



## **Goodwill Message by Chairman of CoSPAL on the occasion of International Women’s Day 2026 under the theme: “Give to Gain, African Women in Legislative Leadership”**

In my capacity as the Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana and Chairman of the Conference of Speakers and Presidents of African Legislatures, I join my colleagues across our continent to celebrate our women in Legislature as we commemorate International Women’s Day today, the 8th of March 2026.

In Africa, our parliaments carry a profound responsibility to represent the full diversity of our citizens and to preserve the credibility of democratic governance. The strength of our legislative institutions therefore depends on how inclusive our structures and leadership are.

Experience over time has confirmed that when women participate meaningfully in legislative leadership, parliaments become more effective in lawmaking, more efficient in oversight, and more responsive to the needs of citizens. Women’s leadership strengthens deliberation, broadens policy priorities, and enhances public trust in our institutions.

As parliamentary leaders, we must recognise that expanding leadership opportunities for women is not an act of charity, it is an investment in institutional performance and democratic legitimacy. Opening spaces and creating opportunities for women benefits our democracies in terms of stability, legitimacy, and stronger policy outcomes.



This is why CoSPAL is currently pursuing two important continental initiatives:

Firstly, in **collaboration with ElectHER we are advancing the Women's Representation in African Parliaments Project (WRAP)**, to promote data-driven engagement and peer learning to expand women's presence and influence within our legislatures.

Secondly, **in collaboration with the Policy Innovation Center, CoSPAL is promoting the Gender Legislative Agenda**, to encourage institutional reforms that support women's access and participation in the activities of Legislatures across the continent.

On this International Women's Day, we reaffirm our collective commitment as African parliamentary leaders towards building representative, credible, and responsive institutions that recognise and support women's leadership.

I wish all women involved in legislative work across the continent a **Happy International Women's Day.**