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PRESS RELEASE

4th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament
31 August – 2 September 2015, New York

The Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 31 August – 2 September 2015. The Conference was organized by the Inter Parliamentary Union, the global organization of national Parliaments. The main theme of the Conference was “Placing democracy at the service of peace and sustainable development: Building the world the people want”. The deliberations of the conference focused on and gave the global parliamentary community’s unequivocal support to the new 2030 Development Agenda with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals which are due to be adopted in the forthcoming UN Summit on Sustainable Development.

Honb’le Speaker of Lok Sabha Mrs. Sumitra Mahajan led the Indian delegation to the Conference. The delegation comprised of Honb’le Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha Prof P J Kurien, Secretary Generals of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and senior officials from both the houses of the Parliament.

Addressing the Conference Honb’le Speaker emphasized the importance of inclusive participation and good governance to promote peace and sustainable development. She also stressed the significance of the post-2015 development agenda which clearly emphasizes inter alia ending poverty and hunger, ensuring gender equality, empowerment of women and girls and reducing inequality within and among countries.

Honb’le Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha in his address to the Conference highlighted the need for strong political commitment on the part of all stakeholders, especially the Parliament and the Government, and adoption of country specific approaches for the pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals.

At the end of the three day global summit in which more than 170 Speakers and Deputy Speakers of Parliament from nearly 140 countries participated, a far-reaching declaration was adopted wherein the leaders pledged to do their utmost to reconnect people with democracy.

The declaration welcomed the fact that Poverty eradication was the overarching objective of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, alongside the promotion of economic, social and environmental development.
The World Speakers also urged the countries to reach agreements that take fully into account the Rio principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

They also welcomed the goal call for greater efforts to gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls as well as the broad-based goal on the means of implementation - finance, trade, technology, capacity building and systemic reforms - that must be mobilized in support of the new agenda.

Most importantly the declaration called on UN Member States to equip their Organization for the challenges of the 21st century. Expressing concern over the ability of the Security Council to better deliver on its primary responsibilities of maintaining international peace and security under the UN Charter, the World Speakers asserted that the effectiveness of the Security Council can only be improved through urgent reform to reflect contemporary global realities.

Before the World Speakers Conference, the 10th meeting of the women Speakers of the Parliament was also held at the UN Premises on 29-30 August 2015 in which Honb’le Speaker of Lok Sabha participated. Honb’le Speaker also hosted a Dinner reception wherein prominent Indian communities were invited.

3 September 2015