

## FOREWORD

## Ditch laws that treat women and men as not equal!



This special edition of the WPL newsletter takes stock of the discussions at the first-ever WPL Summit whose conclusions were brought to the G20 Leaders' attention in Osaka on 29 June 2019.

The focus of the WPL Summit 2019 was on how to advance society by taking action through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It was consensus, that the SDGs can only be achieved in 2030, if women and men are equally represented in politics.

While I applauded the commitment of the G20 to women empowerment, I conveyed a clear message to G20 Leaders when in Osaka: **If there is no parity, political representation cannot exist!**

Many of the G20 leaders made strong remarks when traveling to the G20 Summit in Japan. However, with only 6 countries in the world, and only one belonging to the G20 countries, free of discriminatory laws, as stated by the World Bank, there is still a long way to go!

My "to do" for politicians at the G20 Special Event on women's empowerment, was straight-forward: ditch laws that treat women and men as not equal! WPL asked this question to each of the G20 leaders:

***"How will you use your power and get more women into political leadership? What will be your legacy?"***

**Remarks** by Silvana Koch-Mehrin, President & Founder Women Political Leaders Leaders' Special Event on Women's Empowerment at G20 Summit - Osaka, 29 June 2019

## IN THIS ISSUE

## WPL leaving its mark at the G20 Leaders Summit

The timing of the WPL Summit 2019 - right before the G20 Summit hosted by Japan - proved to be useful to enhance the impact of the discussions held at the WPL Summit and the consequent Declaration.

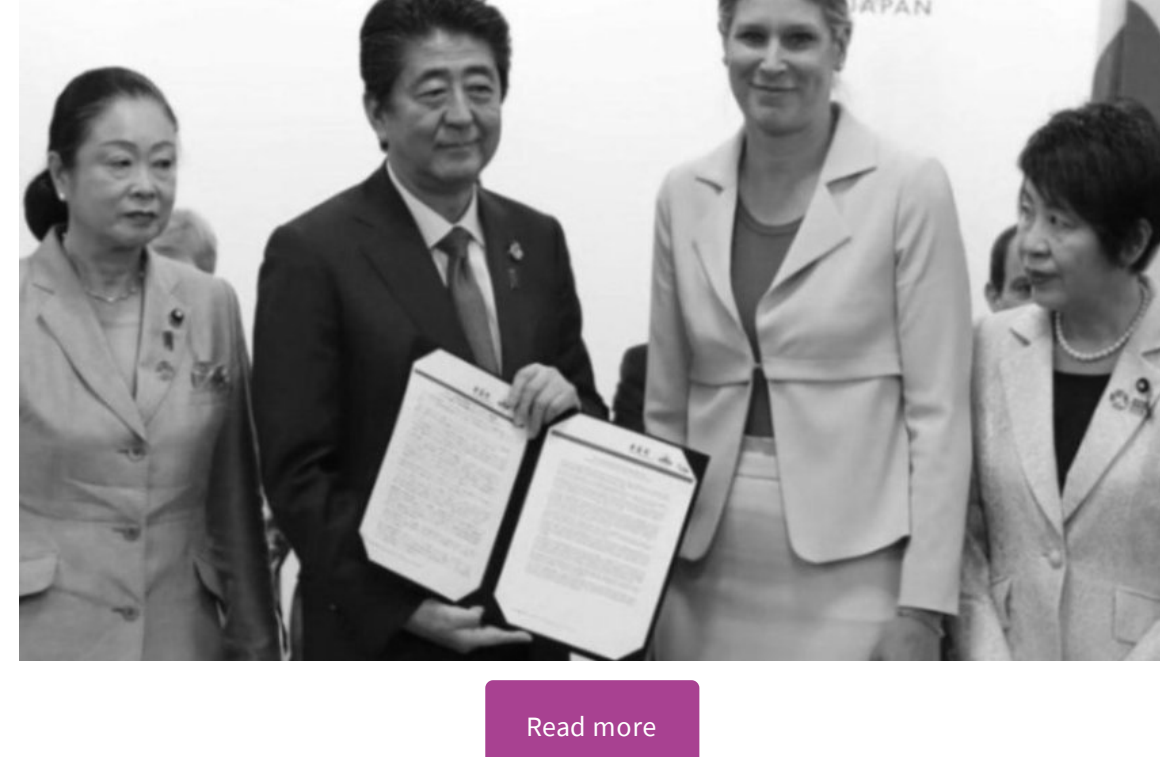
Yoko Kamikawa, WPL Ambassador in Japan, and Shinako Tsuchiya, Chair of the Committee for the WPL Summit 2019 in Japan, as well as Silvana Koch-Mehrin, President of WPL, had the honour to attend the G20 Leaders Special Event during the G20 Leaders Summit in Osaka on June 29.

On behalf of the several hundreds participants, WPL handed [the WPL Summit 2019 Declaration](#) over to Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan and President of the G20, in the presence of the G20 leaders. This invitation was an acknowledgment of relevance of the WPL Summit 2019 for the leaders of G20 Countries, as well as a responsibility for all of us to continue to put pressure to ensure the voices of female politicians are heard in politics.

***"I would like to reiterate my appreciation to the international organisations and groups for their various contributions to the G20."***

[Shinzo Abe](#), Prime Minister of Japan and President of the G20 - Osaka, 29 June 2019

WPL's presence at the G20 shall serve as an inspiration for the female politicians to work towards factual and viable proposals to ensure the voice of women in politics and society is heard.



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## Many firsts at the WPL Summit 2019

The energy of several hundreds women political leaders gathered in Tokyo on 25-27 June 2019 to celebrate the **first-ever** WPL Summit in the Asia-Pacific region and the **first** worldwide gathering of female politicians on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Moving on from the "why", the WPL Summit 2019 moved on to the "how".

Female politicians from all over the world exchanged their experiences in front of an audience eager to find viable solutions to achieve an equal and prosperous society. Political leaders shared the tangible measures they have contributed to put in place in their respective countries to promote women's empowerment and bring about a society where no one is left behind.

Participants asserted that success and growth can only be achieved in the world if all actors in politics and society pursue inclusiveness. They recognised the importance of bringing more women's perspectives to all policies, such as in women, maternal and child health, education, sport, economics, and the environment.

No country in 2030 should still have discriminatory laws against women, and gender violence should be ended by passing and implementing the necessary legislation. These were the pledges of the **first** UN Women Call to Action launched at a WPL Summit. "We won't make it unless we increase the number of women in decision making positions", was repeated on various occasions throughout the Summit, highlighting the role Women Political Leaders can play to achieve this goal.

Participants supported the G20 goal to find common ground to address climate change and achieve a sustainable society and economic growth, but clarified that it is essential to aim at the creation of a circular economy as well as to move towards a society with low pollution and emissions.

Female politicians at the WPL Summit 2019 concluded that achieving the SDGs will improve the quality of life of every individual, and confirmed their intent to take action to promote women's empowerment and bring about an inclusive and respectful society.

Additionally, the conclusions of the WPL Summit 2019 were the **first** WPL Summit Conclusions to be physically brought to the attention to the G20 leaders to hopefully contribute to change the picture taken at future G20 meetings!

Read the outcome declarations in English, French, and Spanish at the link below.

#WPLSummit2019

Photos and videos of all plenary sessions can be viewed at [wplsummit.org](#). Feel free to use the pictures on social media and mention @WPLLeadersOrg and add the #WPLSummit2019 hashtag.



[Read more](#)

## Generation Equality: UN Women at the WPL Summit 2019

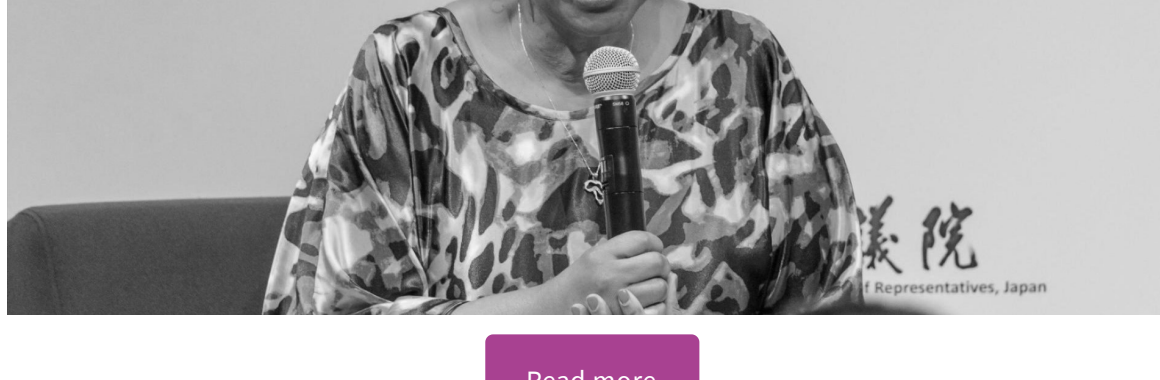
One of the highlights of the WPL Summit 2019, was when Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director, called upon Parliamentarians globally to achieve a gender equal world via legislation and parliamentary work.

The [Call to Action](#) launched at the WPL Summit 2019 constitutes a clear roadmap for Parliamentarians to act as key drivers in this process. It guides future engagement and ensures that change happens. Participants welcomed the Call's global guidelines for progress in Parliaments to improve the lives of women, girls and all society around the world; also mentioned in the WPL Summit 2019 Declaration.

The [Call to Action](#) is part of the UN Women's Generation Equality campaign in the lead up to the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25).

***"Progress towards gender equality in Parliaments will improve the lives of women and girls around the world."***

*Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director*



[Read more](#)

## "We need more women as political leaders because..." Male G20 Leaders share their views with WPL

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.

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 were exhibited in the Mail Hall of the House of Representatives, during the WPL Summit 2019.

With one of the main conclusions of the WPL Summit 2019 being that SDGs can only be achieved in 2030, if equality between women and men is reached, this exhibition provided participants an occasion to reflect on the importance of ensuring a close cooperation between women and men if a higher presence of women in politics wants to be the norm.



[Read more](#)

## FEATURED

## "You can change the world" Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the WPL Summit 2019's participants

Female politicians and participants at the WPL Summit 2019 were inspired by the words of Shizo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan. Watch the full video below.

"Good afternoon to the women political leaders attending from various countries around the world! ... I am delighted to have you come to Japan!"

"What is important is action! Without a society in which women shine or without the empowerment of women, there can be no revival of the Japanese economy."

"... If each of you, the women political leaders here today, takes action, it will be possible to change the world more and more. I believe this strongly. Let us together take action towards societal development by achieving the SDGs."

"I extend my best wishes for today's conference to become a powerful engine that helps propel your future actions."

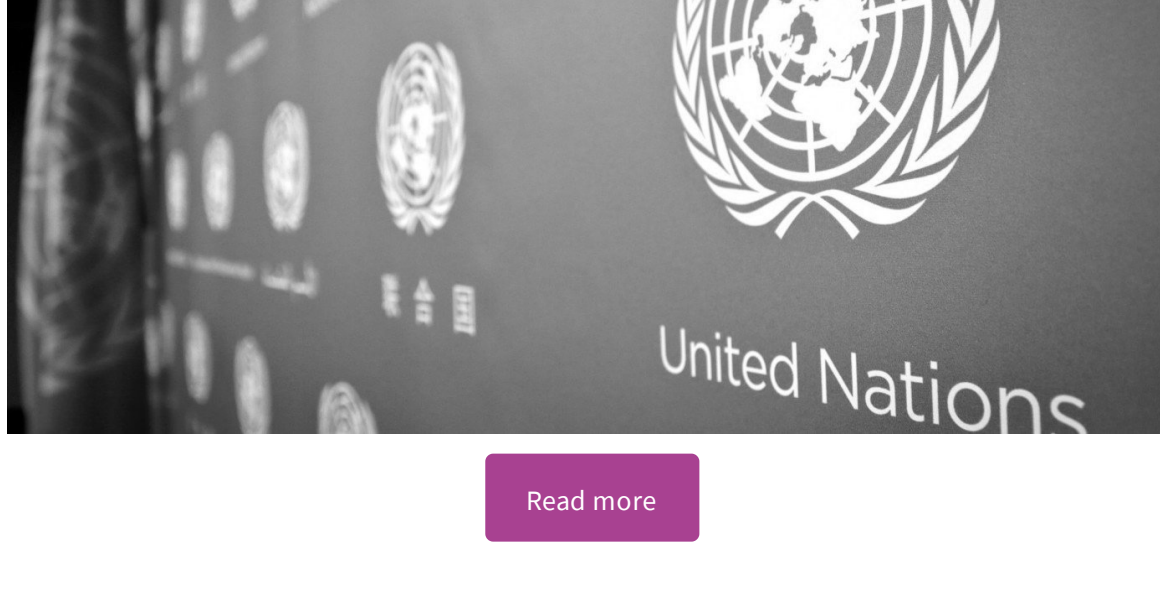
Video message by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the start of the WPL Summit 2019, Tokyo, 27 June 2019



and the landscape of Japan has changed dramatically.

## Next step: New York for the WPL Summit 2020!

We look forward to welcoming you to the WPL Summit 2020 at the United Nations in New York on June 22-24!



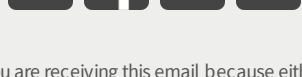
[Read more](#)

## SAVE THE DATE

June 22, 24 2020 - New York (U.S.A.)

[WPL Summit 2020](#)

For more information regarding our events please contact: [mail@wpleaders.org](mailto:mail@wpleaders.org)



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