



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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# Address by Dr. Tulia Ackson, IPU President

Meeting with H. E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China

20 August 2024, Beijing, China

**Your Excellency Xi Jinping**, General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, Chairman of the Central Military Commission and President of the People's Republic of China,  
**Rt. Hon. Zhao Leji**, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress – NPC,  
**Mr. Martin Chugong**, Secretary General of the IPU,  
Distinguished Speakers of Parliaments present here,  
Members of the NPC,  
Distinguished colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to share with you today a message of solidarity from the Inter-Parliamentary Union-IPU.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate my immense appreciation, on behalf of the IPU, for the warm welcome into this beautiful and significant land of the People's Republic of China.

China is one of the potential countries and among the most vital Members of the IPU, which has been playing an increasingly active role since the NPC's affiliation in 1984.

**Your Excellency**, the IPU recognizes and appreciates the NPC being the largest contributor to the IPU core budget and has been providing extra budget resources for projects on sustainable development and counter-terrorism.

The current five-year donation will expire in 2025, and the NPC has expressed its willingness to enhance collaboration in this area on various occasions.

I would like to take a few examples of results achieved thanks to the NPC's grants since 2016: **Your Excellency**, more than 56 regional and global events organized to catalyze collective parliamentary action on the SGDs; 30 Parliaments supported at the National level:

MPs are increasingly involved in the Voluntary National Review, several resolutions adopted at the IPU Assemblies, and relevant knowledge products, most notably the IPU-UNDP 'Parliaments and the Sustainable Development Goals—A self-assessment toolkit,' which is one of the most translated IPU publications in 15 languages.

**Your Excellency**, IPU has been collaborating with the NPC in organizing these interregional seminars, which are very informative and inspiring, since 2016, with a slight suspension between 2020 and 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

These seminars have provided participants with opportunities to share experiences on achieving the SDGs and witness achievements in areas related to the SDGs, such as outreach, forest-based economy, eco-friendly technological innovations, and culture preservation.

Your Excellency, the IPU recognizes and appreciates the NPC commitment to financial support to IPU's extra budget actions that has been an instrumental in the implementation of projects to empower Parliaments and their Members to strengthen their capacity and contribute to the development of their Nations.

These donations have been helping the IPU take a leading role as an International Organization and an important resource for Parliamentary engagement with the SDGs, including at the United Nations and other international forums.

The NPC's capable hosting, over many years, in partnership with the IPU, of several of these gatherings, is just one example of how the principle of cooperation is being put into practice.

These events are vital platforms for knowledge exchange and capacity building for countries that often face challenges in implementing the SDGs- the Sixth Edition of these seminars will start today; I am very pleased that I will have the opportunity to attend it.

In the area of counter- terrorism, the support the NPC provided has been pivotal in strengthening the efforts of Parliaments around the world to combat terrorism and violent extremism in all their platforms.

Terrorism and violent extremism pose a terrible threat to international peace, security and sustainable development. For this reason, it is crucial to address their root causes and at the same time ensure that the values of peace, tolerance and justice prevail over hatred and violence. Collaboration and unity are crucial for a safer and better world for all.

The IPU will be hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> Speaker's Conference, late July 2025, in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Speaker's Conference only comes around once every five years and offers a unique opportunity for the leadership of Member Parliaments from around the world to come together to advance strong and effective multilateralism in which Parliaments and Members of Parliaments can play a key role; promoting accountability and democracy in international relations, carrying out Parliamentary diplomacy in the service of peace and understanding, bringing the people's voice to the UN, and helping to translate international commitments into National realities.

2024 is a momentous year for multilateralism; the United Nations will soon be hosting its Summit of the Future and the IPU has been lobbying for robust language in the Pact for the Future on strengthening engagement between the UN and Parliaments through the IPU as their global organization.

The IPU shares China's wish to see a Pact for the Future that places emphasis on a stronger multilateral system, increased support for Sustainable Development, comprehensive peace and security through cooperation and dialogue and a more equitable global order.

The direct support and collaboration of the NPC in IPU's work is also recognized through different IPU bodies. As NPC's representative served until recently in the Executive Committee - which oversees our administration and makes recommendations to our Governing Council on various matters.

Currently the NPC is also represented in the IPU Working Group on Science and Technology, whose role is to inspire global Parliamentary action through legislative work in the field of science and technology and to contribute to the implementation of the science and technology component of the IPU Strategy by focusing on ethics and on combating the inequalities and discrimination that hinder universal access to science and technology.

Strong collaborative and coordinated actions, political will and engagement are in fact the only way to foster Sustainable Development, peace security and stability. Parliaments and their members have a vital role to play in making this happen.

They are key players that connect the global to the local, translating international commitments into National realities and holding their governments to the highest standards of accountability when it comes to upholding and implementing global agreements.

As representatives of the people, Parliamentarians engagement is critical to ensuring that the needs and requirements of our citizens and the planet are duly taken into account.

The SDGs remain a crucial guiding framework that Parliaments must continue to acknowledge and implement in order to successfully achieve a Sustainable Inclusive Development where no one is left behind.

I would like to take a few examples of results achieved thanks to the NPC's grants since 2016. Your Excellency, more than 56 regional and global events organized to catalyze collective Parliamentary action on the SDGs; 30 Parliaments supported at the National level; Members of Parliaments are increasingly involved in the Voluntary National Review, several resolutions adopted at the IPU Assemblies and relevant knowledge products most notably at the IPU- UNDP.

The IPU further welcomes the NPC's support in advancing its strategic objectives in priority areas of peace and security, sustainable development, climate change, democracy and human rights including gender equality and youth participation.

This year, the IPU is closely following negotiations on the outcome of the United Nations Summit of the Future (September 2024) and with the support of the Member States, is keen to see robust language on strengthening engagement between the United Nations, Parliaments and the IPU.

The IPU a growing practice acknowledged by the UN, will also convene a Parliamentary meeting during the UNGA79 for MPs who will be joining their National High-Level delegations at the UN Summit of the Future. We look forward to the participation of the NPC delegation.

I hope that our work together in the interest of Sustainable Development, Peace and Democracy will continue to flourish for many years to come.

**Your Excellency**, as the Speaker of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania, I am honored to convey a special message from my President, Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, to you and the esteemed Government of the People's Republic of China.

Tanzania deeply values its long-standing friendship with China and remains committed to advancing our economic and social development collaboration across various sectors, including agriculture, health, education, defense and trade.

The TAZARA Railway stands as a significant symbol of our partnership, reflecting the strength and durability of our connection.

Today, with China recognized as one of Tanzania's largest trading partners and foreign investors, our collaboration continues to have a transformative impact on Tanzania's socio-economic development.

Furthermore, Tanzania will ensure that it enriches a comprehensive strategic cooperation partnership with China and becomes a greater contributor to building a high-level China-Africa community with a shared future.

**Your Excellency**, President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan appreciates your unwavering commitment to strengthening the ties between our two Nations. In this spirit, she wishes to reaffirm her steadfast commitment to further enhancing our relations, ensuring that our partnership not only continues to thrive but also holds great potential for further growth and prosperity in the years to come.

**Your Excellency**, I humbly submit and thank you so much for listening.