to health and smart economies - just to mention some of key areas approached - the WPL Summit will propose ways to ensure women's perspectives are championing policy-making.

Capitalising on the fact that this year the WPL Summit takes place in Japan, participants will look at whether "Womenomics" -- the term Japan adopted for policies striving towards higher participation of women in the labour market -- is "the" smart choice. Participants will also address the question of who are the leaders of tomorrow that will find responses to future needs.

The first WPL Summit ever to be held in East Asia, is co-hosted by the House of Representatives of Japan, with the oversight of an Executive Committee, composed of leading Japanese politicians.

Past WPL Summits have each attracted several hundred female politicians to Vilnius (Lithuania), Reykjavik (Iceland), Amman (Jordan) Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Mexico City (Mexico), Kigali (Rwanda) and the European Parliament (Brussels).

Follow the WPL Summit on social media, using the hashtag #WPLSummit2019, on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.



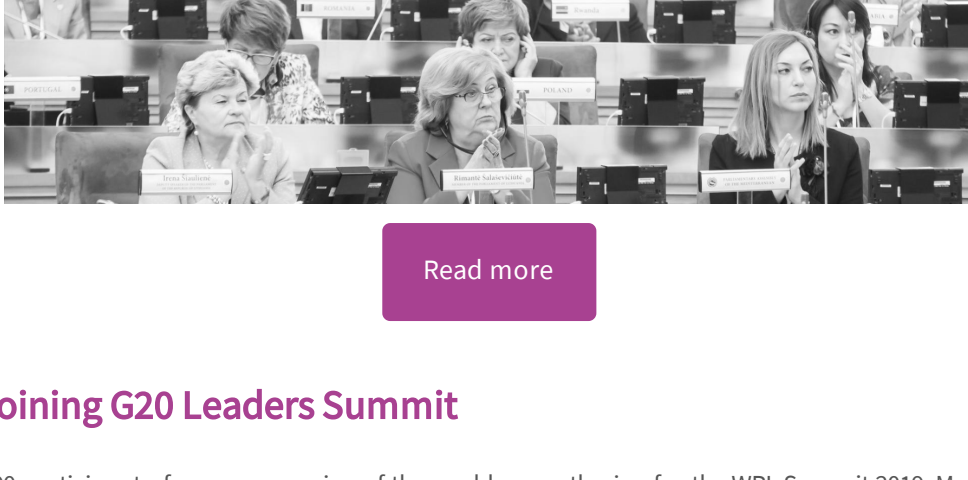
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Policy focus sessions: tackling crucial issues

At the WPL Summit 2019, policy focus sessions are designed to dive deep into crucial issues around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Participants will look at topics such as the role of Parliamentarians in promoting diversity and inclusion, how to tackle environmental issues such as marine plastic and how to establish a recycling society, or the roles of politics and business in reproductive health.

These sessions are hosted by the House of Representatives, and by the WPL Summit's partners. The WPL Summit 2019 is supported by a variety of public institutions, academic institutions, civil society actors, and the private sector. They are valuable contributors to WPL's mission by bringing expertise from a range of fields to find and advocate for solutions to global challenges.

Partners of the WPL Summit 2019 include: OECD, UN Women, GRIPS, Merck, MSD for Mothers, Salesforce, Bloomberg, the Development Bank of Japan, Facebook, UCB Japan, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and W20.



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WPL joining G20 Leaders Summit

Nearly 400 participants from every region of the world are gathering for the WPL Summit 2019. Meeting on the eve of the G20 Summit, they will be contributing with their experience on how to best advance society through SDGs, inspired by more than 30 internationally-renowned speakers that have confirmed their participation.

The WPL Summit 2019 is taking place at a crucial time. WPL has been invited to share the outcomes of the WPL Summit 2019 at the G20 Leaders Summit in Osaka on 29 June 2019. This invitation will serve as an inspiration for the participants to work towards factual and viable proposals.

Confirmed speakers include:

- Haruno Yoshida, W20 Co-chair of W20 in Japan
- Helen Clark, Prime Minister of New Zealand (1999-2008), UNDP Administrator (2009-2017), Patron of The Helen Clark Foundation, WPL Board Member
- Jewel Howard Taylor, Vice President of Liberia, WPL Board Member
- José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission (2004-2014), Non-Executive Chairman of Goldman Sachs International, WPL Advisory Board Member
- Karen Sessions, Vice President, Congressional & Public Affairs at the Millenium Challenge Corporation of the United States of America
- Marisol Casado, President of the International Triathlon Union and Member of the International Olympic Committee
- Masoumeh Ebtekar, Vice President for Women And Family Affairs of Iran
- Nadia Calviño, Minister of Economy and Business of Spain
- Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women
- Rebeca Grynspan, Ibero-American Secretary-General, Under Secretary General of the United Nations (2010-2014), Vice-President of Costa Rica (1994-1998)
- Satoshi Katayama, Minister in charge of Women's Empowerment, Minister of State for Gender Equality of Japan, Member of the House of Councillors of Japan
- Tedros Adhanom, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO)
- Victoria Budson, Executive Director of the Women and Public Policy Program at Harvard University
- Tadamori Oshima, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Japan
- Zuraida Kamaruddin, Member of Parliament and Minister of Housing and Local Government of Malaysia, WPL Ambassador
- Amy Weaver, President, Legal & Corporate Affairs, for Salesforce
- Andre Musto, Regional Vice President - Asia Pacific Merck Biopharma
- Emiko Takagai, State Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan, Member of the House of Councillors of Japan
- Dorthe Mikkelsen, President Asia Pacific at MSD

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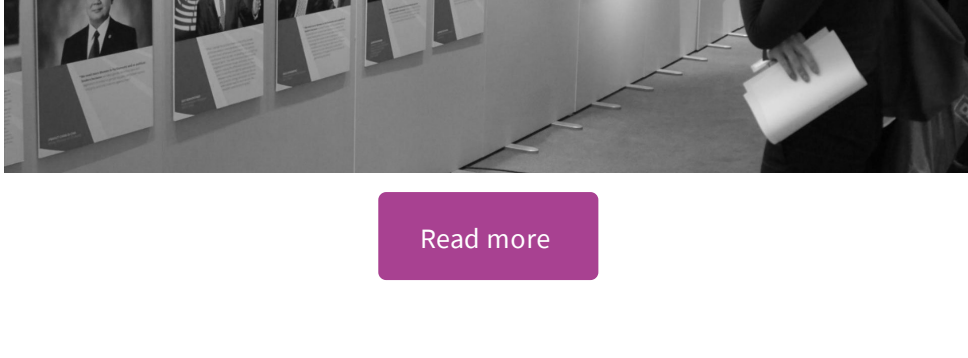
"We need more women as political leaders because..." Male G20 Leaders complete this sentence

Parity between women and men in politics mirrors our societies. Greater balance in political representation is essential to inclusiveness. For this to happen, men are as much part of that important change, as women.

A couple of years ago, WPL launched the Leadership Campaign, to highlight the commitment of male Presidents and Prime Ministers to increase the number of women in politics.

Over 80 contributions have been received from Heads of State and Government, Presidents and Prime Ministers from around the world who have contributed with far-reaching and challenging statements. They gave their personal testimony by completing the sentence "We need more women as political leaders because..."

In view of WPL's participation at the G20 Summit on 29 June in Osaka, WPL asked G20 Leaders why the world needs more women in politics. Their answers will be part of an exhibition in the Mail Hall of the House of Representatives, during the WPL Summit 2019, and will inspire participants.



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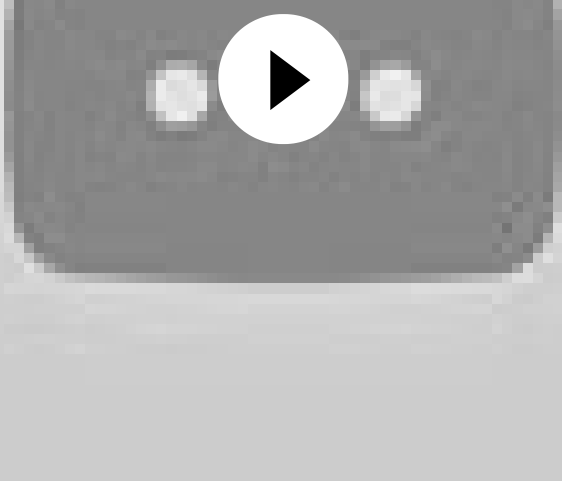
FEATURED

The role of Parliamentarians in SDGs monitoring

What is the role of Parliaments and Parliamentarians across the world when it comes to implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? How can they mobilise for SDGs in their countries, how can they support in monitoring and reporting about SDGs? Are there any best practices in this field other Parliamentarians can capitalise on to ensure the SDGs are reached?

WPL guided a discussion addressing these important questions during the UN Global Festival of Action, in Bonn, Germany. It was the first time that such a topic was put on the table.

The debate provided interesting suggestions which will be looked at on 26 of June in one of the sessions of the WPL Summit 2019. Hosted by the House of Representatives, the session: the "Role of parliamentarians in promoting diversity and inclusion" will provide ways ahead for women parliamentarians to ensure inclusive and equal policies in SGDs monitoring.



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Women political leaders from Latin America gather at the WPL LatAm Regional Meeting

In the last couple of years, South America has been marked by a steady increase in the presence of women in politics. Still, the finish line is looming decades away.

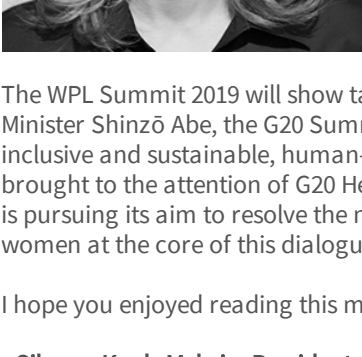
To press for change and capitalise on the commitment of female politicians in the region, the WPL Latin America Community met in Bogotá, Colombia during two high-level roundtables on the 13th of May hosted by WPL. These gatherings were organised in partnership with Concordia, in the context of the 2019 Concordia Americas Summit.

From the Women in Parliaments Latin America Reunion in 2014 in Brazil, to the 2015 WPL Summit in Mexico and the 2016 WPL APEC Women Leaders meeting in Lima, Peru, WPL's commitment in Latin America seeks to raise awareness about the importance of women empowerment in the region, and to continue efforts towards building determined communities of women political leaders across South America and the Caribbean.



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IN CONCLUSION



This year, WPL takes its annual WPL Summit to East Asia. Thanks to WPL's co-hosts, the Japanese House of Representatives of Japan, the three-day Summit is hosted in Tokyo, back to back with the G20 Leaders Summit. The timing of this gathering is particularly crucial. It provides a unique opportunity to have an impact not only in the context of the host country, Japan, but on the wider world. I am excited to announce that Women Political Leaders will share the outcomes of the WPL Summit 2019 at the G20 Leaders Summit in Osaka, on the 29th of June 2019. This is an acknowledgment of the determination for Women Political Leaders to accelerate progress and change, to advance society. WPL Summits are nurtured by the experience and determination of women political leaders.

The WPL Summit 2019 will show tangible results of these commitments. To mention the words of Prime Minister Shinzō Abe, the G20 Summit happening in Japan "seeks to realise and promote a free and open, inclusive and sustainable, human-centered future society." With the conclusions of the WPL Summit 2019 brought to the attention of G20 Heads of State and Government, during Japan's first G20 Presidency, WPL is pursuing its aim to resolve the many challenges confronting the international community and to place women at the core of this dialogue, where they should and need to be.

I hope you enjoyed reading this month's newsletter and looking forward to welcoming you in Tokyo !

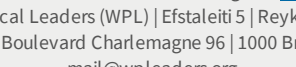
- Silvana Koch-Mehrin, President and Founder of WPL

SAVE THE DATE

June 25, 27 - Tokyo (Japan)

[WPL Summit 2019](#)

For more information regarding our events please contact: mail@wpleaders.org



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