



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 Ms. Anda Filip, IPU Secretary General

UNITE Global Summit 2026

3 August 2026

Excellencies,
Distinguished parliamentarians,
Partners,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to address you today. Although I cannot be with you in person, I am honoured to join you in celebrating a partnership built on a shared conviction: that political leadership and parliamentary action are indispensable to improving health outcomes for all.

As the new Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, I am proud to reaffirm the IPU's commitment to advancing health through stronger, more effective parliaments. Health is not only a human right—it is also the foundation of resilient societies, sustainable development and inclusive prosperity. Parliamentarians have a unique responsibility to translate this principle into action through legislation, oversight, budgetary decisions and by ensuring that the voices of their constituents are heard in national policymaking.

At the IPU, we have worked consistently to equip parliaments to meet these responsibilities. From promoting universal health coverage and pandemic preparedness, to advancing sexual and reproductive health and rights and sustainable health financing, the IPU has placed health firmly on the parliamentary agenda. We have also championed gender equality, youth participation and science-informed policymaking as essential ingredients of effective health governance.

Our partnership with UNITE has become an important pillar of this work. The Memorandum of Understanding between our two organizations reflects our shared determination to mobilize parliamentarians across regions and political systems to address today's most pressing health challenges. I am particularly pleased that UNITE serves as a Permanent Observer to the IPU, further strengthening the dialogue and cooperation between our organizations and helping to amplify the parliamentary voice in global health.

Today is also an opportunity to recognize the extraordinary contribution of my predecessor, Martin Chungong. During his tenure as Secretary General, health rose to unprecedented prominence within the IPU's work. He understood that effective parliamentary engagement is essential for building stronger health systems, responding to crises and leaving no one behind. His vision and unwavering commitment helped forge many of the partnerships and initiatives that continue to shape our work today.

I am especially delighted that Martin will receive the UNITE Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his outstanding leadership and dedication to advancing global health. It is a well-deserved honour, and I warmly congratulate him on this important recognition.

As we look to the future, the challenges before us remain significant but so too is our collective capacity to respond. By working together, parliaments, governments, international organizations and civil society can build healthier, more equitable and more resilient societies.

I wish you every success for this Summit. Thank you.