



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 IPU Secretary General, Ambassador Anda Filip

IPU Handover Ceremony

Geneva, 30 June 2026

Madame la Présidente du Grand Conseil
Madame la Présidente de l'UIP,
M. le Secrétaire Général,
Mesdames et Messieurs, les membres du Comité exécutif,
Excellences, Chers invités, Mesdames et Messieurs,

It is with great honor and pride that I stand before you today, as the 10th Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the global organization of national parliaments and a bastion of multilateralism for the past 137 years.

Indeed, over the decades the IPU has played a leading role in laying the political and intellectual groundwork for the major institutions and commitments of global governance – including the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the League of Nations, the International Court of Justice, the Conference on Disarmament and the major conventions on the elimination of WMDs, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Beijing Plan of Action on Gender Equality, and several of the main Sustainable Development Goals.

I am pleased to announce that, with a generous grant from a Swiss Foundation, we are in the process of digitalization of the invaluable historical Archives of the IPU, which will soon be made accessible to the general public.

Today – June 30th - we also mark the International Day of Parliamentarism, which corresponds to the date in 1889 on which the IPU was founded, at a first inter-parliamentary Conference in Paris.

This International Day is particularly important at this critical time, when people are losing trust in political institutions and when democracy itself is facing challenges from populist, nationalist and authoritarian movements. If democracy is to thrive, then parliaments, as the cornerstone of functioning democracies, need to be strong, accountable and representative. And that is the core mission of the IPU, alongside fostering political dialogue conducive to peace and better understanding among nations.

I echo the words of appreciation for Martin Chungong, who has brought a tremendous contribution to the IPU and from whom I have learned so much. He has been a mentor for my colleagues and myself, and we are determined to carry his legacy forward.

I am also delighted to acknowledge the presence here today of former IPU Secretary General Anders Johnson, with whom I had the distinct privilege of working when I first joined the IPU 23 years ago, and who – among other things - has been the artisan of the IPU initiative to develop a parliamentary dimension to the work of the United Nations – and to bridging the democracy gap in international relations.

I take on the role of IPU Secretary General keenly aware of the responsibility that has been entrusted to me, and with the commitment of doing my utmost to live up to the expectations of our Member Parliaments, in the service of peace, the rule of law and better understanding among nations. I know that I will not be alone.

And as a part of International Geneva, I also know that we continue to have much to share in terms of our experience at the IPU as an inclusive, democratic and accountable institution where every voice and every vote counts, where gender parity has become the norm, where youth participation is encouraged and celebrated, and where our institutions aim to reflect societies in all their diversity.

May I invite you all to raise your glasses to the IPU and to International Geneva!