

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



PARLIAMENT OF TANZANIA

**CLOSING REMARKS BY HONOURABLE MUSSA AZZAN ZUNGU,
MP. SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AT THE 153RD IPU ASSEMBLY GENERAL
MEETING ON 9TH OCTOBER, 2026.**

OCTOBER, 2026

Honourable Dr Tulia Ackson – President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Distinguished Speakers of Parliament,

Honourable Members of Parliament,

Heads of Delegation,

Secretary General of the IPU,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As we conclude the 153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your active participation, constructive engagement and commitment to parliamentary dialogue.

We have gathered in Arusha under the important theme of enhancing good governance and empowering communities through inclusivity, trust and opportunities for all. These discussions have shown that this theme is more relevant and urgent than ever, given the challenges our world faces today.

Distinguished Delegates;

As was disclosed to us at the very beginning of our Assembly, we are meeting at a moment of profound global uncertainty. Conflicts and tensions continue to affect millions of people. Poverty, hunger and displacement remain realities for many families and communities. At the same time, our societies face economic pressures, climate challenges, technological transformation and growing demands for greater accountability and inclusion.

In such circumstances, we cannot approach our work as business as usual. Instead, international gatherings must help us set the world on a new trajectory, based on dialogue, dignity, respect, inclusion and solidarity. And this is what we have been doing over the course of the past 7 days here in Arusha.

Distinguished Colleagues;

The strength of the IPU lies in our ability to come together despite our differences. As I said at the opening of this assembly, we represent different countries, political systems, cultures and perspectives. Yet we share a common responsibility: to serve our peoples and to contribute to a more peaceful, just and sustainable world.

Let us therefore take the spirit of Arusha with us. Let us renew our commitment to dialogue rather than division, cooperation rather than confrontation, and inclusion rather than exclusion.

Most importantly, let us ensure that the resolutions of this Assembly do not remain merely words on paper. Let us take them back to our national parliaments and turn them into legislation, policies and action that improve the lives of our citizens.

Honourable Members;

On a different note, allow me to commend all those who expressed their intention to contest various positions, particularly the Presidency of the IPU. You were all the best candidates; however, only one had to win. In this regard, I warmly congratulate the President-Elect of the IPU on this well-deserved victory. Securing this position reflects the confidence and trust that Members have placed in your leadership.

As we move forward, let us put the electoral process behind us and come together as one united IPU. Our strength lies in our unity, solidarity and shared commitment to advancing the IPU's values and objectives.

I wish the president-elect every success and look forward to working together towards a stronger and more effective parliamentary community.

Distinguished Delegates;

As I conclude my remarks, I express my deepest appreciation to the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan, for her acceptance to host this important conference in Tanzania. I thank her for her unwavering support and guidance in ensuring a well-organised event for all of us.

I would also like to thank the IPU Secretariat, headed by Ms Anda Filip, the IPU General Secretary. The Organising Committee, led by Mr Baraka Leonard, the Clerk of the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania, and in cooperation with the Arusha Region Authority, led by Hon. Amos Makalla, the Regional Commissioner, for their commitment and tireless efforts in organising this Assembly.

Madam Secretary General, the 153rd Assembly is your first, and everyone will agree with me that you have done it justice. Congratulations!!

I further wish to thank the staff of the Arusha International Conference Centre, the transport providers, the security services, the caterers, the ICT and Media Teams, and all those responsible for protocol and official arrangements. And to all Tanzanians and the people of Arusha, we say thank you for welcoming all delegates with warmth and friendship. The world has witnessed that Tanzania is a Land of Peace, Unity and Hospitality. To everyone who worked behind the scenes to make this Assembly a success, we thank you.

Dear Colleagues;

As we depart, I hope we will remember not only the discussions we have had, but also the friendships we have strengthened and the partnerships we have built. I hope you have had the opportunity to enjoy Tanzania's extraordinary hospitality and natural beauty.

Distinguished Speakers, Honourable Members, Ladies and Gentlemen;

It has been an honour and a privilege to preside over this Assembly. I once again appreciate the confidence you have placed in me, your dedicated participation, and your commitment to the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

As you travel back home, I wish you a safe and pleasant journey.

Thank you very much, and welcome again to Tanzania.

Asanteni sana, na karibuni tena Tanzania.