

Women Political Leaders Summit 2021

June 2021

CONCEPT NOTE

“Building forward: Women Political Leaders determining the new normal”

As we begin to envision and lay the foundation for our post-pandemic world, we see a revitalised society where women are embedded in every aspect of decision-making, from the political to the economic, and where women in leadership positions have become an everyday fact. At the **Women Political Leaders Summit 2021**, distinguished leaders from around the globe will together look beyond the pandemic to **an unprecedented decade of sustained action** in which strong, durable, sustainable advances will be made in women’s leadership and in equality and opportunity for all.

At the Summit’s Opening Session, panelists will concentrate on the crucial role of women politicians as well as the systemic changes required so that **women leaders can effectively shape the inclusive, equitable societies that humanity needs and deserves**. This positive transformation begins now, and it will guide and propel the economic and social recoveries that will define the next decade.

This **OPENING SESSION** will point to the way forward. In their opening remarks, keynote speakers will respond to specific questions in light of their leadership roles and areas of expertise.

To begin building forward, **the first steps to a new and better normal are already being taken**, even in the midst of the pandemic. In the Summit’s keynote addresses, high-level speakers will share examples of their actions to implement greater inclusivity and equality, also reporting on their progress in ensuring that their institutions, organisations, and countries are all advancing women’s leadership and securing seats for women at every decision-making table.

KEYNOTE addresses will be delivered as 3-minute video messages.

With the world’s attention focused on the fight against COVID-19, the risk is high that past achievements in the drive for equality are in jeopardy. The need for change is urgent, and women leaders from every walk of life are moving forward now to construct a new and improved normal through their leadership.

The **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION** of the Summit will focus on tangible, current examples that help answer the question: ***What will the new normal look like, and how are women leaders shaping it?*** Session panelists will offer insights into the new leadership required, along with instances of how they are working to achieve systemic change in their countries and in their daily lives, in every social area and economic sector.

Women Political Leaders (WPL) recognises that change is already underway, and that women leaders are capitalising on the many pivotal opportunities that 2021 presents. As a co-leader in the **Generation Equality Action Coalition** on Feminist Movements and Leadership, WPL and its community of women leaders around the globe are organising a series of roundtable discussions featuring women leaders and policy-makers with the goal of producing concrete take-aways that will then become commitments. These commitments will be shared in an official capacity by roundtable co-hosts during the **Generation Equality Forum** (30 June to 2 July, 2021), to be hosted in Paris by French President Macron.

During the session entitled **TAKING ACTIONS TO ADVANCE THE NEW NORMAL**, women leaders, co-hosts of the six parliamentary roundtables, will **confirm their engagement and action** to define a GEF commitment on the day that each roundtable takes place, in the form of a 2-minute video message.

At the conclusion of the Women Political Leaders Summit 2021, a **Declaration** will be delivered highlighting the actions, recommendations, and areas of progress mentioned throughout the proceedings.

CLOSING REMARKS & DECLARATION (10')

This session will summarise and underline the most salient information delivered at the Summit. The **Declaration** will be finalised with the support of the WPL Board and WPL's Global and Country Ambassadors.

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In the legislative domain, women political leaders are today determining the new normal in their own countries and societies. During the Summit, representatives of countries worldwide will highlight their current efforts to build forward to a near future in which women political leaders play an active and equal role in all decision-making.

The session **STATEMENTS BY NATIONAL DELEGATION LEADERS** will showcase actions successfully taken at the national level to advance and support women's leadership and to map the best route to a new standard characterised by equality, opportunity, and sustainability