



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
MINISTRY OF TOURISM



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Social Cohesion
and Family Affairs



Concept Note

WPL Summit 2024

Democracy for the 21st Century

March 19–21 in Athens, Greece

In 2024, a super election year for the world, the WPL Summit heads to Athens, the birthplace of democracy. High-profile elections worldwide will shape global leadership for the second half of this decade. Democracy today faces multiple challenges, but also opportunities.

The rise of Artificial Intelligence, 24/7 media, the relevance of social media, and new expectations regarding the efficiency and delivery of political decisions, along with questions surrounding political parties and more, mean that democracies and political systems need to adapt to a fast-changing environment.

The massive overrepresentation of men in political leadership remains a barrier to real representation of societies. In 2023, men constituted 74.5 percent of global parliaments, 78.2 percent of cabinet ministers, and more than 90% of the world's Heads of State or Government are men. The United Nations (UN) estimates that achieving parity at the highest echelons of power will not be reached for another 130 years, with legislative representation equality not expected before 2063. However, unhindered participation and representation of women in politics is imperative for a functioning democracy. Women make up half the world's population.

The WPL Summit 2024 extends its commitment to addressing a spectrum of opportunities and challenges facing democracies globally, providing a platform for nuanced discussions and fostering actionable insights. Together, we aspire to shape a future where democratic values thrive and resonate globally.

Women Political Leaders (WPL)

Active for over a decade, WPL has emerged as a global force with unparalleled convening power, committed to increasing both the number and the influence of women in political leadership positions.

As the global non-partisan network of elected and appointed women political leaders from more than 130 countries, WPL strives in all its activities to demonstrate the positive influence that more women in political leadership can have on the advancement and well-being of society.

WPL provides women leaders with a platform to contribute to global discourse, always from their perspective as women political leaders. WPL has co-hosted leaders during the UN General Assembly, G20 Summit, APEC Leaders Meeting, Davos Week, Munich Security Conference, OECD Forum and many other international gatherings.

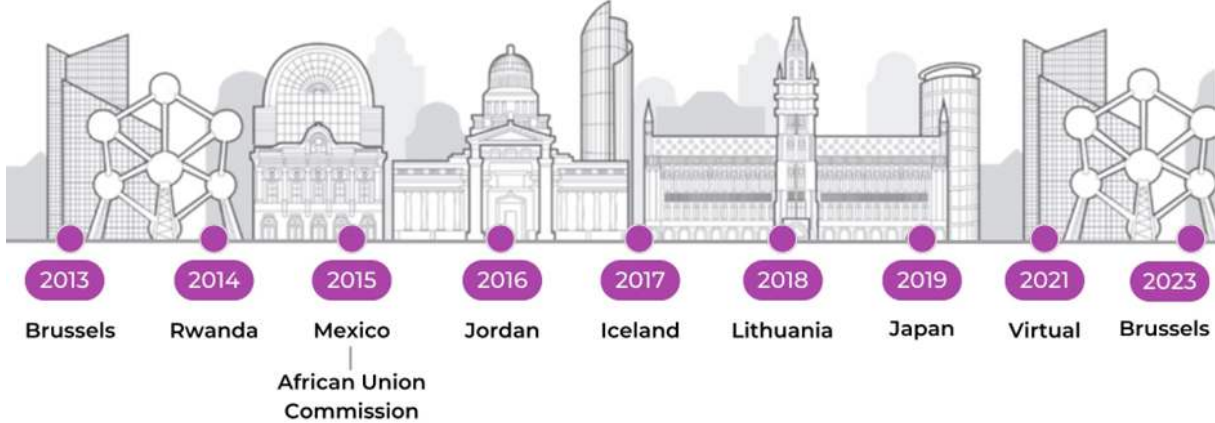
Convening women who have reached the highest heights of politics, WPL has hosted more than 2,500 Parliamentarians and over 40 women Presidents and Prime Ministers, including 35 recipients of the [WPL Trailblazer Award](#).

The WPL Summit

The WPL Summit is the largest worldwide gathering of women politicians, including some of the most powerful international leaders on the planet. It convenes and gives a platform to leaders whose influence inspires women to enter and rise in politics.

The WPL Summit has been co-hosted by parliamentary and governmental bodies in many regions of the world, in Africa (Rwanda, the African Union Commission in Ethiopia), the Americas (Mexico), the Middle East (Jordan), Asia-Pacific (Japan), and Europe (Iceland, Lithuania, Belgium, and the European Parliament). WPL invites women Presidents, and Prime Ministers, Ministers, Parliamentarians, Mayors

and other political leaders from across the world to the Summit. The WPL Summits gather between 250 and 300 women politicians globally.



The WPL Summit 2024

Under the esteemed patronage of H.E. the President of the Hellenic Republic, Ms. Katerina Sakellaropoulou, the WPL Summit 2024 will be held from March 19 to 21 in the prestigious Hellenic Parliament and other notable venues in Athens.

As we prepare to gather in Athens, the birthplace of democracy, for the WPL Summit 2024, it serves as a powerful reminder of the indispensable role of women’s equal participation and leadership in preserving effective and resilient democracies. More women in political leadership not only contribute to the advancement of democratic principles but also play a pivotal role in the increased empowerment of women in society at large.

Prominent dignitaries from Greece and around the world, including President Katerina Sakellaropoulou and Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, will be in attendance.

This timely and important convening expands its scope to address the multifaceted challenges and opportunities in democracy in 2024. The Summit will also address the pervasive issue of violence against women in politics and society. Discussions will encompass:

- Citizen Expectations: What are the key expectations of citizens from democratic systems in 2024? How can democracies better fulfill the needs and aspirations of their citizens?
- Evolving Role of Politicians in the 21st Century: How is the role of politicians evolving in response to changing societal dynamics, technological advancements, and global challenges?
- Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Politics and Leadership: What are the implications of AI on political processes, decision-making, and leadership? How can AI be harnessed for the benefit of democratic governance?
- Roles of Political Parties and Movements: In the evolving political landscape, how do traditional political parties and emerging movements contribute to shaping democracies? What role do they play in fostering inclusivity and representation?
- Violence against women in politics and society: To what extent do cultural or societal norms contribute to the perpetuation of violence against women? In what ways does violence hinder the political participation of women and their ability to contribute effectively to society?

The WPL Summit aims to foster an exchange of best practices and knowledge on political decision-making within this broader context. Concrete actions will be explored to strengthen democracy, including the promotion and support of upcoming democratic elections around the world.

In the spirit of 'Representation Matters', WPL Founder and President Silvana Koch-Mehrin captures the essence of the WPL Summit's mission, "In today's democracy, we face challenges that demand inclusive solutions. The WPL Summit 2024 calls us to action. Let's champion the cause of women in politics—vital contributors to the democratic landscape. Join us in Athens to forge a future where women's leadership transforms the very fabric of our democracies."

What: WPL Summit 2024

When: 19–21 March, 2024

Who: Political Leaders

Where: Athens, Greece

--- ENDS ---