



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



**Enhancing good governance and empowering
communities through inclusivity, trust
and opportunities for all**

Sayın Asuman ERDOĞAN

Honourable President,

Distinguished Colleagues,

- On behalf of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye, I thank the National Assembly of Tanzania for its warm hospitality.
- I also thank IPU President Dr. Tulia Ackson, Secretary General Ms. Anda Filip and everyone who made this gathering possible.
- The theme of our General Debate raises an age-old question: What builds trust in government, and what causes it to fade?
- Ibn Khaldun, a prominent Islamic thinker and philosopher in 14th century, links the rise and decline of states to the strength of social solidarity and justice.
- This echoes a principle central to the Turkish state tradition: “Justice is the foundation of the state.”
- For us as parliamentarians, this means treating people fairly and ensuring that their voices are heard in decisions that affect their lives.
- People trust institutions when they feel heard, their rights are protected and their needs are met.



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Dear Colleagues,

- In Türkiye, we approach inclusion as a responsibility that must be reflected in laws, institutions and public services.
- This means ensuring equal access to justice and removing barriers to participation, especially for women, young people and persons with disabilities.
- Equality before the law is guaranteed by our Constitution. Our Judicial Reform Strategy for 2025–2029 aims to strengthen the rule of law and improve access to justice.
- As a woman parliamentarian, I attach particular importance to ensuring that women can help shape public decisions.
- Turkish women gained the right to vote and stand for parliamentary election in 1934, well before many countries.
- Following the 2023 elections, women’s representation in our Parliament reached a historic high of 20 per cent. We recognize this progress and remain committed to increasing it.
- Women must be able to participate safely and effectively. Our determination to combat violence against women is unwavering. Prevention and monitoring centres, shelters and social services support this effort across our 81 provinces.
- The same commitment to equal participation guides our work for persons with disabilities.



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- Our Barrier-Free Vision 2030 provides a national roadmap. Family-centred early intervention helps children with disabilities and their families receive support from an early age.
- Here at the IPU, Türkiye has also worked to strengthen parliamentary action on disability rights.
- The draft resolution before this Assembly, with our colleague Ms. Fatma Öncü serving as a co-rapporteur, gives us an opportunity to advance this work together.
- Young people must also have a real voice in decisions that shape their lives. We support the IPU's target of 25 per cent youth representation in parliamentary delegations and will continue to make room for young parliamentarians in our work.

Dear Parliamentarians

- Türkiye sees cooperation with civil society as essential to good governance.
The devastating earthquakes of 6 February 2023 put this cooperation to the test.
- Nearly 4,000 associations and more than 100,000 volunteers joined the relief efforts, working alongside public institutions. Their solidarity showed how much we can achieve when citizens, civil society and the state work together in trust.
- This spirit of cooperation must also guide our work beyond national borders.



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- In my previous interventions at the IPU, I have spoken about **the rights and dignity of the Palestinian people**.
- I do so again today as President of the IPU's Committee on Middle East Questions.
- International humanitarian law is not optional, and the protection of civilians is not negotiable.
- A just and lasting peace is only possible on the basis of international law and the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to live in freedom and security in their own state.
- Today, I repeat my call to protect civilians, ensure access to humanitarian assistance and uphold international law.
- People's trust in international institutions depends on whether these institutions protect the rights of all people equally.
- As President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan has repeatedly stressed, the international system must respond to the needs and aspirations of all humanity.
- Türkiye supports a more transparent, effective, inclusive and representative UN Security Council.
- We continue our diplomatic and mediation efforts to help resolve conflicts peacefully. We are also strengthening our partnership with Africa through mutual respect, equal partnership and shared development.



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- As conflicts, climate change and financial pressures slow development, we must use our resources more effectively and strengthen international cooperation.
- In this context, Türkiye is pleased to host COP31 in Antalya this November.
- We warmly invite parliamentarians from around the world to join us on 16 November for the IPU Parliamentary Meeting and advance parliamentary action and climate change.

Distinguished Colleagues,

- As parliaments, we are directly accountable to the people we represent. Their concerns must guide our work.
- We must adopt fair laws, provide the resources needed and check whether policies are working.
- We must ensure that women, young people and persons with disabilities can help shape our decisions.
- People trust us when we listen and deliver on our commitments.
- Let us take this responsibility back to our parliaments. Let us turn the discussions in Arusha into action that improves people's lives.
- Türkiye stands ready to work with you in this spirit.

Thank you for your attention.