



**SPEECH**

**GENERAL DEBATE  
152<sup>ND</sup> ASSEMBLY OF INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

***“Nurturing Hope, Securing Peace and Ensuring Justice for Future Generations”***

**15-19 April 2026  
Istanbul, Türkiye**

*H.E. Dr. Tulia Ackson, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Speaker of the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania,*

*H.E. Mr. Numan Kurtulmuş, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye and Host of this Assembly,*

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

*Heads of Delegation of IPU Member Parliaments, Associate Members, Observers, and Special Guests,*

*Distinguished Delegates,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

1. It is a profound honour for me to address this esteemed Assembly for the first time in my capacity as the new Seventh Secretary-General of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA).
2. Allow me to convey my highest appreciation to the Parliament and Government of the Republic of Türkiye for their gracious hospitality, and excellent arrangements for the meeting as well as to the Inter-Parliamentary Union for its steadfast leadership in advancing parliamentary diplomacy and multilateral cooperation at a time when both are needed more than ever.
3. The theme of this Assembly, **“Nurturing hope, securing peace, and ensuring justice for future generations,”** is both timely and deeply resonant.
4. Across regions, we continue to face growing complex challenges: armed conflicts, geopolitical fragmentation, widening inequality, climate-related insecurity, food vulnerability, and the rapid evolution of emerging technologies. These developments are testing not only the resilience of our institutions, but also the trust of our peoples put into them.
5. For ASEAN, peace is not an abstract ideal. It is the very foundation upon which our regional community has been built as evidenced through the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) which celebrates

this year its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia is a normative, legally binding document, guided by its five core principles: *mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference, the peaceful settlement of disputes, the renunciation of the threat or use of force and effective cooperation*. These are part of international law to secure lasting peace and justice in a concert of nations. As of today, the TAC has 58 High Contracting State Parties. This number will continue to grow.

6. From AIPA's perspective, parliaments are indispensable to this endeavour. Through our legislative, oversight, budgetary, and representative functions, we shape the long-term wider regional architecture where security prevails with no one left behind.
7. Our People-centred agenda creates and sustains hope which must be nurtured through institutions that are responsive to the needs of the People, among others women, girl, youth and vulnerable persons, capable of delivering meaningful progress in times of uncertainty.
8. In our increasingly complex and complicated world wherever those regions are, long-term peace and durable security have to prevail through a culture of accountability to the People we represent near and far as well as our unwavering sense of duty for social justice.
9. As we enter the digital age and the rapid spread and utilisation of artificial intelligence, political ethics should govern our economies, securing employment and revenues are crucially important for our young generations. Parliaments are also called to join the combat against climate change and efforts to foster responsible investment in agriculture, food and forestry. Sustainable developments are at stake. Parliamentary diplomacy has to be deployed diligently in order to help our planet stay green and blue.

Excellencies,

10. In many ways, the aspirations reflected in this Assembly's theme are also closely aligned with the theme of AIPA's Philippines Presidency 2026: ***"Peaceful, Prosperous, and People-Centred"*** — a timely affirmation of the values that continue to guide our parliamentary cooperation in ASEAN

and beyond. In this spirit, AIPA is firmly committed to working in close partnership with the IPU and with parliaments across regions in advancing a more peaceful, predictable, harmonious and cooperative international order.

11. In an era marked by profound uncertainty, may we continue to act not as custodians of the present alone, but as trustees of the future—guided by wisdom, responsibility, and an unwavering commitment to peace.

I thank you.