

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



PARLIAMENT OF TANZANIA

**WELCOME REMARKS BY HONOURABLE MUSSA AZZAN ZUNGU,
MP. SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC
OF TANZANIA, AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE 153RD ASSEMBLY
OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) ARUSHA, TANZANIA
5TH - 9TH OCTOBER, 2026**

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Right Honourable Dr. Lameck Mwigulu Nchemba, MP.

**Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, Representing Her
Excellency, Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United
Republic of Tanzania;**

**Honourable Dr. Tulia Ackson; President of the Inter-Parliamentary
Union;**

Ms. Anda Filip - Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union;

Ms. Susan Ngogi Namondo - UN Resident Coordinator in Tanzania

**Mr. Baraka Ildephonse Leonard - Clerk of the National Assembly of
The United Republic of Tanzania;**

**Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus – Director General of the World
Health Organization**

Honourable Speakers and Deputy Speakers;

Honourable Members of Parliament;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is a great honour and a profound pleasure to welcome you all to Arusha, Tanzania, for the 153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

First and foremost, I wish to sincerely thank Her Excellency, Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, for her readiness to host this conference in Tanzania, and indeed to grace the opening of this important conference, represented by the Right Honourable Dr. Mwigulu Lameck Nchemba, the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania.

On behalf of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania, I wish to thank all Honourable Speakers, fellow Parliamentarians and all distinguished delegates for setting aside time from your busy schedules to join us here in Arusha for this important Assembly.

We are deeply honoured to host the IPU Assembly for the first time in our history. Tanzania is a nation where culture and religion have coexisted harmoniously for generations. Our rich diversity of more than 120 ethnic communities, with different traditions, customs, and faiths, has greatly enriched our national identity and strengthened the values of tolerance, mutual respect, and unity. This peaceful coexistence remains a defining feature of Tanzania's social fabric and national heritage.

Arusha, a city renowned for regional integration and international diplomacy, has long been a place where nations have gathered to deliberate, listen to one another, and seek common ground. It is therefore fitting that we meet here at a time when the world itself is searching for common ground.

Rt. Honourable Prime Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Our theme "*Enhancing good governance and empowering communities through inclusivity, trust and opportunities for all*" resonates well with the

responsibility entrusted to us as representatives of our people. We are gathered here at a time when significant efforts have been made in Tanzania to build good governance, community trust, and inclusive socio-economic opportunities.

We have witnessed political reforms and reconciliation, in which the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, under Her Excellency President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan, advanced the 4Rs philosophy (Reconciliation, Resilience, Reform, and Rebuilding) where she attached great importance to issues regarding human rights, democracy and inclusive governance.

Following these reforms, the Parliament of Tanzania passed several political reforms, including the National Election Commission Act, the Presidential, Parliament and Local Government Elections Act, and the Political Parties Affairs Laws (Amendment) Act. These laws aim to guarantee fairer, more transparent, and highly trusted electoral processes.

Right Honourable Prime Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Undoubtedly, Good governance depends on inclusion and empowerment. In this regard, the Parliament has successfully operationalized constitutional and legislative frameworks that secure special affirmative seats for women, aiming to push female representation in parliament and local councils to historical highs. The Political Party Law now explicitly mandates social inclusion (youth, women, and persons with disabilities) within internal party structures and candidate nominations. We are proud that women's representation in our Parliament has been increasing over time to the current 39.5%.

Further, the Government launched the long-term Tanzania Development Vision 2050 to prioritize transparent accountability, and competitive, inclusive wealth distribution. Good governance is not simply one of the components reflected in this vision; rather, it is the foundation upon which the Vision is built. The Vision identifies good governance, peace, security and stability as foundation for sustainable development.

Upon this foundation rest the three pillars of the Vision: a strong, inclusive and competitive economy; human capabilities and social development; and environmental integrity and climate resilience. This structure makes clear that good governance is an enabler of all our development ambitions.

Under the visionary stewardship of Her Excellency, Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan, Vision 2050 is not merely a document but a covenant. She has transformed 25 years dream into a measurable roadmap- from a \$85 billion Economy to a \$1trillion economy with good governance as its foundation. It takes courage to plan 25 years ahead when politics often looks only 5 years ahead

For the first time in our history, the Parliament of Tanzania adopted the Tanzania Development Vision 2050 in June, 2025, setting a 25-year strategic roadmap to transform the nation into a competitive, inclusive and resilient high-income economy. Recognizing the importance of engaging the private sector in the implementation of the vision, Hon. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, on 3rd August 2026, launched the Implementation Framework and Private Sector Engagement for Tanzania Development Vision 2050.

As Parliamentarians, we should continue to play our constitutional role in supporting the successful implementation of our development visions by the Executive. In our case, what President Samia has done differently is,

she put Justice at the heart of economic growth. Previous visions focused on roads and SGR. Vision 2050 says: No investor brings \$1 Trillion where contracts are not enforced. By anchoring Vision 2050 on constitutionalism, rule of law and human rights, she has addressed the 80% inner reform - the heart of the leader - that makes the 20% science of infrastructure work. Vividly, Vision 2050 is a gift from Her Excellency President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan to the future of Tanzania, demonstrating true leadership.

Right Honourable Prime Minister, Distinguished Delegates and fellow Parliamentarians;

Parliaments are not merely institutions where laws are debated and passed. We are institutions of trust. And trust is not simply a moral virtue, it is an economic asset. When trust is strong, confidence grows and when confidence grows, capital follows.

Parliaments are the bridges between the aspirations of our people and the decisions of governments. And, at our best, we are places where differences are transformed into dialogue, where competing interests are reconciled through reason, and where the dignity of every human being is protected.

Honourable Members,

We are not dealing with separate futures. We have one humanity and a shared destiny. We do not have a Global South problem or a Global North problem. We have a human problem. And it needs a human solution. The North has technology and capital. The South has resources, youth, and resilience. Neither can succeed without the other.

For many decades, our international vocabulary has been shaped by terms such as donors and recipients, developed and developing, aid and

assistance. While such language may describe aspects of our history, it does not adequately describe the world we are entering.

The world requires critical minerals and rare earth elements to produce batteries, renewable-energy technologies, electric vehicles, advanced electronics and other technologies essential to the future of our economies. We are not two worlds. We are one world trying to build one future for mankind.

The rare earth beneath Africa and Latin America can power the green future designed in Europe and America. The youth of the South can power the aging economies of the North.

The future should not be a future in which the South supplies resources while the North captures most of the knowledge, technology and value. Nor should the answer be to close our doors to investment and international cooperation.

The answer is **partnership**. Let investment bring **capital**. Let partnership bring **technology**. Let education bring **skills**. Let local participation **create jobs**. Let innovation create **value**. And let our parliaments provide the **transparency, accountability and legal frameworks** necessary to ensure that these partnerships serve the public interest.

Distinguished Delegates,

The world of tomorrow demands a different language. United under one global parliamentary body, to ensure opportunities for all, we should strive for a language of partnership rather than dependency. A language of co-creation rather than charity. A language of equity rather than simply equality. A language of stewardship rather than ownership. A language of interdependence rather than isolation. And above all, a language of dignity

where every partnership must start with respect for culture, sovereignty, and knowledge.

In this regard, as we gather here for the 153rd Assembly, I urge all of us to continue working together so that the Global North and the Global South work together for one humanity and a shared destiny, for equity rather than equality, and for interdependence rather than independence. In this manner, the Global South should be sitting at the table with the Global North and not on the menu.

My dear colleagues,

Let us therefore not leave Arusha thinking that the Global North has come to help the Global South. Let us leave Arusha with something far more powerful: That we have come together as equals. That we have chosen partnership over dependency, solidarity over division, and shared prosperity over unequal opportunity. And, above all, that we have committed ourselves to building one world, a world for all, founded on equality, dignity and shared humanity.

Distinguished Delegates,

If we are serious about transforming the relationship between the Global North and the Global South, then we must move beyond declarations and translate our ambitions into concrete mechanisms.

First, we need a legal framework for knowledge transfer.

We should not merely ask investors to transfer knowledge; we should legislate for it. In strategic sectors such as rare earth minerals, green energy and digital technology, investment agreements should include a **binding, funded and time-bound Knowledge Transfer Plan.**

Second, we need institutional twinning, not simply workshops.

Workshops end, but institutions remain. Let our Parliaments, universities and industries establish long-term partnerships. Let our parliamentary committees share oversight systems; let universities develop joint programmes in areas such as mineral processing; and let laboratories in the North and South work with compatible equipment, technology and research programmes.

Third, let us establish Centres of Excellence in the South.

We should not merely extract our resources rather develop the knowledge and technology to add value to them.

Fourth, let our young people become the carriers of knowledge.

Knowledge does not move simply through reports and conferences. **It moves through people.** We should therefore establish an IPU Youth Knowledge Exchange, enabling young technicians and engineers from the South and North to learn from one another because knowledge transfer must be a two-way process.

This is not about asking for charity. It is about building equal partnerships. The North can bring capital, technology and access to markets. The South brings resources, talent, innovation and enormous human potential. Together, we can create something greater than a relationship based on the exchange of raw materials for finished products.

Dear Colleagues, it might take time, however, let's lower our wings for Mankind.

Right Honourable Prime Minister and Distinguished Delegates;

When we were entrusted with hosting this important conference, we could not think of a better place in Tanzania than Arusha, the diplomatic capital of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Geneva of Africa! A region with

the gateway to the Ngorongoro Crater - where the Maasai people coexist with wildlife, offering a unique cultural experience.

As hosts, we express our gratitude to the IPU secretariat for its excellent collaboration with the Government of Tanzania in ensuring that this conference is not only a reality but also a major success. I hope we will have fruitful deliberations for the betterment of the people we represent.

Right Honourable Prime Minister and Distinguished Delegates

As Tanzania hosts this Assembly, we are particularly proud of the distinguished contribution of Hon. Dr. Tulia Ackson, former Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania and the current President of the IPU. During her tenure, her exemplary leadership has significantly advanced parliamentary cooperation, dialogue, and solidarity among Parliaments across the world.

Madam President, once again, we are immensely proud of you. As you conclude your tenure at this 153rd IPU Assembly, I wish to commend you for the remarkable and outstanding work you have accomplished over the past three years. Your leadership has left a lasting mark on the IPU and has brought great honour and distinction to Tanzania.

On behalf of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania, and indeed on my own behalf, I extend our heartfelt appreciation for your dedicated service, visionary leadership, and steadfast commitment to strengthening the voice and role of Parliaments in addressing the challenges facing our world.

Madam President, **you have truly made Tanzania proud.** Your achievements at the helm of the IPU will remain a source of great pride for our nation and an enduring testament to the contribution that Tanzanian leadership can make to the global parliamentary community.

Distinguished Delegates,

Once again, I warmly welcome you to Arusha, and I wish you a most enjoyable and memorable stay in Tanzania.

I thank you very much for your kind attention.

ASANTENI SANA.
