

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA



6th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (WCSP)

Tuesday, 29th July 2025 - Thursday, 31st July 2025

Geneva, Switzerland

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

**Madam President,
Excellencies,
Esteemed Colleagues,**

It is with profound honor and a deep sense of duty that I address this august assembly.

I bring you warm greetings from the people of the Republic of Ghana and from a Parliament that remains deeply committed to democratic governance, international cooperation, and peace.

Excellencies,

We have met at a time when the world stands at an inflection point. From protracted conflicts in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, through the persistent instability across the Sahel, Sudan and parts of the Global South; to the *pound-for-pound* clash between Cambodia and Thailand; the pursuit of global peace and justice has become increasingly complex. Equally disturbing is the state of uncertainty being created by the world's superpowers and their allies, which is endangering multilateral cooperation and cohesive coexistence. Simultaneously, democratic institutions are under stress, stormed by populist pressures, geopolitical rivalries, climate vulnerability, and the enduring aftershocks of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yet in the face of such turmoil, the role of parliaments has never been more crucial. As the legitimate voices of

the people, we are not merely national actors, but global stakeholders. We must now step up, not only to legislate and provide oversight within our borders, but to shape the moral, political, and institutional architecture of a more just and peaceful international order.

Reclaiming the Power of Parliamentary Diplomacy

Distinguished Speakers, Multilateralism has long been the domain of executive diplomacy. However, the challenges of today demand more participatory, inclusive, and transparent models of global engagement. Parliaments, by their representative character, are positioned to ensure that international commitments reflect the will, needs, and aspirations of the people.

Parliamentary diplomacy, once viewed as complementary, is now essential. (Through inter-parliamentary cooperation, we contribute to treaty ratifications, alignment of domestic legislation with international norms, oversight of global commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals, and the creation of alternative channels for conflict resolution and peace building.)

We must protect and expand this space. For in an era of rising nationalism and distrust in supranational institutions, parliaments can serve as bridges, linking citizens with global processes, and grounding international commitments in democratic legitimacy.

Addressing Structural Inequities in Global Governance

Excellencies, we must, however, be honest in our reflection. **The global governance architecture remains imbalanced and weak.** Institutions such as the UN, IMF, and the World Bank which are products of World War II, often reflect outdated power dynamics, marginalizing the voices of the vulnerable and the developing world.

This asymmetry not only undermines confidence in multilateralism, it also perpetuates global inequality and limits our collective ability to respond to crises. As Speakers of Parliament, we must collectively and assertively **advocate for reforms that democratize global governance**, ensure fair representation, and support inclusive development.

Ghana's Commitment to Peace, Justice and Parliamentary Cooperation

Ghana stands as a beacon of peace and democratic resilience in West Africa. From a difficult past under military rule, we have emerged as a vibrant multiparty democracy, rooted in the rule of law, human rights, and inclusive governance.

Our Parliament is leading efforts at attaining gender equity, youth participation, environmental sustainability, and technological innovation aimed at advancing justice and social inclusion. These efforts have found expression in the enactment of landmark legislations such as the Right to

Information Act, Domestic Violence Act, Affirmative (Gender Equity) Act, Renewable Energy Act, Environmental Protection Act and the National Peace Council Act.]

Beyond our borders, Ghana's Parliament is actively engaged in parliamentary diplomacy. Through the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the ECOWAS Parliament, and the Pan-African Parliament, we have consistently championed dialogue, constitutional governance, regional integration and conflict mediation and resolution.

*In response to recent democratic regressions in our sub-region, Ghana's Parliament, leveraging on its presidency of the Conference of Speakers and Presidents of African Legislatures (COSPAL), raised its voice in defense of constitutional order and human rights because **silence in the face of crisis is complicity.***

A Call for Renewed Parliamentary Leadership

Excellencies, in a world increasingly fragmented by conflict, inequality, and disinformation, the moral imperative of our collective action cannot be overstated.

Let us seize this moment to

- 1. Institutionalize inter-parliamentary dialogue on peace and security;**
- 2. Mainstream the SDGs;**

3. **Invest in digital transformation and research capacity;**
4. **Advance inclusive and gender-responsive laws;**
5. **Champion reforms in global institutions; and**
6. **Strengthen frameworks for parliamentary diplomacy.**

Conclusion:

Esteemed Colleagues,

As custodians of democracy and defenders of the people's will, we cannot afford to be passive in these turbulent times. *The road to peace, justice, and prosperity begins in the chambers of Parliament, but it does not end there. It is surfaced by cooperation, shaped by multilateral engagement, and sustained by principled leadership.*

Let this Conference be a clarion call to action for stronger alliances, bolder reforms, and renewed commitment to multilateralism that truly serves all of humanity.

On behalf of the Parliament of Ghana, I pledge our firm support to this shared endeavor. Let's stand together. Let us legislate for peace. Let us cooperate for justice. And let us lead, collectively, for prosperity that is inclusive, equitable, and enduring.

I thank you all.