



Republic of Botswana

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**STATEMENT BY THE SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA,**

**HONOURABLE DITHAPELO L. KEORAPETSE, MP**

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**6<sup>TH</sup> WORLD CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT**

**29 – 31 July 2025**

**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

**THEME: "A WORLD IN TURMOIL: PARLIAMENTARY  
COOPERATION AND MULTILATERALISM FOR PEACE,  
JUSTICE AND PROSPERITY FOR ALL"**

*President of the Inter Parliamentary Union*

*President of the IPU Assembly*

*Secretary General of the IPU*

*Distinguished Honourable Speakers*

*Presiding Officers*

*Leaders of Delegation*

*Honourable Members of Parliament*

*Ladies and Gentlemen*

Good morning,

1. I'm greatly honoured to be attending the 6<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Speakers of Parliament as one of the youngest Speakers, not only in the Southern Africa region and African continent, but also in the world. I'm glad to be part of greater efforts to attain democracy, peace, justice and prosperity for all espoused by the IPU and UN,
2. Allow me, on behalf of the Parliament and the people of Botswana, to reiterate Botswana's unwavering commitment to multilateralism, despite the daunting challenges such as the rise of nationalism, waning legitimacy of international organisations, the increasing influence of emerging powers and fragmented political landscape which curtail cooperation, stoke tensions on critical international issues like climate change and pandemics,
3. Studies have shown an exponential demand for democracy by citizens and in contrast its very deficient supply by political leaders, accompanied by dismal failure of democracy to deliver developmental outcomes such as jobs, health, and education,

4. As Speakers of Parliaments, we stand not only as national leaders but as custodians of democratic will and international solidarity. Ultimately, this calls for more than just statements of intent; it requires resolute action, sustained dialogue and deliberate multilateral cooperation that is rooted in mutual respect and equity.

## **5. Commitment to Multilateralism and Parliamentary Diplomacy**

Mr. President, Botswana's Parliament remains committed to and it is a proud actor on the global stage, advancing Parliamentary diplomacy and the revitalisation of multilateralism as the pathway to a just, peaceful, and prosperous world for all,

6. The United Nations has recorded more than **36, 000** civilian deaths in 14 armed conflicts in 2024. As the report outlines, working towards the full protection of civilians should be a collaborative endeavour,

As the renowned Amartya Sen underscores, ***"Peace is not the absence of conflict; it is the presence of justice, equity and opportunity."*** Against that backdrop, let us remember the role of Parliaments in upholding peace through preventive diplomacy, budgetary allocation for peacekeeping missions,

7. It is against that backdrop that we condemn all forms of aggression and violence that destabilize nations and regions, and call for intensified Parliamentary diplomacy to bridge the increasing divisions amongst and between peoples in different parts of the world, and to mediate conflicts, as well as strengthen global governance frameworks.

It is our considered stance and firm belief and hope that peace is attainable in armed conflict ridden parts of Africa, Europe, Asia and the Middle-East,

8. This is because as legislators, we must advocate, uncompromisingly, for the peaceful resolution of conflicts, ensure that resources are directed towards human safety and security, and promote the full enjoyment of fundamental human rights and freedoms by our peoples,
9. In that spirit, Madam President, dear colleagues, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, may this conference be a turning point, where Parliamentary diplomacy deepens, multilateralism is revitalised, and our collective will is channelled towards a future defined not by conflict, but by peace. Not by exclusion, but by justice; not by scarcity but shared prosperity,
10. In closing, let me point out that Presiding officers, particularly the Speakers, have a constitutional and moral duty to safeguard the democratic character of Parliament. Through impartiality, enforcement of rules, and defence of minority voices, should at all times uphold the very essence of deliberative democracy. Lastly, may I emphasize that our collective actions here today bring restoration to our troubled world and hope to our future generations.

**I thank you Mr. President!**