



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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Speech by Dr. Tulia Ackson, IPU President

Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament: Closing session

Geneva, 31 July 2025

Madam Valovaya, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva,
Mr. Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU,
Mr. Rattray, Chef de Cabinet of the United Nations Secretary-General,
Esteemed Speakers of Parliament,
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As we bring this Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament to a close, I wish to express my deep gratitude to our hosts at the United Nations Office in Geneva, to the Swiss Parliament and other national authorities, to the members of the Preparatory Committee, and to the IPU Secretariat. This conference could not have taken place without your dedication and efforts.

I also want to begin by sincerely thanking you, fellow Speakers of Parliament, for the depth of your engagement, for the clarity of your convictions, and above all, for your continued support for a vision of a world where peace, justice, and prosperity are not privileges for the few, but rights shared by all our peoples.

Needless to say, we are very far away from achieving that vision. The High-Level Declaration we have just adopted describes a world in turmoil, marked by deepening inequalities, protracted conflicts, democratic backsliding, a climate emergency, and a *very, very* dangerous erosion of multilateralism. Therefore, my plea to each of you is very simple: let the close of this World Conference of Speakers mark a moment where our efforts are redoubled.

I would like to underline how truly unique these past three days have been: this Conference was one of the rare moments when most of the world's Speakers came together under one roof. It offered us an invaluable space for exchanges, for diplomacy, and for genuine dialogue. It allowed us to listen directly to colleagues representing diverse political, ideological, religious, and geographical perspectives.

Now, it is up to us to make this count!

The High-Level Declaration we have just adopted is, first and foremost, a call to responsibility. It urges us to work towards a more humane global order – one that places cooperation at the heart of policymaking, where gender equality is the norm, and where youth, people in vulnerable situations, and underrepresented groups are fully included. Indeed, peace rests on more than treaties; it is sustained by justice, equity, inclusion, and the rule of law.

Our High-Level Declaration also makes it clear that protecting our planet, our citizens, and our democracies cannot rest solely in the hands of the executive. As leaders of our parliaments, we are accountable. This work begins with the laws we draft, the debates we lead, and the budgets we approve.

So, above all, our High-Level Declaration calls on us, as parliamentarians and representatives of the people, to see ourselves as architects of dialogue, stewards of inclusion, and agents of meaningful change.

And I am pleased to note that the role of parliamentarians as agents of meaningful change has continued to grow within global governance and the United Nations. This is reflected both in our involvement in decision-making processes and in our strengthened partnership to implement global commitments, from

the SDGs to the recently adopted UN Pact for the Future. Just last Friday, 25 July, the General Assembly adopted a new resolution on interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments, and the IPU, marking the culmination of 25 years of steadily deepening engagement between the UN and parliaments.

Over this time, the presence of parliamentarians in major global governance meetings has expanded significantly. Our hearings at COP, our G20 Speakers Summit, and our active participation in the High-Level Political Forum are only a few examples of this growing contribution.

And thus, after this Sixth Global Summit of Speakers, let us move forward together, not as isolated Speakers but as a united parliamentary community. In a world gripped by fragmentation and division, we must be the voices that rebuild trust. And in the face of rising doubt, our actions must be the reason our peoples believe again in what a global community is capable of.

Thank you.