



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.



## 150th IPU Assembly Tashkent, Uzbekistan (5–9 April 2025)

### Speech by Dr. Tulia Ackson, IPU President

#### Closing remarks

Tashkent, 9 April 2025

Madam President of the Assembly,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Honourable Speakers and Members of Parliament,  
Dear colleagues, dear friends,

We knew all along that this Assembly – our 150th – needed to be a special one. And I think we can safely say that our gracious hosts have risen to the occasion and made it one to remember – with the warmest of welcomes, impeccable facilities, delicious food, and beautiful surroundings. I said it at the inaugural ceremony, but it bears repeating, on behalf of all of us – *Rahmat!* Thank you!

From the get-go, this Assembly has carried a sense of significance. We have commemorated 150 occasions where the world's parliamentarians have answered the IPU's call: *for democracy, for everyone*. It is clear that this Organization has stood the test of time – there is no question there.

But I would also like to say that our mission remains of profound importance, perhaps more so today than ever before. The world needs to hear the voices of its people. The world needs strong parliamentarism. The world needs parliamentary diplomacy. So let's look forward to continued interparliamentary cooperation, to the next 150 IPU Assemblies, and to the generations they will serve.

My fellow parliamentarians,

Your active participation, insightful contributions, and commitment to the IPU have been the footing of this Assembly's successes. Over the past week, we have heard inspiring examples of how your parliaments are rising to the challenges of our times. But these were not just words delivered from a podium – we have also engaged in parliamentary diplomacy to develop meaningful cooperation and take necessary action forward.

We must note and celebrate the successes of the past few days. At the same time, we must also be earnest and sincere in acknowledging where we have fallen short – not to point fingers and assign blame, but to reflect and learn.

The world is not short on emergencies, *yet two days ago we fell short of adopting an emergency item resolution*. But I would like to invite you to view this as an occasion to strengthen coordination and deepen dialogue among Member Parliaments and the Geopolitical Groups. Dialogue remains our most essential tool. And when it does not succeed – as sometimes happens – it should only be seen as a signal that **more** dialogue is needed. After all, dialogue is most important not with those who agree with us, but with those who do not. So let us return to the next IPU Assembly with a renewed commitment to engage, to listen to one another, and to build the understanding that is needed to move forward the only way we can do it – together.

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At the start of my mandate, I made a promise to explore ways to modernize the IPU's Statutes and Rules. The events of the last few days – and indeed the last two years – have shown that, in a fractured world, our emergency item procedure is not fulfilling its purpose. We will continue our work to reflect on potential changes to that process to ensure that the Assembly can ALWAYS come together, find common ground and express its position on the most urgent issues of the day.

Dear friends,

At the heart of our deliberations was a General Debate on a very important subject. We know that the clock is ticking on the Sustainable Development Goals, and we have seen over the past few days just how many of these goals relate to social development and justice – in fact, we could even say that social development and justice are prerequisites for ALL of the SDGs.

And true sustainable development is measured by how societies treat their most vulnerable, by the quality of life they offer to their citizens, and by the respect for our shared human condition. The Tashkent Declaration offers us the tools to do just this and send a strong parliamentary contribution to the upcoming Second Summit on Social Development.

Social progress begins when societies prioritize their citizens:

- First, at this 150th Assembly, we, the IPU Member Parliaments, have reaffirmed our shared commitment to place human dignity and well-being at the heart of our policies. We have pledged to invest – deliberately and meaningfully – in education, healthcare, and environmental protection. Every individual deserves the chance to thrive, from children receiving the schooling they need to succeed to older persons accessing affordable, compassionate care. We must work to bridge digital and social divides, ensure equitable access to essential services, and empower communities everywhere to flourish.
- Second, at this 150th Assembly, we, the IPU Member Parliaments, have underscored that economies must serve humanity – not the other way around. Economic justice demands bold reforms. It is no longer acceptable that wealth accumulates in fewer and fewer hands while hundreds of millions of individuals struggle for basic human dignity. Democratizing our economies means adopting fairer tax systems. It means supporting small businesses, promoting workers' rights, and fiercely protecting the most vulnerable among us. In line with the core values of our Organization, democratizing our economies also means ensuring genuine inclusion, ensuring women, youth, and marginalized groups participate and lead the way toward a more equitable future.
- Third, at the 150th Assembly, we, the IPU Member Parliaments, have stressed that democracy and development are deeply intertwined. And every successful democracy is built on trustworthy institutions. So we are urging increased transparency, accountability, and responsiveness within our government bodies. Representation must truly reflect societal diversity, including the voices of women, youth, and minorities in decision-making processes. It also entails strengthening the rule of law, vigorously combating corruption, and encouraging citizen participation in governance and budgeting processes. At the international level, we must support reforms that allow global institutions to effectively address social challenges, resulting in a more just and stable world for current and future generations.

So, it is time to eradicate poverty and hunger; to invest in people's health, education and happiness; to protect the planet; to democratize the economy; and to make sure the institutions that guide and oversee these efforts, both national and multilateral, are fit for purpose.

Together, and guided by our Tashkent Declaration, we can shape powerful policy rooted in solidarity and justice for all humanity, carrying the aspirations of the people we represent.

We will not let them down!

Thank you.