



GENERAL DEBATE

ON THE THEME:

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

**THE SIXTH WORLD CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS OF
PARLIAMENT**

**29-31 July 2025
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

Madam President;

Excellencies;

Let me on the onset congratulate the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the United Nations Office in Geneva and the Swiss Parliament for hosting this Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, 25 years since its inception in 2000. That first Conference was the genesis of offering political support to the United Nations as the principal instrument of international cooperation. This is a noble political synergy which should be nurtured eternally.

Madam President;

Allow me to disabuse of the notion that we currently live in a world in turmoil, a state of great disturbance, confusion, uncertainty and disorder. Not all! As an optimist, I can only accept that our world is experiencing some emerging turmoil. Indeed, there is a visible cropping up of the socio-economic dichotomy in wealth between the Global North and the Global South. The Global North must tame its uncharitable primitive accumulation of wealth which creates

inequality, environmental excessive pollution, poverty, diluted multilateralism and skewed international cooperation. The rising world turmoil of unipolar geopolitics is an affront to the multipolar political economy ecosystem. Unipolarism fuels geopolitical turmoil that is contrary to Article 2 of the United Nations Charter which espouses the equality of all nations. Under International Law, multipolarism underscores the respect for territorial sovereignty and territorial integrity of each nation which guarantees multilateralism that frowns against war conflicts, pervasive gender inequality and extreme poverty in a world where one percent of the rich controls 46% of the global wealth. This is a recipe for human polarization, injustice and is averse towards prosperity for all.

As Speakers of Parliament, we must be innovative thought leaders who enact laws which promote investment and the ease of doing business in our countries in order to achieve accelerated industrialisation, value addition and beneficiation of our primary resources and stop exporting

them in their raw form to the Global North. Furthermore, our laws should advance gender parity and address climate change impacts. Speakers of Parliament should intensify Parliamentary diplomacy to achieve lasting peace and security in the Middle East, Eastern Europe and some parts of Africa. War does not end war but diplomacy and dialogue do. Above all, the next Speakers' Conference should focus on evaluating what these Conferences have achieved since their inception otherwise they may suffer the legacy of being talk-shops unwittingly. I so submit!