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**Statement by the Honourable Pia Glover-Rolle, M.P.
Minister of Labour and the Public Service of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas**

**at the
151st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
General Debate**

**Theme: “Upholding Humanitarian Norms and Supporting Humanitarian Action in Times of
Crisis”**

19-23 October 2025

[Mr./Madam] President, Excellencies, Distinguished Fellow Parliamentarians,

The Bahamas is honoured to participate in this debate, which strikes at the conscience of our shared humanity. As conflicts multiply and humanitarian needs reach record levels, the call to uphold the norms that protect human dignity has never been more urgent.

Civilians today bear the cost of a record number of armed conflicts, with over 123 million people forcibly displaced, according to the 2025 UN Global Humanitarian Overview. Even hospitals and relief workers are under attack. The Geneva Conventions—born from the ashes of world war—were meant to draw a moral line in the sand, yet that line is being blurred before our eyes.

For The Bahamas and other Small Island Developing States, the need for humanitarianism extends beyond conflict. Climate change is, for us, the violence of intensifying hurricanes, rising seas, and economic shocks that threaten lives and livelihoods. It deprives people of food, water, and shelter, displaces communities, and deepens inequality. To speak of humanitarian action today, we must necessarily confront the climate emergency and its humanitarian consequences.

In Haiti, our Caribbean neighbour, we witness the tragic convergence of security and humanitarian crises. As a member of CARICOM, The Bahamas stands in solidarity with Haiti and supports regional and international efforts to restore peace and stability. We welcome Security Council resolution 2793, transitioning the Multinational Security Support Mission into a Gang Suppression Force with a more robust UN-authorized mandate, and we urge sustained contributions to the UN Trust Fund. The Haitian crisis is more than a regional security challenge—it is a test of our collective humanity.

As parliamentarians, we must remind the world that humanitarian action begins with political will: the choice to fund relief rather than fuel war, to uphold law rather than weaken it, and to defend human dignity, including in times of crisis.

In The Bahamas, we have taken concrete steps to strengthen our human rights, humanitarian and resilience frameworks. In March of this year, The Bahamas established the first Parliamentary Human Rights Committee, ensuring oversight of rights protection and alignment with international standards, including in emergencies. We have also established the Disaster Risk Management Authority through comprehensive legislation providing for comprehensive mitigation, preparation, response and recovery, including the development of National Humanitarian Assistance Standards. Our National Youth Guard is also training young Bahamians to assist in disaster preparedness and relief. Internationally, The Bahamas also contributes, within our capacity, to the International Committee of the Red Cross, reaffirming our commitment to global humanitarian principles and action.

Excellencies,

Effective international humanitarian action requires cooperation. However, the international community is facing a crisis of multilateralism—a crisis of trust. The social contract of global cooperation—built on solidarity, fairness, and shared responsibility—must be renewed.

This renewal calls for a reinvigorated multilateralism where global systems deliver not only for the powerful but also for the vulnerable.

Let us therefore reaffirm our collective resolve to protect the integrity of international humanitarian law; to champion inclusive, people-centred policies for women, children, and persons in vulnerable situations; to advance climate justice as a humanitarian imperative; and to strengthen parliamentary diplomacy as a bridge of solidarity.

Excellencies, the task before us is moral as much as political. We must rekindle multilateralism as a shared social contract—grounded in human rights, justice, and respect for humanitarian norms—to translate principles into life-saving action that restores hope and dignity to those most in need.

Allow me to end by paying tribute to humanitarian workers around the world—from those in conflict zones to those supporting hurricane-stricken islands. For their courage, compassion, and selfless service, we say thank you. Let us work collectively to protect their capacity to carry out this vital work safely and with dignity.

I thank you, [Mr./Madam] President.