



PARLIAMENT OF MALAWI



**SPEECH BY THE SPEAKER, RIGHT HONOURABLE SAMEER
SULEMAN, MP DURING GENERAL DEBATE AT THE 153RD
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
(IPU) IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA: 5TH TO 9TH OCTOBER, 2026**

ON THE TOPIC:

**ENHANCING GOOD GOVERNANCE AND EMPOWERING
COMMUNITIES THROUGH INCLUSIVITY, TRUST AND
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL**

Parliament of Malawi
Parliament Building
Private Bag B362
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1. I feel greatly honoured to stand before this Assembly taking place here in this beautiful city of Arusha, giving me an opportunity to provide a Malawi perspective to the topic entitled: *“Enhancing good governance and empowering communities through inclusivity, trust and opportunities for all”*.
2. **Mr. President**, this theme speaks to three issues that are fundamental to the progress of any democratic society: how we govern; how we build confidence between institutions and citizens; and how we ensure that development creates meaningful opportunities for all sections of society.
3. **Mr. President**, one of the important lessons emerging from discussions on development in Africa and other countries from the Global South is that economic progress must be accompanied by opportunities that enable ordinary citizens to participate meaningfully in the economy.
4. These countries commonly have growing populations, particularly large youthful populations, which can be enormous national assets if young people are equipped with appropriate knowledge, practical skills and opportunities to use them.
5. **Mr. President**, the Fourth Industrial Revolution is also changing the nature of work. Digital technologies, automation, artificial intelligence and new forms of enterprise are creating opportunities while simultaneously changing the skills that employers require. This is happening in a volatile world where the established world order is under enormous threat.
6. As policymakers, we therefore have a responsibility to navigate these challenges to ensure that our young people, women, persons with disabilities, children and other groups that may face barriers to

participation are prepared for both the opportunities and challenges of this changing environment. More importantly, as Parliaments we embody the peoples' aspirations and bear the responsibility as a watchdog to ensure that state institutions work for the people to bring the benefits of good governance to where it matters the most.

7. **Mr. President**, reporting from Malawi's perspective, Malawi's **National Decentralisation Policy** provides an important framework in this regard. It seeks to promote citizen participation, accountability, transparency and empowerment at local-authority level. The recently adopted **National Community Development Policy** similarly emphasises community participation, equality, equity, inclusiveness and accountability in community development.
8. The Parliament of Malawi ensures that such policy commitments are supported through appropriate legislation, adequate budgetary allocations and effective oversight.
9. The Parliament of Malawi also passed legislation on **Gender Equality** which provides an important legal foundation for addressing gender discrimination and promoting equality. **Malawi's legislation on Persons with Disabilities** also provides a framework for advancing the rights and participation of persons with disabilities. These legislative measures complement the broader commitments contained in Malawi Vision 2063, which recognises gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as important to inclusive wealth creation and national development.
10. **Mr. President**, trust is another essential ingredient of good governance. Citizens are more likely to have confidence in public institutions when those institutions are transparent, accountable and responsive.

11. In that regard, the Parliament of Malawi passed legislation on **Access to Information** to give practical effect to the constitutional right of access to information held by public bodies. This enables citizens to understand Government decisions, monitor public programmes and participate more meaningfully in governance and development.
12. **Mr. President**, I am delighted to report that the Parliament of Malawi has been recognized as the best institution to implement the Access to Information Act in the year 2026 by the Malawi Human Rights Commission. Indeed, this demonstrates our commitment to transparency and the timely provision of information to the public on matters within our mandate
13. Through hearings, inquiries, field visits and engagement with Ministries, Departments and Agencies, our Parliamentary Committees also provide an opportunity to examine what is happening beyond official reports and policy documents.
14. Such collaboration is important because accountability is most effective when institutions complement one another while respecting their respective mandates. Colleagues, you will agree with me that legislation and policies alone are not enough. What is most important is action, action from Parliaments that are sensitive and responsive to the plight of the people we represent.
15. Therefore, as parliamentarians, let us build institutions that citizens can trust, communities that can participate meaningfully, and an economy in which young people, women, persons with disabilities and all citizens have a fair opportunity to contribute and benefit.
16. Madam President, allow me, through you, to say something on the international scene.

17.Honourable colleagues of the IPU, this is not politics, it's about humanity. I was paying attention to our brother from Palestine. With all due respect, why have we all forsaken our brothers and sisters from Palestine? Why?

18.As a world, as people, let's accept that we have all failed our brothers and sisters in Paletsine.

I THANK YOU!!