Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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Speech by Ms. Anda Filip, IPU Secretary General

42nd Session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians
Opening session

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Mr. Speaker of the National Assembly and President of the 153rd IPU Assembly,
Madam President of the IPU,
Madam President of the 42nd session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians,
Madam President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians,
Dear colleagues and friends,

This is a special moment for me, as I address the Forum for the first time in my capacity as IPU Secretary General. I warmly thank our Tanzanian hosts for their warm welcome, and thank you all for being here in such large numbers.

When I addressed this Forum in Istanbul as a candidate for the position of Secretary General, I spoke of my strong belief in interparliamentary cooperation and diplomacy.

Today, as your Secretary General, I wish to reiterate that same commitment and express my deep gratitude for the trust you have placed in me.

As the first woman in this role, I know how much this moment owes to all those who have helped transform the IPU. This Forum helped change our rules, strengthen women's influence and make parity an institutional responsibility.

That history gives us confidence. But also, responsibility, as women and girls in society look up to women leaders to show the way.

As we implement the new IPU Strategy, gender equality must be a catalyst for stronger parliaments, inclusive societies and lasting peace. When conflict and distrust divide countries, we must keep dialogue possible. Women must have equal power to shape that dialogue and its outcomes.

The Plan of Action for Gender Parity in Parliaments sets out a vision that we now must put into practice.

But for women to lead equally we need to create the conditions that are conducive for them to access power and remain in power.

Confronting violence against women in politics is central to this effort. The IPU's research has helped expose abuse and inform parliamentary responses. We will deepen this work, helping parliaments turn evidence into stronger laws and effective implementation.

That work must also keep pace with technology. Sexualized deepfakes can be created and circulated within minutes, while perpetrators too often escape consequences. This abhorrent abuse attacks women's dignity and their right to participate in democracy.

Artificial intelligence is therefore a priority of my mandate. We must help parliaments use it responsibly and govern it effectively. I look forward to working with this Forum to shape strategies grounded in

women’s experiences: to prevent abuse, secure swift removal of abusive content, support survivors and hold perpetrators and platforms to account.

Dear colleagues,

This Forum has helped transform our Organization. Together, let us carry that same determination into every parliament. And let us work towards setting an example to other multilateral institutions that have yet to place women’s leadership at the core of their work.

You can count on my commitment, my openness and my resolve.

Thank you.