



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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Speech by Dr. Tulia Ackson, IPU President

Reception offered by Switzerland
149th IPU Assembly and related meetings

Geneva, 14 October 2024

Geneva has many aliases – the capital of peace, as a long-standing global centre of diplomacy and international relations, the headquarters of many UN agencies and an important office of the UN itself.

It's also the city of science, as the home to CERN, one of the world's largest scientific installations and a landmark for peaceful global scientific collaboration.

And the city of Calvin, the heart of the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century.

But we must not forget that Geneva is also the city of parliamentarians – this is our second home, where the IPU has its headquarters and where we have returned time and again for our Assemblies.

And it is thanks to the generous support of Switzerland, the IPU's Host Country, that we are able to have such a beautiful headquarters building, the House of Parliaments, and this elegant and practical conference centre, the CICG, at our disposal.

The IPU is celebrating its 135th anniversary this year, and for over 100 of those years, it has been generously hosted by Switzerland, here in Geneva. This is the 21st time that Switzerland has hosted an IPU Assembly here in Geneva, and four others over the years have been hosted in Bern.

In addition to the 135th anniversary, at this Assembly we are also celebrating two more milestones: the tenth anniversary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, and the tenth anniversary of the Common Principles for Support to Parliaments. Both were born right here in Geneva in 2014, and so it is very fitting that we celebrate these special occasions here in Switzerland.

As well as being a most generous host, Switzerland has always been a stalwart supporter of the IPU in many other ways: whether through its donations to programme activities, the commitment of members of the Federal Assembly to the IPU's governing and specialized bodies, or its frequent offers of the services of the Swiss Federal Audit Office for external audits on a pro bono basis.

So we are most grateful – for this evening’s reception of course – but also for all that you do for the IPU, for parliamentarians around the world, and for the cause of multilateralism and peace more broadly.

Merci. Danke. Grazie