



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

T +41 22 919 41 50
F +41 22 919 41 60
E postbox@ipu.org
www.ipu.org

Chemin du Pommier 5
Case postale 330
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex
Geneva – Switzerland

Speech by Dr, Tulia Ackson, IPU President

Fifth Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)
Parliamentary Network

Your Excellency, Madam Speaker Gafarova,
Honourable Speakers of Parliament,
Dear colleagues and friends,

It is always a true honour to be invited to the Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement Parliamentary Network, which is already celebrating its fifth anniversary – time truly flies! I would like to start by congratulating all of you and expressing my gratitude to Madam Speaker Gafarova for her efforts and constant leadership over these past five years. The IPU is very proud to closely cooperate with the NAM Parliamentary Network and will continue to support this critical initiative aimed at fostering dialogue. During these uncertain times, the more dialogue the better; dialogue is always the answer.

Last year, the NAM commemorated the 70th anniversary of the Bandung Conference and underscored the importance of the principles set at that landmark meeting. And in a world that is constantly on the verge of escalation, respect for fundamental human rights and the UN Charter, the principles of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, self-determination of peoples, and the prohibition of the use of force reflected in the 10 Principles of Bandung remain more important than ever.

Parliamentary networks have a crucial role to play in ensuring that global issues such as climate change, forced displacement, or economic inequality do not become overshadowed by the growing current trend of isolationism. We cannot afford to take a step back on these pressing issues and undo the progress made. Indeed, our strength lies not in individual efforts but in our unity and ability to collaborate. As representatives of the people, parliamentarians have a duty to continue supporting those who are most affected by the climate crisis.

Climate change is placing growing pressure on cities, as flooding, extreme heat, air pollution, public health risks and inadequate climate-resilient infrastructure make urban life increasingly challenging. It is undeniable that climate action must be at the heart of urban growth and integrate effective laws on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Across non-aligned countries, parliaments are essential for ensuring that climate commitments, such as those under the 2015 Paris Agreement, are translated into real action at the national level. Without effective parliamentary oversight of government action, these commitments may only remain on paper and never lead to tangible benefits for people living in cities.

We remain firmly committed to and convinced about the relevance of parliamentary diplomacy, particularly regarding climate change, to ensure that policies translate into real progress towards more resilient, healthy and sustainable cities.

Dear friends and colleagues, we must live up to the expectations of our constituents to uphold policies that respond to their concerns, needs and challenges.

I look forward to the discussion about the important topic of urbanization and the role to be played by NAM parliaments.
Thank you.