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Report of the President

(a) On her activities since the 204th session of the Governing Council

I would like to start this report by expressing again all my gratitude for having the honour of serving this global Organization that has full potential to transform our world. This activities report is not a question of meeting the fundamental, mandated accountability to our governing bodies, it is also the most important opportunity to explain, with full transparency and responsibility, all the work I have done since our last IPU Assembly in Doha, Qatar.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union has been raising awareness, imparting information and organizing capacity-building seminars, workshops and regional meetings to commit parliaments to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Never before have awareness-raising and SDGs implementation activities been so critical in holding world leaders to account for their pledge and commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It is in this context that I attended, on 2 and 4 May, the Global Festival of Action for Sustainable Development in Bonn, Germany, which was a ground-breaking annual event powered by the UN SDG Action Campaign with the support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the German Federal Foreign Office and other partners. In one of the panels I addressed the plenary, gave several interviews to the local media, and also participated in the workshops of all events to explain what the IPU was doing and share the best examples I found in national parliaments.

With the assumption that the SDGs would only be achieved if everyone took action, the Festival put the spotlight on and celebrated innovators, mobilizers and change-makers that were joining the global movement for the SDGs. With over 1,500 participants from all over the world from a wide range of sectors (national and local governments, youth, civil society, private sectors, foundations, media and music sector), the Global Festival of Action provided an opportunity for scaling up and broadening the global movement for the SDGs and for forging new partnerships and coalitions for the SDGs. This year's edition focused on the road map leading up to key milestones, such as the 2019 United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development where the SDGs were to be at the forefront of the discussions held by Heads of State.

Given the importance of working harder on SDGs, on 27 and 28 May 2019 I travelled to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, to attend the Second Regional Seminar for the Asia-Pacific Region Parliaments on Achieving Sustainable Development Goals. The State Great Hural of Mongolia and the (IPU) jointly organized the Seminar. The seminar built on the conclusions of the previous regional summits and welcomed the active engagement of all participants and the rich contribution of parliamentarians, Government representatives, United Nations experts, the IPU and civil society.

A series of plenary panel discussions, with relevant experts as panellists, were held during the seminar. More focused roundtable discussions followed. The overall aim of the meeting was to have parliaments from the Asia-Pacific region share experiences and engage in comprehensive discussions on the most efficient ways to institutionalize the SDGs and ensure that nobody was left behind. The seminar served as an important platform to allow participants get acquainted with good practices in developing effective parliamentary strategies for SDGs implementation.

After the opening ceremony, with Mr. K. Battulga, President of Mongolia, I attended a meeting of all Speakers and Heads of delegation. I also had interesting exchanges during bilateral high-level meetings with the Speaker of the State Great Hural of Mongolia Mr. G. Zandanshatar, the Prime Minister Mr. U. Khürelsükh, and again with the President Mr. B. Khaltmaagiin. I express my gratitude to the parliamentary and governmental authorities of Mongolia for their warm reception.

On 2 June 2019, I attended the celebration organized by the Hungarian National Assembly on the occasion of the IPU's 130th anniversary. Hungary, the first country in Central Europe to host an IPU conference in 1896, followed by that in 1936, and the last one in 1989, published an excellent history of the IPU.

I thank the Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. P. Sziijártó and the National Assembly Speaker Mr. L. Kövér for the opportunity to have an exchange on strengthening collaboration with the IPU. We also considered solutions on designing parliaments that are closer to the people and more efficient, that restore citizens' confidence. I also had the opportunity to meet with the Hungarian National Group of the IPU and engaged in interesting conversations with committees and authorities that are working closely on the humanitarian agenda and gender issues.

I congratulate the leadership of Hungary for organizing, as a founding member of the IPU, the first commemoration of the IPU's 130th anniversary. I also thank them for the opportunity to renew our commitment to democracy and human rights.

The 2019 Women Deliver Conference was held from 3 to 6 June 2019 in Vancouver, Canada. The Women Deliver Conference takes place every three years, bringing together high-level representatives from across a multitude of sectors, issues, and cultures. The conference describes itself as fuelling stations where organizations and individuals leave re-energized, knowledgeable, connected, and challenged to think outside the box. Around 5,759 participants from 169 countries and 2,500 unique organizations attended the conference.

On 5 June 2019, Ms. U. Agvaanluvsan, MP from Mongolia, attended on my behalf the Parliamentary Forum at the Women Deliver Conference. She talked about the importance of budget accountability in anti-corruption efforts, highlighted that an active civil society was key for accountability, and that smart budgeting was a paramount factor for achieving SDGs.

The commemoration in Hungary was followed by the Regional Seminar on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals which was held on 5 and 6 June in Lisbon, Portugal. The Seminar was an opportunity to strengthen parliamentary relations and reaffirm the commitment to the SDGs. It focused mainly on SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, an issue which is vitally important because of the rapid urbanization in the world in the last 50 years. It is expected that in 2050, 68 per cent of the world's population will live in urban areas which will be a new health and environmental challenge. I took part in the opening and closing sessions and had meetings with the President of the Twelve Plus Group, Mr. D. Pacheco and with the Speaker of the Portuguese Parliament, Mr. E. F. Rodrigues. We recognized the importance of promoting industry, innovation and infrastructure and making investments in renewable energy, collective transportation and health.

For five years the IPU tried to organize a mission to Turkey to meet with the parliamentary and governmental authorities, civil society and various possible actors in connection with the complaints that the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (CHRP) had received.

A delegation of the Executive Committee and the CHRP went on a mission to Turkey with the aim to gather more information and gain knowledge about the political and security reality in the country. For four days we worked in the capital, Ankara, in the southeast of Turkey, in Diyarbakir, and Istanbul. The IPU delegation held numerous meetings with, among others: the President of the Grand National

Assembly of Turkey Mr. M. Şentop, with all political parties represented in parliament, the representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the Constitutional Court, and civil society organizations, and governors and mayors. The report on mission will be presented to the Turkish delegation to the IPU and later during our work in Serbia. It will also be discussed at the Executive Committee, the CHRP and at the Assembly.

In addition to this intense agenda, as Turkey hosts the largest number of refugees on the planet, we presented to our interlocutors the handbook for parliamentarians entitled *A guide to international refugee protection and building state asylum systems*.

I thank the President of the Grand National Assembly Mr. M. Şentop and Dr. R. Kavakçı Kan for their openness and for having invited the IPU to visit.

On 11 Jun 2019, Mr. G. Temuulen, an MP from Mongolia, and Mr. F. Fouty, an MP from Gabon and member of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians, visited Senegal and The Gambia to represent the IPU as part of a four-day field visit hosted by the World Bank. They witnessed the impact of World Bank Group projects on the ground and learnt about Senegal's and The Gambia's development progress. In addition to first-hand insight into how development projects are implemented, the field visit provided parliamentarians and CSO representatives with a deeper understanding of the development context in these countries through briefings and engagement with local communities, stakeholders and government officials.

From 19 to 21 June 2019, Mr. J. I. Echániz, an MP from Spain and President of the Committee on Peace and International Security, represented the IPU at the meeting on the nexus of security and population movements organized in Turkey by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean. The objective of the meeting was to analyse, from the legislative perspective, current population movements in the region and in the rest of the world, their long-term implications in terms of security, and to seek opportunities for action. Learning about the experience of other regions in the world regarding these movements enriched us with international experience. The exchange of ideas allowed us to collectively address the situation.

Mr. D. Pacheco, MP from Portugal and President of the Twelve Plus Group represented the IPU at the 26th General Assembly of the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO) "The contribution of Parliamentarism in understanding modern political-social phenomena" that took place from 19 to 23 June 2019 in Tbilisi, Georgia. The Assembly discussions focused on the uncertainty people nowadays faced due to technological changes and the globalization of trade. It aimed to deepen understanding of the alterations to the political and social order as a consequence of these phenomena. As a result, democratic models of governance will be challenged in terms of their capability to face today's problems and their readiness to deliver solutions. Unfortunately, the event faced some political problems and had to be suspended.

I was invited by the Majles Shoraye Eslami (Islamic Parliament of Iran) to visit Iran from 22 to 24 June 2019. I held a number of high-level meetings. The agenda included working meetings with the President of Iran, Mr. H. Rouhani, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. J. Zarif, the President of the Parliament, Mr. A.A. Larijani, with my parliamentary colleagues who are members of the Iranian Inter-Parliamentary Group, and a group of women MPs. At these meetings we sought to promote cooperation between parliaments to address the problems facing the world today: unilateralism and the violation of international law. The IPU was founded 130 years ago as a platform for parliamentary dialogue as a means for peace. Today we have to underline that we have the responsibility to promote multilateralism as the best option to resolve regional and world challenges.

As a continuation of our IPU celebrations, I had the great honour of visiting Cyprus. I addressed the Vouli Antiprosopon (House of Representatives) plenary session on 28 June 2019. I stressed the need to work on the 130th IPU anniversary and on international cooperation that generates wellbeing, peace and economic growth for our people. The IPU renewed its commitment to the people it represented through democracy, human rights and international law. That was an opportunity to design inclusive, transparent and effective public institutions like the one the Cypriot Parliament was setting up – the parallel parliament.

It was a great honour that I had the opportunity to engage in an open, purposeful and productive dialogue with the President of Cyprus, Mr. N. Anastasiades, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. N. Christodoulides, Archbishop Chrysostomos II, and in particular the President of the House of Representatives, Mr. D. Syllouris.

At the Quintet Meeting that was held on 30 June 2019 at the IPU Headquarters in Geneva, the IPU celebrated the International Day of Parliamentarism and the 130th IPU anniversary. I would like to express my gratitude to the Speakers Ms. V. Matvienko of the Council of the Federation in Russia, Mr. A. Al Mahmoud of the Shura Council in Qatar, and Ms. M. Gojković of the National Assembly of Serbia for their contributions. The Quintet Meeting was an opportunity to reflect on IPU's achievements, especially at a time when multilateralism is being questioned more than ever.

As the oldest multilateral political organization in the world, it is IPU's duty to redefine what we expect from multilateralism and put it at the service of all the people we represent. Undeniably, governance in the twenty-first century demands more active solutions and innovative institutions. Today, 130 years after its founding, the IPU and the parliamentarians that comprise it have the potential to lead the way in redefining multilateralism for the good of all.

Immediately after the Quintet Meeting, from 30 June to 3 July 2019, I visited Moscow to address the International Forum on the Development of International Parliamentarism. We discussed the interlinked problems we face in our countries and shared our experiences on how we were trying to solve them. Dialogues – which seek cooperation and positive exchanges – are an indispensable part of parliamentary diplomacy.

The IPU has to put people at the centre of our decisions. It is our mandate to translate international commitments into local realities. Governance today demands more active parliamentarians and faster answers to the challenges that citizens face.

From 10 to 11 July, I attended the African Regional High-Level Conference on Counter Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism which was held in Nairobi, Kenya. The issues discussed related to terrorism and agreements, from the parliamentary perspective, on the implementation of measures to reduce violence in this region and the world.

From 12 to 18 July, as President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, I participated in the United Nations panel "Review of SDG implementation and interrelations among goals: Discussion on SDG 16 - Peace, justice and strong Institutions" as part of the United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) held in New York. It was noted that women represented half of the global population yet occupied only 24 per cent of parliamentary seats. It was clear that better representation was urgently needed. In a meeting with Ms. P. Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women, we agreed on a series of important actions that the IPU must carry out with national parliaments and the legislature to eliminate laws that discriminate women. We must work for a fair representation; only then could we talk about democratic, representative and inclusive parliaments.

It was a very interesting week as the IPU's parliamentary meeting during the HLPF Forum was upgraded after three years to a half-day special event as a parliamentary forum. This is important as more parliamentarians are being included in their national delegations, our colleagues are becoming more engaged in the national implementation of the development agenda and parliamentary oversight is becoming a more common practice at the international level. The forum had two panels – one on the main theme of the HLPF with a focus on Goal 16 (Peace and Justice and Strong Institutions), and one on parliamentary action for the SDGs that reflected on a recent IPU survey report. With so many MPs at the UN, we seized the opportunity to host a reception celebrating the IPU's very successful 130th anniversary display at the UN Visitors area.

I also had the opportunity to meet with Ms. A. Mohammed, Deputy-Secretary-General of the United Nations. We discussed the IPU's commitment regarding the 2030 Agenda and the need to strengthen the presence of women in parliaments. The opportunities to work together with the UN are plentiful.

From 5 to 8 August, I was invited to attend as Guest of Honour the 10th Conference of Speakers of African Parliaments. The main theme of the conference was "Towards durable solutions to forced migration to accelerate integration and development in Africa: Role of national and regional parliaments". As the IPU President, I will always have immense gratitude for Africa for its invaluable support and its commitment to work together in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda that provides for greater inclusion and improvement of the quality of life for the people we represent, especially those in the developing countries.

From 24 to 26 August, Mr. D. Pacheco, member of the Assembly of the Republic of Portugal, attended on behalf of the IPU Presidency the Fifth Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum in Nadi, Fiji. The main theme of the forum was "Climate Change and Health" because the populations of this region had been affected by that phenomenon. The debate led to a final statement in which all 20 countries pledged to work to counteract that threat.

On 3 September, as an invitee, I chaired the opening session of the International High-Level Conference on "Countering terrorism through innovative approaches and the use of new and emerging technologies". The conference, which was held in Minsk, Belarus, was organized by the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the United Nations Offices of Counter-Terrorism. It was a great honour to chair such an important plenary attended by the President of Belarus, Mr. A. Lukashenko, the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. V. Voronkov, and other important personalities.

The event brought together Member States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The conference focused on the following three themes: "The Nature of Threat: Misuse of New Technologies and Artificial Intelligence by Terrorists"; "Innovative Use of New Technologies to Strengthen Detection Capacity"; "Development of National, Regional and International Approaches and Strategies to Address the Misuse of New Technologies and Artificial Intelligence by Terrorists".

I would like to thank Mr. M. al-Karbouli, MP from Iraq, and Senator A.R. Malik from Pakistan for having joined the IPU delegation. During our visit in Minsk, we met with the Speakers of both houses of the National Assembly of Belarus, Mr. V. Andreichenko, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Mr. M. Myasnikovich, Speaker of the Council of the Republic. We also had an interesting exchange with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. V. Makei.

On 5 and 6 September, I attended the Third World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development "Combating Inequality through Social and Financial Inclusion" in Bali, Indonesia. We discussed financial inclusion as an important tool for achieving equality. Promoting equality must be a priority for our parliaments and governments. The commitment to peace also meant working on inclusion and social justice. I thanked the Indonesian parliamentarians for organizing an inspiring dialogue and enabling productive exchanges with colleagues participating in the forum. Creating platforms for parliamentary communication was a great strategy to lead different countries and regions to common solutions.

While in Asuncion, Paraguay, where I attended the Sixth Conference of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU (9 – 10 September), on 7 September I held a meeting with the Chinese delegation. The meeting was highly productive in terms of establishing more collaborative work between China and the IPU. At the same time we clarified and expressed clearly the IPU's position to recognize only one China. At the conference, we worked together to find solutions for young people and we reviewed the new policies and laws in the world that were based on the happiness and well-being indicator which had shown to be very effective in achieving the 2030 Agenda goals. We had a very busy schedule which included the opening ceremony, a panel on the mentorship programme, a press conference and many interviews for the national media. Paraguay and Mr. B.A. Llano Ramos, President of the Senate, made a great effort to make the conference a reality. It was the first time that Paraguay hosted an IPU event. I thank them very much for a greatly successful event.

On 13 September in New York, at the invitation of the Global Council for Tolerance and Peace, I attended the Council's panel discussion "Best practices in the promotion of tolerance around the globe". The objectives of the debate were: to spread awareness of the need to build inclusive and tolerant societies; to discuss the challenges to international cooperation when promoting the values of tolerance and acceptance of others between communities; to help explore opportunities to develop coordinated and proactive global responses to counter hate speech, racial and religious sectarianism and discrimination; to highlight the importance of media, information and communication technology, and educational institutions in this area: and to foster the exchange of best practices and innovative mechanisms to establish peaceful societies, at national, regional and international levels.

That same day I was invited by the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, Ms. M. Fernanda Espinosa, to take part in the panel discussion "The Culture of Peace: Empowering and Transforming Humanity". I spoke about the great responsibility we as parliamentarians had in building the culture of peace.

From 17 to 20 September I attended several meetings in Washington, D.C. I would like to express my gratitude to Senator S. Kihika, President of the IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians who also attended these meetings and events.

On 19 September, I participated along with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) MP Ms. S. Ævarsdóttir of Iceland, and Senator S. Kihika in a breakfast meeting on Violence against Women Politicians. The event was co-organized by the IPU New York office and the US-based League of Women Voters. Several US congresswomen spoke at the event which had Congressional sponsorship from House representatives Ms. J. Speier (D-CA), Mr. D. Kildee (D-MI) and Ms. D. Lesko (R-AZ). Ms. J. Speier and Ms. D. Lesko both chair their party's women's caucus group. Mr. D. Kildee is a friend of the IPU. Representative Ms. B. Lee (D-CA), an advisor to the IPU Advisory Group on Health, brought opening remarks. Representatives Ms. B. Watson Coleman (D-NJ) and Ms. D. Lesko all spoke at the meeting which was well attended by staff to several US parliamentarians and many representatives of the League of Women Voters from State chapters of the organization. The meeting was moderated by Reuters correspondent Ms. G. Gibson.

Also on 19 September, the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission and the House Democracy Partnership jointly hosted a high-level briefing on the IPU's Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (CHRP). Co-Chairs of both organizations, representatives Mr. J. McGovern (D-MA) and Mr. D. Price (D-NC) opened the meeting. Senator S. Kihika read the statement of the Committee's Vice-President, Venezuelan MP Ms. D. Solórzano, who was unable to attend in person. There were presentations by Turkish MP Mr. H. Ozsoy and Mr. V. de Lima, brother of detained Philippine Senator Ms. L. de Lima. Reuters international correspondent Ms. M. Milliken moderated the rich discussion which followed.

Our subsequent meetings allowed us to share information about the IPU and look for possible colleagues in the United States that would be interested in working with us. We met with Senators T. Young (R-IN), B. Cassidy (R-LA) and B. Cardin (D-MD), and MPs Ms. J. Speier, Mr. F. Rooney (R-FL), Ms. D. Shalala (D-FL), and Ms. L. Cheney (R-WY).

On 20 September in Washington, D.C., I was invited by the Mexico Institute to attend a breakfast meeting to discuss multilateralism and cooperation. We live in an era in which some countries violate international conventions and withdraw from multilateral agreements to satisfy their interests which they also impose on others through intimidation. Multilateral cooperation is needed to keep global peace and development moving ahead. An inclusive multilateralism is essential in order to face global challenges, to achieve progress in the maintenance of peace and security, the protection of human rights, and the promotion of and SDGs achievement.

The 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly opened on 17 September in New York. I had the honour of being invited as a panellist at the "Intergenerational Town Hall: Young Leaders Engage with World Leaders" of the United Nations Youth Climate Summit which was held on 21 September. The town hall was chaired by prominent high-level leaders of the United Nations, governments and civil society. The event was a platform for young leaders who were driving climate action to showcase their solutions at the United Nations and to meaningfully engage with decision-makers on the defining issue of our time.

On 22 September, Senator S. Kihika and I were invited to attend the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) Accountability Breakfast. The United Nations High Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC): Moving Together for a Healthier World was held the following day. The IPU was well represented at the meeting. The meeting was a clarion call for greater accountability for women, children and adolescents as central to achieving universal health coverage and the SDGs. Through interactive demonstrations and panellists, discussions reviewed progress to date and the tools and guidance needed for strengthening accountability.

The following day, on 23 September in New York, I attended the High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage within the framework of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. As I had the honour to speak as President of the IPU, I pointed out the importance of ensuring true universal access to health as an essential human right. I explained IPU's work and added we had drafted a resolution on universal access to health to be adopted by parliaments in the entire world. The challenge lay in achieving consensus and in the implementation of all recommendations. Our most important goal was to ensure that all people and all children have free access to health care and enjoy the human right to health.

On 24 September, Senator S. Kihika and I attended the RISE Sexual Violence Survivor Town Hall. Participants were invited to reflect – through true testimonies – on the importance of taking action to stop sexual violence.

I also attended the Opening of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly which was followed by a lunch hosted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to which all heads of delegations were invited. This was an opportunity for an exchange of ideas on collaborative work with UN agencies and national governments.

Later, I attended the reception hosted by the European Union delegation, where I had the honour to meet the Prime Minister of Belgium and the President-elect of the Council of Europe, Mr. C. Michel. We discussed the need to review the issue of sanctions on parliamentarians that prevented us from representing properly the people through parliamentary diplomacy. It also slowed down the development of relations with European Union countries in terms of parliamentary diplomacy. I therefore asked him if he might be able to receive an IPU delegation to discuss this topic.

On 25 September, Senator S. Kihika and I had a bilateral meeting with the President of Turkey, Mr. R.T. Erdoğan. We talked about the challenges that Turkey and Central America were facing when it came to helping and providing opportunities to refugees and immigrants.

Also, on 25 September, during the Leaders Dialogues of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development held under the auspices of the 74th Session of the General Assembly, I had the opportunity to intervene in Leaders Dialogue 4: "Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals". The focus was on the key issues and recommendations world leaders should be working on and putting their efforts in as we approach the decade of the 2030 Agenda implementation. Local and regional governments needed to undertake actions to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda. We need to commit to generating growth and employment through local development and fiscal strategies. Also, it is essential to promote the inclusion of women and youth, and work actively on coordinating partnerships with all relevant stakeholders.

That day we organized a lunch with MPs who attended the Opening of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Senator S. Kihika and I later participated in the "Champions for Generation Equality – Women Leaders of the World" hosted by UN Women and the Council of Women World Leaders. I spoke about the IPU Forum of Women Parliamentarians, our projects for capacity building and urgent need to have gender quotas to achieve true social representation in our democracies. Furthermore, we discussed the events we would organize with UN Women for Beijing +25. Finally, I pointed out my concern about gender violence and explained the work the IPU was doing in this regard.

On 26 September, I had the honour to meet with the President of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. T. Muhammad-Bande. We both believe in multilateralism and in education as the most powerful tool that we must use to change this planet.

On 27 September, I had a meeting with Mr. V. Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office, and with Ms. T. Valovaya, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva. The following day, on 28 September, I had a working meeting with Ms. P. Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women to discuss topics related to the IPU's work on women representation.

Since I was at the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. J. C. Mahía, an MP from Uruguay, participated on behalf of the IPU Presidency at the Regional Meeting on Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean, which took place in Montevideo, Uruguay from 30 September to 2 October 2019.

Ms. M. Mensah-Williams, Speaker of the National Council of Namibia attended the Fourth Meeting of Speakers of the Eurasian Countries' Parliaments that was held on 23 and 24 September in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. The main theme of the meeting was "Greater Eurasia: Dialogue. Trust. Partnership". The focus was on parliamentary diplomacy as an important mechanism in the development of multilateral cooperation. Ms. M. Mensah-Williams pointed out the importance the IPU placed on inclusive decision-making. She also reiterated that the IPU's mission was to realize the vision of parliaments that were fully representative of society.

On 1 October in San Marino, I attended the Investiture of T.E. the Captains Regent having been invited to perform as the Official Speaker of the Ceremony. I was grateful for having the honour to address that ancient and very important institutional ceremony for San Marino, as well as for being awarded the Order of Saint Agatha by the Republic of San Marino.

At the invitation of the Federal National Council of the UAE, Ms. S. Kihika, MP from Kenya and President of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, will attend the ceremony and seminar on the occasion of the launch of the Arab Charter for Women's Human Rights. The event will be held in Abu Dhabi on 7 and 8 October. It is organized by the Federal National Council of the UAE in coordination with the Arab Parliament, the legislative body of the Arab League. The Arab Charter on Women's Human Rights is the first legislation adopted by the Arab Parliament on women.

At the time this report is being drafted, I have a scheduled trip from 7 to 11 October to Geneva to attend the 70th Session of the Executive Committee of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The session's general debate will focus around issues to statelessness. Delegations are expected to indicate what actions they will undertake to end statelessness by 2024.

While in Geneva, I will attend the meeting of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO (PCWTO). The meeting is being co-Chaired by Ms. M. Mensah-Williams. The following meetings have been scheduled during my stay in Geneva, with: the Director-General of the WTO, Mr. R. Azevêdo; the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. F. Grandi; and H.E. Mr. D. Walker, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations Office in Geneva.