

Enhancing Good Governance and Empowering Communities: Guyana's Experience

Madam President, distinguished parliamentarians,

I thank the President, Government and People of Tanzania for their hospitality and warmth and express heartfelt condolences to the President of Tanzania on her great loss on behalf of the HE, President Mohamed Irfaan Ali, and people of Guyana.

Good governance positively impacts people in their daily lives - in the opportunities it creates, the trust it inspires, protection of their rights, and through accountable and transparent systems governed by data driven policies and comprehensive legislation.

In Guyana, we bring government closer to people —from our coastal villages to Indigenous and riverain communities, as everyday people connect with their President and Cabinet in their communities and we also receive their feedback on digital platforms, to resolve their daily frustrations making processes more accountable.

This climate of inclusivity and accessibility supports meaningful participation at multiple levels of national conversations and decision making, involving young people, women, persons living with disabilities, the private sector, and civil society, including faith based and non-governmental organisations. The annual National Tosaho Council brings Amerindian leaders of 253 villages together with the President and Cabinet for robust discussions on resource allocation, including the allocation of 15% of the resources of the sale of carbon credits from the Low Carbon Development Strategy. towards indigenous communities.

Government of Guyana's purpose is clear: every citizen must share in Guyana's progress.

Reflecting this, Guyana's Government embarked on an extraordinary path of people-centric development achieving housing for 53,000 families, free university education, technical vocational training and scholarships for 30 thousand persons, free tele-medicine and robotic surgery in healthcare, expanded socio-economic support for senior citizens, vulnerable populations and persons living with disabilities,

connectivity and innovation through digital technology, new infrastructure and roadways, improving access to services and markets, and investment in food, energy and climate security.

Guyana's Parliament is pivotal to our governance framework, where diverse voices contribute to legislation representing our population's perspectives.

At this time of geopolitical tensions, climate uncertainty and disturbing inequalities, people want to know whether decisions made in parliamentary chambers will make life better around their kitchen tables.

Critical to our Parliament's accountability framework is its ability to engage with the people of Guyana through direct countrywide consultations, in addition to **Guyana's Parliamentary Committee system** which engages beyond the Chamber.

National consultations across Guyana have brought and continue to bring valuable input from Guyanese across every region, to significant pieces of legislation on Family Violence, Local Content, Electronic

Communications and Transaction, National Resources Fund and its withdrawal schedule, and Gaming Authority Bill. The Sexual Offences Ammendment Bill, 2026 has also been sent to the Special Select Committee to benefit from another round of discussion.

Guyana's Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance strengthens transparency and anti-corruption efforts by coordinating government accountability work, supporting oversight institutions, and monitoring the country's international anti-corruption commitments.

Guyana's Parliamentary Committee mechanism provides another avenue for engagement beyond the Chamber, through the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and four parliamentary sectoral committees, **Economic Services, Social Services, Natural Resources and Foreign Affairs**, that scrutinize government policies and administration. Stakeholders and members of the public can provide evidence and contribute their perspectives on matters of national importance.

The Public Accounts Committee which is chaired by the Opposition connects independent auditing to public accountability:

Guyana ensures **young people have a place in our democratic conversation, as partners in democracy.** Through our **Youth Parliament and Speaker's debates**, young Guyanese are given the opportunity to experience parliamentary proceedings, debate issues of national importance, develop leadership and public-speaking skills, and gain a practical understanding of democratic institutions.

Guyana therefore recommends that IPU strengthen practical cooperation on inclusive finance and accessible digital governance, helping countries share effective approaches while protecting privacy and public accountability.

Guyana believes that Parliament must remain accessible, responsive and connected to the people. Ultimately, earning and sustaining trust require us to listen, to act and to ensure the will of the people remain the compass in all our decision making and governance.