

PARLIAMENT OF GHANA



151st Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly
Sunday, 19th October, 2025 - Thursday, 23rd October, 2025
Geneva, Switzerland

**STATEMENT BY THE RT. HON. SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF
GHANA**

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At the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) General Assembly

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

Mr. President,
Distinguished Colleagues,

- 1.0. Today, our world faces a convergence of crises. Armed conflicts, climate disasters, displacement, and pandemics, continue to erode human dignity and global stability. In 2023 alone, over 360 million people required humanitarian assistance. In 2025, **305 million people globally** will require urgent humanitarian assistance and protection¹.
- 2.0. Of these, approximately **190 million people** will face life-threatening needs that demand priority support. This is a sobering call to action.
- 3.0. The principles that underpin humanitarian norms, humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence, must be safeguarded and strengthened. Yet, we confront growing challenges including political interference in aid delivery, attacks on humanitarian workers, the rise of non-state armed actors, donor fatigue, and the escalating impacts of climate change.
- 4.0. From Gaza to Ukraine, from Sudan to Burkina Faso, civilians are paying the highest price. In West Africa, food insecurity and mass displacement are growing. In Ghana, the 2023 Akosombo Dam spillage displaced over 40,000 people, an urgent reminder that no nation is immune.
- 5.0. Upholding humanitarian norms requires more than legal instruments. It demands political will, coordination, and sustained investment in resilience. We must reinforce compliance with International Humanitarian

¹ Global Humanitarian Overview 2025, European Commission.

Law, promote accountability for violations, and scale up anticipatory action to prevent crises before they escalate.

- 6.0. Parliaments have a unique role to play. In Ghana, Parliament fulfills this through our legislative, oversight, and budgetary functions, ratifying international conventions, monitoring disaster response, and allocating emergency funds. We also serve as advocates, bringing the voices of affected communities to national and global platforms.
- 7.0. Finally, let us reaffirm our commitment to multilateralism. Through institutions like the IPU, we must continue to advocate for principled humanitarian action, protect the most vulnerable, and ensure that our responses are not only timely, but just.
- 8.0. Together, let us uphold the norms that preserve life, dignity, and hope, even in the darkest of crises.

Thank you.