

Press Release

Summit 2019: 300 female international leaders to convene in Tokyo, Japan

More than 300 women politicians from over 70 countries in the world and other 30 internationally-renowned speakers are set to drive change at the Women Political Leaders (WPL) Summit 2019 on 25-27 June in Tokyo, Japan, co-hosted by the House of Representatives of Japan.

With the high numbers in terms of confirmed speakers, participants, and national delegations, the WPL Summit 2019 promises to showcase women's active participation as essential for advancing society, in particular through Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"This is the first time that WPL Summit takes place in Tokyo. The spirit of collaboration of the House of Representatives of Japan and of the Japanese Government shown to WPL has been paramount for preparing this first-time gathering of women political leaders in Asia," says Silvana Koch-Mehrin, President and Founder of WPL. "The WPL Summit 2019 perfectly fits with Prime Minister Abe's Womenomics approach to sustainable economic growth. It is set to result in tangible proposals for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on the eve of the G20 Summit, which Japan will host on June 28-29."

Confirmed speakers include leaders from international organisations like Tedros Adhanom, Director General of the World Health Organization, and Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women, high-level representatives from the Japanese Government, and renowned female political leaders.

The WPL Summit, entitled "Taking actions to advance society through SDGs", is held for the first time in the Asian-Pacific region. Participants will seek responses to some of the biggest challenges society is facing, possible solutions through the implementation of the SDGs and will focus on the roles of women politicians in such endeavours.

A limited number of journalists will be allowed to follow the proceedings and will have access to the House of Representatives of Japan for the whole duration of the WPL Summit 2019. Places are limited and those interested are invited to register at the link below. The WPL Press team will be supporting journalists in organising one-to-one interviews with the speakers.

Confirmed speakers include:

- Amal Al Qubaisi, President of the Federal National Council, United Arab Emirates
- Akiko Yamanaka, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Japan (2005-06). Member of the House of Representatives, Japan (2005-09)
- Emiko Takagai, State Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare and Member of the House of Councillors, Japan
- Fumiko Hayashi, Mayor of the City of Yokohama, Japan
- Gifty Twum Ampofo, Deputy Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ghana
- Hanna Birna Kristjánsdóttir, Chair of the Board, WPL. Minister of Interior, Iceland (2013-2014)
- Helen Clark, Prime Minister, New Zealand (1999-2008)
- Ināra Mūrniece, Speaker of the Saeima (Parliament) of Latvia
- Jewel Howard Taylor, Vice President of Liberia
- José Manuel Barroso, President, European Commission (2004-2014), Non-Executive Chairman, Goldman Sachs International
- Junko Mihara, Member of the House of Councillors, Japan
- Kaori Takagi, Member of the House of Councillors, Japan
- Kimie Hatano, Member of the House of Representatives, Japan
- Maki Ikeda, Member of the House of Representatives, Japan
- Masoumeh Ebtekar, Vice President, Women And Family Affairs, Iran
- Naomi Tokashiki, Member of the House of Representatives, Japan
- Natsue Mori, Member of the House of Representatives, Japan
- Noriko Furuya, Member of the House of Representatives, Japan
- Nurhayati Ali Assegaf, Member of the House of Representatives, Indonesia
- Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General of the UN, Executive Director of UN Women
- Shinako Tsuchiya, Member of the House of Representatives, Japan
- Tadamori Oshima, Speaker, House of Representatives, Japan
- Tamar Chugoshvili, First Deputy Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia
- Tedros Adhanom, Director General, WHO
- Tomoko Abe, Member of the House of Representatives, Japan
- Tomoko Tamura, Member of the House of Councillors, Japan
- Toshiko Takeya, Member of the House of Councillors, Japan
- Verónica Delgadillo García, Member of the Senate and WPL Ambassador, Mexico
- Victoria Budson, Founding Executive Director, Women & Public Policy Program, Harvard University
- Wakako Yata, Member of the House of Councillors, Japan
- Yasuko Komiyama, Member of the House of Representatives, Japan
- Yoko Kamikawa, Member of the House of Representatives, Japan. Minister Of Justice, Japan (2014-2015, 2017-2018)
- Yuka Miyazawa, Member of the House of Councillors, Japan

If you would like to attend, please register below.

[Register here](#)

For more information, one-to-one interviews with the confirmed speakers, visual material or interviews, please send an email to press@wpleaders.org
For contact on-site please What'sApp Lucia de Luca, Communications Director at +352 671 051168 or contact her at lucia@wpleaders.org.

Notes to the editors

About the speakers to the [WPL Summit 2019](#)
About the programme of the [WPL Summit 2019](#)
About [Japan & Women's Political Empowerment](#)

About Womenomics

Womenomics is a theory that advocates the empowerment of women, arguing that enabling women to have access to equal participation in an economy and society will result in economic benefits and social progress. The need for Japan to implement womenomics was first advocated by Kathy Matsui in 1999, and since 2013 Prime Minister Abe's government has pledged to promote womenomics as policy.

About WPL

Women Political Leaders (WPL) is the global network of female politicians. The mission of WPL is to increase both the number and the influence of women in political leadership positions. WPL members are women in political office – Presidents, Prime Ministers, Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliaments, Mayors. Membership is free and members are honoured by their participation. WPL strives in all its activities to demonstrate the impact of more women in political leadership, for the global better.

See below a map of the countries which are sending delegations to the WPL Summit 2019.

