



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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Speech by Dr. Tulia Ackson, IPU President

International Day of Parliamentarians

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The International Day of Parliamentarians is the birth of the Inter Parliamentary Union that happens every June 30 of every year.

Today we mark 135 years of IPU and the celebration of this day.

As we know the IPU was born in 30 June, 1889 with only 9 Parliaments to form a global organization of Parliaments and as we are celebrating it today, the IPU has 180 Member Parliaments out of 193 Parliaments and 15 Associate Members (Regional Parliaments).

Dear Parliamentarians, today I recognize the fact that the world has grown from injustice, women discrimination, gender inequality, lack of diplomacy, reduce, insecurities and ignoring the need to mitigate climate change. These could not be possible if not by the efforts of all Parliamentarians to implement different resolutions that portray this growth.

However, we should not forget that the world still needs us more to make sure we fully achieve our goals to democracy, gender equality, building lasting peace and security, achieving the sustainable development goals and establishing Parliaments which are more sustainable.

The world today is facing multiple ongoing conflicts and some of them are even forgotten. These are in the DRC, Sudan, Ukraine, the Sahel, Azerbaijan and Armenia, Pakistan and India, Iran and USA, Somalia, Rojava, Syria, Myanmar, Yemen, Central Africa Republic and many others.

One of the core values of the IPU is to enhance respect among Member Parliaments. It is recognizing, showing regard for the valued culture, religious ethics, political linguistic and other differences. We there need to play a big role to promote mutual respect as a prerequisite for constructive dialogue and resolving disputes. The IPU is now holding multiple engagement from the committee level to the high Parliamentary and Executive levels of the Israel Government and Palestine Authority. The Azerbaijan and Armenia leaders, and other leaders who their countries are in crisis. This is due to the fact that at the IPU, we believe in peaceful dialogue in solving all kinds of disputes in the global. With IPU, even a single life of a human being matters. We cannot left behind those in need of the IPU's capabilities.

The IPU is fronting the topic of peace and security in all its 2024 Assembly and thus I urge all Parliamentarians around the world to prioritize peace and security of the world. We need to maintain a lasting peace globally.

While the IPU is celebrating many years of engaging the world through Parliaments, we cannot leave behind the need for gender equality, achieving gender parity and ending sexism, harassment and violence against women in the World. To accommodate this need, the IPU has issued a Journal in collaboration of African Parliamentary Union in November 2021 that presented the regional study focused on Parliaments in Africa for Parliamentarians and members of Parliamentary staff, taking into account their voices and realities in the local context of the continent on Sexism, Harassments and Violence against them in Parliaments while performing their duties or rather mandates. The IPU condemns all acts relating to Women discriminations and any form of harassment in the world.

Dear Parliamentarians, the issue of inclusivity is crucial to consider in our Parliaments. The IPU works to ensure all people have voices in how they are governed and can enjoy all human rights without distinctions of any kind such as gender, race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation religion, disability, wealth, political belief or any other status. The IPU needs to see more numbers in women in Parliaments and beyond. The need to include all groups including the marginalized ones is essential in ensuring equal

participation in our Parliaments. We cannot ignore people with disability, Youth and Women in our deliberations and term it fair democracy.

The IPU also focused on the mitigation of climate change. Climate change today is a global existential threat that needs an urgent action by Parliamentarians so as to contribute to the global efforts

On AI: It is our job to make sure we protect our democracy