Inter-Parliamentary Union
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# 153rd IPU Assembly

**Arusha,
United Republic of Tanzania
5–9 October 2026**

IPU 153rd ASSEMBLY Arusha, Tanzania 5 - 9 October 2026

# Speech by Ms. Anda Filip
# IPU Secretary General

## Closing sitting of the 153rd IPU Assembly

Arusha, 9 October 2026

Honourable President of the 153rd Assembly, Mr. Mussa Azzan Zungu,
Honourable IPU President, Dr. Tulia Ackson,
Madam Vice-President of the IPU, Ms. Gabriela Morawska-Stanecka,
Mr. Clerk,
Honourable Speakers and Members of Parliament,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear colleagues,

Often, we reach the end of our Assemblies with a sense of relief – that the work has been done, that the decisions have been made, and that the road ahead has been mapped out. But also a sense of sadness, at the ending of a shared moment, at saying goodbye to friends and colleagues, and at leaving behind a beautiful country and the warm hospitality to which we have grown accustomed. And at this Assembly, the sadness is even more magnified than usual, as we are saying goodbye to our President, Dr. Tulia Ackson.

You will agree with me, *dear Tulia*, that three years have flown by very quickly. Perhaps that is the reason why your achievements in such a relatively short period of time are all the more impressive.

The legacy that you leave behind is already part of the history of this Organization. But your legacy is more than just a record of meetings chaired, or countries visited, or speeches given. You leave behind a legacy that is testament to your strong moral character and to your sense of ethical leadership.

You are someone who has carried the gavel of the Presidency with enormous elegance. Someone whose leadership was consensus-driven, but never directionless; patient, but never passive; conciliatory, but never without a moral compass. We salute your belief that leaders are not there to deepen conflict, but to facilitate agreement. Not to obstruct progress, but to make it happen. Not to win every argument, but to help find solutions that allow an institution such as ours to move forward.

Dear Tulia, you leave the IPU with a stronger voice in the world, a deeper commitment to dialogue and a renewed belief in the power of parliaments to build peace, foster development and strengthen democracy.

Thank you, Madam President. Thank you for your leadership, your friendship and your service to the parliamentary community.

Turning briefly to the outcomes of this Assembly, you, dear Members, have many reasons to be proud of the work you have done over the past week in this beautiful hall and in the many meetings that have taken place all over this Conference Centre. You have welcomed Naoero, our 184th Member, into the IPU family, bringing us closer than ever to the universal membership that we all dearly wish to see. You have adopted the Arusha Communiqué – a substantive roadmap for how parliaments can improve their governance credentials, empower communities, and become more open, inclusive and trustworthy. The Communiqué will also be a valuable tool to guide the IPU's work on its priority theme of democracy in 2027.

You have adopted a truly groundbreaking resolution on the rights and empowerment of people living with disabilities. You have recognized a real emergency – the devastating floods in Nepal in August 2026 – and formulated a response that charts a path towards greater resilience in the face of the further climate-related disasters that, sadly, we will inevitably face in the coming years. And indeed, we have seen ample evidence in this room today that all of the bodies meeting here in Arusha are producing substantive outcomes or working on longer term initiatives.

When an Assembly ends, the work of the IPU does not stop, and I encourage you all to take these outcomes back to your parliaments, to raise awareness among your colleagues, to hold debates and, most importantly, to take action. In the coming months, as foreseen in the five-year Strategy you adopted earlier this year, we will begin work – with your input taking centre stage – on our Member engagement strategy, which we hope will allow us to strengthen the relationships between the IPU and its Members and among Members, with the goal of bolstering the commitment of all Members to advance the IPU's objectives.

Of course, another highlight of this Assembly was the election of our new President, Mr. Milton Dick. I take this opportunity to wish him every success in this new role and would like to assure him that he will have the full support of the IPU Secretariat in carrying out his important duties.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere thanks, on behalf of the whole IPU Secretariat, to the United Republic of Tanzania for hosting us here in Arusha this week. First and foremost, to Madam President Samia Suluhu Hassan, for her personal commitment to bringing the Assembly to Tanzania and providing the leadership and the resources to make it such a resounding success. Then to the Speaker of the Bunge and President of this Assembly, Mr. Mussa Azzan Zungu, for his wisdom and skilfully leading our proceedings this week. And for showing us the very best of Tanzanian hospitality; a big thank you to Mr. Clerk and all of the members and staff of the Parliament; the regional and national authorities; the staff of this Conference Centre; the professional conference organizer team; the technical teams, the caterers, the drivers, the security staff, everyone who has made this Assembly possible. I also extend my thanks to my colleagues in the IPU Secretariat, and the interpreters who support us here in-person and remotely and who are so vital to facilitating our work.

It has been a pleasure for me to serve this Assembly, my first in the role of Secretary General, and I look forward to seeing you all again in Geneva in May 2027.

Thank you. Asante Sana