

Mr/Madam President of the 153rd IPU Assembly, honourable members, distinguished delegates,

I am **Senator Hamida Kibwana, [preferred title]**, speaking on behalf of UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health. Allow me to thank the Speaker and the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania for their hospitality, and to pay tribute to Hon. Dr Tulia Ackson, President of the IPU, for her leadership. UNITE speaks today as a permanent observer and, since March, as a partner of the IPU under our Memorandum of Understanding.

In August, UNITE members met in Manila during the UNITE Global Summit 2026 and adopted a Political Declaration. It affirms that health is both a precondition and an outcome of sustainable development. I would add that health is also where citizens most directly judge whether their institutions deliver. Let me share three Manila commitments that answer the questions before this Assembly.

First, accountability. We committed to open data, impact assessments and anti-corruption safeguards, and to protecting health reforms beyond electoral cycles through multi-year legislation, outcome-oriented budgeting and regular parliamentary oversight. Trust grows when people can see where health money goes and what it achieves.

Second, inclusion. We committed to the meaningful engagement of young people, women, older persons, persons with disabilities, people with lived experience, health workers and marginalised communities in policy design and oversight, as partners rather than mere beneficiaries.

Third, evidence and technology. We are committed to science-informed policymaking, to open and multilingual access to health evidence so that parliamentarians can learn from one another, and to secure, privacy-protecting health information systems and digital services for communities far from a clinic.

Good governance at home also needs fair global architecture. The Declaration recognizes that unsustainable debt constrains investment in health, and it calls on governments to build on the WHO Pandemic Agreement and the amended International Health Regulations, and to fund the Pandemic Fund sustainably.

Health is where good governance becomes visible in people's lives. UNITE stands ready to work with the IPU and every parliament here to turn the commitments of Manila into laws, budgets and results.

Thank you.