



**SPEECH BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE OF THE
KINGDOM OF ESWATINI, HON. LINDIWE DLAMINI, AT
THE 147TH ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
UNION (IPU) ARUSHA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

PRESIDENT OF THE IPU, HER EXCELLENCY DR. TULIA ACKSON,

SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE IPU ASSEMBLY, AMB. ANDA FILIP,

HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF THE REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, HON.
MUSSA AZZAN ZUNGU.

HONOURABLE SPEAKERS AND PRESIDING OFFICERS,

HONOURABLE PARLIAMENTARIANS,

DISTINGUISHED PANELISTS,

First and foremost, I would like to convey warm greeting from His Majesty King Mswati III, Her Majesty the Queen Mother, and the people of the Kingdom of Eswatini.

Allow me to express our profound gratitude to Her Excellency President Samia Suluhu Hassan, the Government and people of the United Republic of Tanzania for graciously welcoming us into this beautiful country. We also extend special appreciation to our host, the Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly and the organising committee for the warm hospitality afforded to me and my delegation since our arrival in the city of **Arusha**.

Arusha holds a sacred place in the heart of Africa. Known across the world as the diplomatic capital of East Africa and the peaceful safari gateway under the shadow of Mount Meru, it is a sanctuary where historic peace accords have been forged and regional unity continues to thrive. There could be no more fitting background for parliamentary leaders to gather in pursuit of global dialogue, peace, and justice.

Today, the Kingdom of Eswatini enthusiastically joins the international chorus of well-wishes to pay tribute to an extraordinary leader, a visionary jurist, and a true daughter of the African continent, our dear sister, Dr. Tulia Ackson. Her legacy is one of empowerment, institutional resilience, and global unity. She has proven to the world that when women lead, societies flourish; when Africa speaks with clarity, the world listens; and when

parliaments unite, democracy is strengthened. Her journey is not merely a personal triumph, but a collective victory for women, for Africa, and for the entire global parliamentary community. She stands as a shining beacon for all who believe in dialogue over discord, justice over inequality, and solidarity over division.

We gather at a critical juncture when humanity faces complex, interconnected crises, from climate change to socio-economic disparities. As parliamentarians, we represent the direct voice and hopes of our citizens. Our role is not merely to draft legislation, but to act as custodians of democracy, peace, and sustainable development.

In Eswatini, our parliamentary system remains steadfast in placing our citizens at the centre of governance. His Majesty has consistently emphasized the importance of national unity, service, community and the well-being of the people. His vision for Eswatini's governance model is a governance system that is people-driven, grounded in respect, consensus and community support through traditional structures. This philosophy speaks directly to the theme before us today: "Enhancing good governance and empowering communities through inclusivity, trust and opportunities for all."

For us, this is not simply a conference theme. It is a call to examine whether our parliamentary institutions remain sufficiently connected to the people they are established to serve.

In the Parliament of the kingdom of Eswatini, we continue to champion:

- **Youth and Women Empowerment:** Ensuring that our legislative frameworks provide equitable opportunities in governance, entrepreneurship, and education.
- **Climate Resilience:** Crafting policies that protect our environment and local communities from climate shocks that disproportionately affect developing nations.
- **Peace and Stability:** Recognizing that without peace, no sustainable development can be achieved.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union serves as a testament to what multilateralism can achieve when grounded in mutual respect and shared goals. The challenges of our era respect no borders; hence, our solutions must be collective, inclusive, and enduring.

As we debate, deliberate, and network throughout this Assembly, let us draw inspiration from the spirit of *Ujamaa* and unity that defines our host nation, Tanzania. Let us ensure that the resolutions we adopt here in Arusha do not remain on paper, but translate into tangible action for the betterment of the people we serve.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini, I reaffirm our commitment to constructive parliamentary diplomacy and to working with fellow Parliaments through the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen inclusive, accountable and people-centred parliamentary institutions.

I once again extend our heartfelt appreciation to our generous hosts for their impeccable organization and warmth. May this IPU Assembly produce fruit that will nourish future generations.

Thank you for your attention.