



**Intervention** by Ms Wytske Postma, Vice-President of the House of Representatives of the Netherlands, at the opening of the 11th G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit, held on 1 October 2025 in Kleinmond, South Africa

Your Excellencies, Honourable Speakers, Distinguished Colleagues,

It is a great honour to address you on behalf of the House of Representatives of the Netherlands. We thank the South African Parliament for hosting this important summit and for your warm hospitality. The symbolism of meeting near Cape Town — a city of resilience and renewal — could not be more fitting.

We meet at a time of deep global uncertainty. Armed conflicts — from the war in Ukraine to the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas — coincide with accelerating climate disruption and the weakening of the rules-based international order. These challenges demand principled leadership, cooperation, and strong democratic institutions.

For the Netherlands, multilateralism is not optional — it is essential. Our identity is rooted in trade, innovation, and collaboration. Though not a G20 member, we are deeply connected to the global system and honoured to contribute to these discussions.

Parliaments play a vital role. We represent the democratic voice of our citizens and provide the legitimacy global governance depends on. Through parliamentary diplomacy, we build trust, exchange ideas, and promote inclusive and accountable policies.

Later this month, Dutch citizens will elect a new House of Representatives. As is tradition, this will lead to the formation of a new coalition government — often involving four or more parties. It's a reminder that democracy is dynamic and rooted in public trust.

We see similar developments in South Africa, where a historic coalition government has been formed last year — the first since the end of Apartheid. Former political opponents are now working together to shape the country's future. It is a powerful example of how dialogue and compromise can strengthen democracy and foster unity.

That spirit of trust — both at home and globally — is what we must nurture to meet today's shared challenges.

Thank you.