



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA

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STATEMENT BY

**THE RIGHT HONOURABLE DR NELLY BUTETE KASHUMBA MUTTI,
SC, MP, FAPRA, SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA
FOR THE GENERAL DEBATE ON THE TOPIC:**

**“NURTURING HOPE, SECURING PEACE AND ENSURING JUSTICE
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS”**

**DURING THE 152ND INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)
ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS HELD IN ISTANBUL, TURKIYE
FROM 15TH TO 19TH APRIL, 2026**

SALUTATIONS

Dr Tulia Ackson, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Dr Christopher Kalila, Chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Honourable Speakers and Heads of Delegation

Distinguished Parliamentarians

Mr Martin Chungong, Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my honour and privilege to address this distinguished Assembly on behalf of the National Assembly and the People of the Republic of Zambia. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Türkiye and the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye for their warm welcome, wonderful hospitality and for hosting this important Assembly.

Madam President

As we gather here, we are reminded of our sacred duty to nurture hope and secure peace and justice for future generations. The Inter-Parliamentary Union's commitment to fostering dialogue and co-operation is more relevant today than ever.

Our world faces complex challenges; conflict, inequality and climate change, among others. The ongoing war in the Middle East reminds us of the devastating human cost of conflict: lives lost, families displaced and hope dimmed for many children. It is a stark call for all of us, as parliamentarians, to reaffirm the power of diplomacy, dialogue and respect for international law in resolving disputes.

Yet amidst these challenges lies an opportunity to redefine our collective futures. As leaders, we must prioritise people over politics and work towards inclusive sustainable development that leaves no one behind.

Madam President

Zambia believes in the power of peace, unity and co-operation. Guided by our national values of dignity, equity and justice, we have made strides in promoting stability and prosperity. We know from our own history that peace is built through tolerance, dialogue and a commitment to the common good. Nurturing hope begins with strengthening democracy, protecting freedoms,

and ensuring that the rule of law prevails. The Government of the Republic of Zambia has taken significant steps to consolidate democratic governance, enhance transparency and promote national unity.

Among the notable reforms has been the continued implementation of constitutional and governance reforms, aimed at strengthening democratic institutions and ensuring greater accountability. In this regard, in 2023, Zambia enacted the Access to Information Act, which enhances transparency and enables citizens to access public information, thereby strengthening democratic participation and accountability. Additionally, reforms in public financial management, supported by the Public Finance Management Act, continue to promote fiscal discipline and transparency in the management of public resources, thereby nurturing hope for future generations.

Madam President

You may wish to also note that Zambia has continued to be committed towards the maintenance of peace and stability within our borders, across the region and at global level. Zambia has long upheld a legacy as a peaceful nation and a champion of dialogue, mediation and regional co-operation through active participation in regional and international bodies such as the Southern African Development Community, the African Union, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Hope for future generations must be anchored on sustainable development. In this vein, the Government of the Republic of Zambia has implemented policies aimed at improving economic resilience, promoting youth empowerment and expanding opportunities for women and marginalised communities. For instance, the Eighth National Development Plan, 2022 to 2026, provides a strategic framework for inclusive economic transformation, focusing on human capital development, economic diversification, and environmental sustainability. Further, programmes such as the Constituency Development Fund have empowered local communities by financing schools, health facilities, youth empowerment initiatives and community infrastructure across the country. Investments in education have been strengthened through the Free Education Policy from early childhood to secondary school, which has significantly increased the number of learners by over 2.5 million in the last four years.

Let us harness our collective strength to address global challenges, promote human rights, and ensure every child — whether in Africa, Europe, Asia, or the Middle East — inherits a world of peace, opportunity, and hope.

Together, we can shape a brighter future. A future where every nation, community, and individual can thrive, free from the fear of war.

Madam President

As we deliberate during this Assembly, let us reaffirm our commitment to working together across borders and political divides. The decisions we take

today will shape the world that future generations will inherit. Zambia stands ready to continue working with fellow member Parliaments of the IPU to nurture hope, secure peace and ensure justice for all.

I thank you for your kind attention.