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TWELFTH PARLIAMENT – FOURTH SESSION

**REPORT OF THE KENYAN DELEGATION TO THE SIXTH
WORLD CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT**

(6WCSP)

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

29TH – 31ST JULY 2025


 THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID	
DATE: 03 DEC 2025	
DAY: Wednesday 03 DEC 2025	
TABLED BY:	Hon. Gladys Busia, MP P. O. Box 41842, NAIROBI.
CLERK-AT-THE-TABLE:	Celinde Chebet

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

AI	-	Artificial Intelligence
IPU	-	The Inter-Parliamentary Union
MP(s)	-	Member(s) of Parliament
UN	-	United Nations
SGDs	-	Sustainable Development Goals
6WCSP	-	Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

PREFACE

Honourable Speakers,

1. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) is the global organisation of national parliaments, playing a pivotal role in strengthening democratic governance, accountability, and cooperation among legislatures worldwide. Established in 1889, the IPU acts as a forum for dialogue among parliamentarians, bridging differences across political, ideological, and geographical divides. The IPU mission centres on promoting peace, human rights, and sustainable development through parliamentary diplomacy, creating a unique space for lawmakers to address global challenges collaboratively and influence international policymaking.
2. One of the IPU's most significant contributions is its advocacy for gender equality and youth participation in politics. Through initiatives like the "Women in Parliament" programme and the "Youth Participation" agenda, the IPU pushes for inclusive parliaments that better reflect the diversity of their populations. The IPU also monitors and reports on the representation of women and young people in national legislatures, encouraging structural reforms that enable their full participation. This focus on inclusivity not only enhances democratic legitimacy but also fosters more responsive and effective governance.
3. In an era of complex transnational issues—from climate change to digital security—the IPU has emerged as an essential actor in facilitating legislative action on the global stage. It supports parliaments in implementing international agreements, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and provides technical assistance to build institutional capacity, particularly in fragile or post-conflict States. By empowering parliaments to hold governments accountable and engage in constructive diplomacy, the

IPU contributes to building resilient democracies and a more stable, cooperative international order.

Honourable Speakers,

4. The Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (6WCSP), which was held under the theme: '*A World in Turmoil: Parliamentary cooperation and multilateralism for peace, justice and prosperity for all*', was convened by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in collaboration with the United Nations, and took place at the *Palais des Nations* in Geneva from 29th to 31st July 2025. The Conference was preceded by the 15th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament (15SWSP) which was held on 28th July 2025.
5. Sessions included the General Debate on the conference theme, as well as panel discussions on identified key areas including, women's and youth participation, innovation for peace, achieving the SDGs, the digital future, and anti-discrimination efforts, followed by a multi-stakeholder interactive debate on networked global governance, culminating in the adoption of a final declaration.
6. The conference was attended by more than one hundred and fifty delegations including one hundred and two (102) Speakers of Parliaments, thirty-four (34) Deputy Speakers, Members of Parliament, UN officials, representatives of civil society organisations, the academia, and media representatives.
7. Outcomes and Legacy: The conference concluded with the adoption of a landmark Declaration calling for '*stronger and more effective multilateralism*' to address global crises like climate change, economic instability, armed conflict, and digital transformation. The declaration urged governments to '*rebuild public trust in democracy, integrate the UN SDGs into national policies, combat misinformation, and base legislation on science and evidence.*'

Honourable Speakers,

8. The Kenyan delegation to the 6WCSP comprised—

- (1) The Hon. Gladys Boss, MGH, MP – Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (Leader of Delegation);
- (2) Sen. Agnes Kavindu Muthama, MP – Member;
- (3) The Hon Farah Maalim, EGH, MP – Member;
- (4) Sen. Mohamed Said Chute, MP – Member;
- (5) The Hon. Dick Maungu, MP – Member; and
- (6) Mr. Jeremiah Nyegenye, CBS – Clerk of the Senate.

9. The delegation was accompanied and supported by the following parliamentary staff –

- (1) Mr. Daniel Chania Deputy Director, Legislative & Procedural Services – Senate;
- (2) Mr. Mainah Wanjiku Principal Clerk Assistant – National Assembly; and
- (3) Ms. Alice Kahura Protocol Officer – Senate

Honourable Speakers,

10. On behalf of the delegation, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in ensuring that the Parliament of Kenya was well represented during the 6WCSP.

Honourable Speakers,

11. It is my pleasure and humble duty to submit this report, highlighting the proceedings and recommendations of the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (6WCSP).



.....
THE HON. GLADYS BOSS, MGH, MP
DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
LEADER OF THE DELEGATION

BACKGROUND

The Inter Parliamentary Union

1. The **Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)**, founded in 1889, serves as the global hub for parliamentary dialogue, promoting peace, cooperation among nations, and the advancement of representative democracy. As the world's oldest multilateral political organization, the IPU plays a pivotal role in uniting national parliaments to address global challenges and uphold democratic values.
2. To achieve its mission, the IPU—
 - (a) **Facilitates dialogue and cooperation** among parliaments and parliamentarians worldwide, fostering the exchange of knowledge, experience, and best practices.
 - (b) **Engages with pressing international issues**, offering a parliamentary perspective and mobilizing legislative action on matters of global concern.
 - (c) **Defends and promotes human rights**, recognizing them as a cornerstone of democratic governance and sustainable development.
 - (d) **Strengthens parliamentary institutions** by deepening understanding of their functions and enhancing their capacity to deliver effective, accountable governance.
3. Through these efforts, the IPU empowers parliaments to become more inclusive, resilient, and responsive to the needs of the people they serve.
4. The IPU actively supports the work of the United Nations, with which it shares common goals and values. Some of the areas of collaboration include advancing peace, human rights, sustainable development, and inclusive governance across the global. In addition, the IPU engages in strategic partnerships with regional parliamentary bodies, as well as international

intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations that are guided by ideals of democracy, cooperation, and global solidarity.

5. The IPU has played a foundational role in shaping the modern system of multilateral cooperation. By promoting the principles of peaceful dialogue and international arbitration, the IPU laid the groundwork for institutionalised global diplomacy and actively advocated for the creation of intergovernmental structures that would later materialise as the United Nations. Notably, the IPU was also instrumental in the establishment of what is now the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, underscoring its early leadership in conflict resolution and international law.
6. Over time, the IPU has evolved from an association of individual parliamentarians into the formal international organisation of the parliaments of sovereign states. It now serves as a vital centre for inter-parliamentary dialogue and diplomacy, bringing together legislators from diverse political systems and ideologies. As such, the IPU provides a unique platform for the exchange of political ideas, making it an important observatory of global democratic trends and innovative approaches to governance.
7. The IPU's statutory Assemblies and thematic meetings act as incubators for new ideas, often resulting in significant breakthroughs in the pursuit of peace and international cooperation. The organisation is financed primarily through subscription by Member Parliaments and Associate Members, based on an agreed scale of contributions. In addition, the IPU increasingly benefits from voluntary funding, primarily from donor governments, to support specific initiatives aligned with its mission. This transparent and diversified funding model ensures the IPU's independence and long-term sustainability.

The Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (6WCSP)

8. The IPU World Conference of Speakers was established in 2000 on the eve of the United Nations Millennium Summit. The Conference aims to provide a unique forum for high-level engagement and dialogue among parliamentary leaders from around the world. The conferences are held every five years and have served as catalysts for shaping and strengthening the parliamentary dimension of global governance, thereby helping to bridge the democracy gap in international affairs.
9. The conferences are organized in close cooperation with the United Nations with themes and focus on issues that affect the world. As such, they have taken place in cities with major United Nations Offices (New York, Geneva, Vienna). The Conference consists of a plenary debate, panel discussions, roundtables and the presentation of substantive reports and concludes with the adoption of a declaration drafted by a representative group of Speakers.
10. The Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (6WCSP) was convened by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in collaboration with the United Nations, and took place at the *Palais des Nations* in Geneva from 29th to 31st July 2025 under the theme: '*A World in Turmoil: Parliamentary cooperation and multilateralism for peace, justice and prosperity for all*'. The conference was preceded by the 15th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament (15SWSP) which was held on 28th July 2025.
11. The conference was organized through a general debate on the conference theme, as well as panel discussions on identified key areas including—women's and youth participation, innovation for peace, achieving the SDGs, the digital future, and anti-discrimination efforts, followed by a multi-stakeholder interactive debate on networked global governance, culminating in the adoption of a final declaration.

12. The Parliament of Kenya was represented at the 6WCSP by the following—

- (1) The Hon. Gladys Boss, MGH, MP – Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly (Leader of Delegation);
- (2) The Hon Farah Maalim, EGH, MP – Member;
- (3) Sen. Agnes Kavindu Muthama, MP – Member;
- (4) Sen. Mohamed Said Chute, MP – Member;
- (5) The Hon. Dick Maungu, MP – Member; and
- (6) Mr. Jeremiah Nyegenye, CBS – Clerk of the Senate.

13. The delegation was accompanied and supported by the following parliamentary staff –

- (1) Mr. Daniel Chania Deputy Director, Legislative & Procedural Services – Senate;
- (2) Mr. Mainah Wanjiku Principal Clerk Assistant – National Assembly; and
- (3) Ms. Alice Kahura Protocol Officer – Senate.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTH WORLD CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT (6WCSP)

14. The delegation participated in the various sessions of the conference which included—

- (a) The Opening/Inaugural Session of the Conference;
- (b) The General Debate on the theme: *A World in Turmoil: Parliamentary cooperation and multilateralism for peace, justice and prosperity for all;*
- (c) Panel discussions—
 - (i) Panel 1: Women’s and youth participation in parliament in a time of polarization and adversity;
 - (ii) Panel 2: Innovating for a peaceful future, crafting new solutions for a turbulent world;
 - (iii) Panel 3: Achieving the SDGs by 2030: What new opportunities for international cooperation?
 - (iv) Panel 4: What role for parliaments in shaping our digital future? and
 - (v) Panel 5: Protecting and promoting the rights of persons in vulnerable situations: *Towards comprehensive anti-discrimination action.*
- (d) Interactive Debate with major stakeholders on the topic: *“Networked global governance for more effective multilateralism: Does it work?”*
- (e) Closing session: including adoption of the Conference Declaration

The Opening/Inaugural Session of the Conference

- 15.** The Opening Session of the 6WCSP commenced with a profound sense of symbolism and purpose as it was held in the renovated Assembly Hall of the *Palais des Nations*—once the debating chamber of the League of Nations. The session was therefore a powerful affirmation of the enduring value of multilateralism and parliamentary cooperation in a world facing profound challenges. A symbolic ribbon cutting represented the new era, not only of the Assembly hall, but also the global interactions.
- 16.** The ceremony was officially opened by Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva. In her opening remarks, Ms. Valovaya underscored the hall’s historic role in international diplomacy and expressed optimism that the space would once again serve as a centre for global consensus. She noted the unique and critical role that parliaments play in the multilateral system—not only in enacting laws and approving budgets but in ensuring democratic accountability. The DG UN Office Geneva noted that the 6WCSP was a momentous occasion, linking historical legacy with contemporary urgency, and praised the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) for being a vital bridge between citizens and global institutions.
- 17.** In her remarks, Dr. Tulia Ackson, IPU President, reflected on the importance of global comity noting the emerging challenges in the world. Drawing from the African principle of Ubuntu—*I am because you are*’—Dr. Ackson called on parliamentary leaders to recognize that no country can thrive in isolation. She challenged the idea of nationalism defined solely by domestic interests, arguing instead for a global mindset rooted in shared responsibility and mutual prosperity.

- 18.** In a world marked by climate crises, conflicts, and socio-economic inequality, she asserted that parliaments must legislate not only for the present but for the generations to come. In keeping with the conference theme, she urged lawmakers to embrace their collective power to advance peace, justice, and sustainable development across borders.
- 19.** The guest speaker, Mr. Michael Douglas, UN Messenger of Peace and acclaimed actor, brought an emotional energy to the session. In his address, Mr. Douglas appealed to the moral imagination of parliamentarians, likening them to *'lighthouses in a tempest'* who must guide humanity through the storms of authoritarianism, inequality, and fear. He noted the power of democratic institutions to stand against cruelty and corruption, and to uplift those left behind by broken systems. Notably, he encouraged participants to support each other, and *'When your faith is in short supply... look to one another,'* an important call to unity, resilience, and shared human dignity.
- 20.** Hon. Maja Riniker, President of the Swiss National Council centred her remarks on the principles of the UN Charter—fairness, solidarity, and trust. Welcoming the world Speakers of Parliaments to Geneva, she emphasized the Swiss commitment to peacebuilding and inclusive governance. Hon. Riniker further reiterated the need for gender-sensitive peace processes, stating that women must be central not only in negotiations but also in reconstruction and reconciliation efforts. She called for gender-responsive strategies in post-conflict governance and highlighted the role of national parliaments in making that vision a reality.
- 21.** In his remarks, the Secretary-General of the IPU, Mr. Martin Chungong, reflected on the gravity and promise of the moment. He acknowledged the world's political fragmentation but declared belief in the power of collective action through dialogue and diplomacy. Mr. Chungong stressed that

declarations made at such conferences must not remain rhetorical but must evolve into legislative action, oversight, and inclusive policymaking. He celebrated the presence of diverse voices in the conference, viewing the gathering as a manifestation of hope in turbulent times. He noted that the gathering was a reminder that the IPU was not merely a convener, but a mobiliser of parliamentary will in service of the global common good.

General Debate: A World in Turmoil: *Parliamentary cooperation and multilateralism for peace, justice and prosperity for all*

- 22.** The General Debate began on 29th July 2025 and was concluded on 31st July 2025. Each of the delegations present was given an opportunity to make remarks on areas related to the conference theme. During the debate, several major themes emerged across multiple national interventions and official addresses, including—

The need for Multilateralism

- 23.** Speakers repeatedly noted that global multilateral institutions are under pressure from fragmentation, geopolitical conflict, ideological polarization, and unilateralism. Nonetheless, Members emphasised that cooperation remains the only viable path forward. For many, reviving trust among nations and between States and citizens was fundamental to any realistic solution.

Security vs Military Responses

- 24.** Delegates called for redefining security not merely as military power, but in terms of poverty alleviation, inequality, environmental degradation, and social inclusion. Members acknowledged that armed conflict, displacement, and crises in places such as Ukraine and Gaza were symptoms of deeper systemic instability.

Climate Change and Sustainable Development

25. The debate highlighted the urgency of parliamentary action for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and aligning national policies with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Legislators were urged to embed science, evidence, and sustainability into lawmaking and planning.

Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence (AI)

26. Delegates noted the rapid pace of technological change including the developments in artificial intelligence (AI), digital governance, and misinformation, which were seen both as a threat and a potential tool for human development. Speakers emphasized regulating new technologies to protect rights, ensure privacy, and guard against misuse while harnessing their transformative potential.

Restoring Public Trust & Combating Disinformation

27. Various speakers noted with concern the declining public trust in institutions and governments across the globe. Notably, this was attributable to proliferation of misinformation, attacks on media freedoms, polarisation, and backsliding in gender equality. Parliamentarians were urged to act as guardians of democratic values and legitimacy.

Gender Equality and Women's Leadership

28. Gender equality was also central to the debate, especially noting the outcome of the concluded 15th Summit of Women Speakers held on 28th July 2025. Participants underscored the need to include women in peace processes, ensuring gender-responsive legislation, and removing structural barriers to women participation in decision-making.

Highlight of Remarks during the General Debate

- 29.** The President of the Senate of Côte d'Ivoire, Hon. Kandia Kamissoko Camara urged participants to seek concrete legislative action, multilateral cooperation beyond borders, and making dialogue and peace processes inclusive. On his part, the Chairman the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of PR China, Hon. Zhao Leji delivered a speech titled "*Upholding Multilateralism and Building a Better Home Together.*" He emphasised willingness for legislative cooperation under initiatives such as the *global development, global security, and global civilization initiatives.*
- 30.** In his remarks, the President of the Senate of Jordan, Hon. Faisal Akef El Fayez spoke recounted the human cost of conflict highlighting Gaza, displacement, and the Ukraine war, and called for parliamentary diplomacy, dialogue, and respecting international law.
- 31.** In her remarks, the **Hon. Gladys Boss, MGH, MP, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly** reiterated the Parliament of Kenya position on strong and effective multilateralism, anchored in mutual respect and shared responsibility. She observed that parliaments, as the embodiment of the will of the people, have a critical role to play in restoring trust in multilateralism and in institutions of national and global governance.
- 32.** Hon. Boss observed that Kenya is a strong proponent of parliamentary diplomacy in support of multilateral efforts to find solutions to modern day challenges. Notably, the Parliament of Kenya actively engages in regional and international fora to foster regional peace, stability, and democratic governance. Through the East African Community (EAC), the Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR) and the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), Kenya contributes and participates in regional integration and conflict resolution efforts. The Parliament of Kenya also supports international initiatives, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate adaptation frameworks.

- 33.** The Deputy Speaker observed that at the national level, the Parliament of Kenya had worked to ensure that global commitments — on gender equality, climate resilience, and health equity — were translated into tangible policies and laws that serve communities across the forty-seven (47) counties. These initiatives, anchored on global commitments, were a demonstration of multilateralism at work locally.
- 34.** The Deputy Speaker reiterated the commitment of the Parliament of Kenya to the IPU’s founding ideals that strive to strengthen parliaments as enablers of positive change, lasting democracy, accountability and peace. This include championing inclusivity, especially the meaningful participation of women, youth, and marginalized communities, in both domestic and international decision-making. She called for a re-dedication to a multilateral system that is more transparent, responsive, and representative noting that Kenya welcomes the *UN80 Reforms Initiative* and is keen on reforms that make the UN more effective.

REPORT ON THE PANEL DISCUSSIONS

- 35.** There were five (5) Panel Discussion during the 6WCSP. The panels were conducted on the sideline of the General Debate and included—
- (i) Panel 1: Women’s and youth participation in parliament in a time of polarization and adversity;
 - (ii) Panel 2: Innovating for a peaceful future, crafting new solutions for a turbulent world;
 - (iii) Panel 3: Achieving the SDGs by 2030: What new opportunities for international cooperation?
 - (iv) Panel 4: What role for parliaments in shaping our digital future? and
 - (v) Panel 5: Protecting and promoting the rights of persons in vulnerable situations: *Towards comprehensive anti-discrimination action.*

Panel 1: Women’s and youth participation in parliament in a time of polarization and adversity

36. The panel discussion was moderated by Ms. Rana Sidani, former Spokesperson for the WHO, IFRC and ICRC and included the following panellists—

- (i) Ms. Cynthia López Castro (Mexico), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and member of the 15SWSP Preparatory Committee;
- (ii) Mr. Felipe Paullier, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs;
- (iii) Ms. Gabriella Morawska-Stanecka (Poland), Senator, Vice-President of the IPU;
- (iv) Ms. Diana Lutta representing Ms. Sofia Calltorp, Director, UN Women Geneva Office and UN Women's Chief of Humanitarian Action; and
- (v) Mr. Wessel van der Berg, Senior Advocacy Officer, Equimundo Center for Masculinities and Social Justice

37. Deliberations in the panel underscored the need to sustain progress in the representation of women and youth in parliaments. Notably, as of 2025, 27.2% of Members of Parliament worldwide were women, and only 2.8% of MPs were 30 years of age and under. This was seen as a great imbalance especially noting that half of the global population is under 30 years.

38. Delegates pointed out that continued exclusion of women and youth could lead to an erosion of trust, and common and persistent challenges to achieving fully inclusive parliaments. Some of the challenges that were noted as hindering the participation of women and youth included the rising political violence (both online and offline) targeting women, youth and people from diverse backgrounds, as well as legislative barriers preventing young people old enough to vote, from running for office.

- 39.** Delegates noted that over and above the push for gender parity and equitable representation of youth, representation must go beyond numbers in chambers but ought to include effective power and leadership positions for youth and women. Panellists also suggested that parliaments could create or strengthen context-specific mechanisms to build inter-generational dialogue in their countries to bridge the gap between the various stakeholders.
- 40.** Three key areas for action that were identified by the participants included—
- (i) Adoption of strong laws and policies such as gender and youth quotas at the national level, as in the case of Rwanda and Timor-Leste. This would include a review of the electoral system, along with the democratisation of candidate selection and the removal of party-level barriers to act as complimentary steps in levelling the playing field.
 - (ii) Creation of an enabling environment for women and youth participation: special protection for women MPs could help to combat gender-based political violence. Participants noted efforts to drive gender-sensitive parliaments in line with the IPU's 2012 Plan of Action including initiatives to shift gender norms such as promoting shared care responsibilities through internal parliamentary policies. To this end, women and youth needed to be in critical decision-making positions such as presiding officers and leading in committees on finance, budgets and defence.
 - (iii) Mindset transformation through public outreach and awareness-raising: Parliaments ought to lead a cultural shift away from male-dominated political environments, and the exclusion of the youth. Various initiatives that were already underway were observed on such as the expansion of civic education through parliamentary open days, and women and youth mock parliaments (Fiji, Slovakia and Sri Lanka).

Panel 2: Innovating for a peaceful future, crafting new solutions for a turbulent world

41. The panel discussion was moderated by Ms. Rana Sidani, former Spokesperson for the WHO, IFRC and ICRC and included the following panelists—

- (i) Hon. Kandia Kamissoko Camara (Côte d'Ivoire), President of the Senate, former Foreign Minister
- (ii) Hon. Ali Rashid Al Nuaimi (United Arab Emirates), Member of the Federal National Council (FNC), Chair of the Defence, Interior, and Foreign Affairs Committees
- (iii) Ms. Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, Founder & CEO, International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN).
- (iv) Mr. Zachary Paikin, Deputy Director, Better Order Project, Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft.

42. Panellists made presentations on their respective country situations. Hon. Kamissoko Camara (Côte d'Ivoire) shared her country's experience in rebuilding peace through inclusive dialogue, national reconciliation and equitable development, underscoring the importance of political will. Through a series of initiatives including truth and reconciliation mechanisms, social cohesion programmes and dedicated ministries, the country had been able to provide fora focused on listening to victims, addressing grievances and promoting forgiveness. These efforts had helped restore trust, strengthen national unity and support long-term stability. She emphasized that equitable infrastructure planning and non-partisan resource distribution were also essential to meeting community needs and sustaining peace.

43. Hon. Ali R. Al Nuaimi (United Arab Emirates) emphasized the need to rethink the role of parliamentarians in diplomacy, urging them to act as independent

representatives of the people rather than merely echoing government positions. In a shifting global order, he called for greater political courage and strategic vision from MPs to lead reconciliation efforts and build trust across divides.

- 44.** Ms. Naraghi Anderlini (ICAN) underscored the pressing need to bridge the gap between elite-driven peace processes and the realities of communities, particularly those of women who were often the first to act in times of conflict but remain excluded from formal negotiations. She advocated for reframing peace efforts from “power-sharing” to “responsibility-sharing,” emphasising that true leadership must address the needs of affected populations. She expressed concern on the role played by some UN Security Council permanent members in contributing to the erosion of trust in global institutions through arms trade. She called on parliaments to advance inclusive peace through legislation and to redirect resources toward strengthening the social fabric of society.
- 45.** Mr. Zachary Paikin (Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft) argued that global security frameworks suffer from a lack of effectiveness and inclusiveness, citing the ‘paralysis’ and limited representation in the UN Security Council. He proposed reforms including new permanent Security Council seats for Africa, Asia and Latin America, and a 25-yearly review of the Charter of the United Nations.

On climate security, he highlighted proposals from his organization to create a P-20 platform, a global compact for climate visas, and a US\$ 15 to 20 billion fund to strengthen regional disaster response. He also called for new, regionally focused institutions to complement existing mechanisms and address the erosion of trust caused by unilateral actions and the contesting of norms.

46. Participants reiterated the importance of inclusive peacebuilding rooted in national cohesion, social trust and strong democratic institutions. Speakers noted the erosion of public trust as a key driver of instability, underscoring the need to reconnect citizens with the State through equitable development, intergenerational dialogue and cultural identity. Dialogue, reconciliation and transparency were seen as essential ingredients for sustainable peace. Parliaments were widely recognised as crucial actors in translating international commitments into national action, particularly in areas such as conflict prevention, sustainable development and humanitarian response.
47. Speakers recognized that peace required more than the absence of war, as it demanded justice, dignity and respect for sovereignty, especially in regions affected by occupation, interference or exclusion. The deliberations observed that conflicts were often rooted in poverty, exclusion and lack of opportunity, particularly for the youth. Investing in education, job creation and social protection was seen as essential to addressing the underlying causes of instability. Participants called for strengthened international cooperation to tackle climate insecurity, illicit financial flows and disinformation. Parliaments and parliamentarians were called upon to institute bold, consistent and locally grounded actions to uphold international law, support disarmament and promote inclusive development.

Panel 3: Achieving the SDGs by 2030: What new opportunities for international cooperation?

48. The panel discussion was moderated by Ms. Claire Doole, spokesperson and former BBC correspondent and included the following panellists—
- (i) Hon. Thorunn Sveinbjarnardottir (Iceland), Speaker of Althingi;
 - (ii) Hon. Alban Bagbin (Ghana), Speaker of Parliament;
 - (iii) Ms. Susan Brown, UN Assistant Administrator and Director of UNDP's Bureau for External Engagement and Advocacy;
 - (iv) Ms. Georgina Magesa, an 11-year-old climate activist from Tanzania.

- 49.** The panel reviewed the achievements made since 2015 in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and noted the decline in extreme poverty, HIV infections, and malaria deaths; and, the increase of children going to and staying longer in school, and the global population with access to electricity. Notably, the positive achievements were observed to be a direct result of cooperation, policy choices, political will and a change of mentalities. The progress that had been made showed that results were achievable when there was cooperation and international solidarity.
- 50.** The panel however took note of the overall trajectory which which they noted was not admirable as only 40% of the SDG targets were on track. For instance, the panel noted that climate action, in particular, was falling dangerously behind.
- 51.** The panel pointed out that parliaments were central actors in the achievement of the SDGs, and citizens expect parliamentarians to lead appropriate initiatives. In this regard, parliaments must use the available avenues to bring voices together – within their chambers, across parties and on the world stage through the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and other fora. Additionally, parliaments must set laws that help implement multilateral agreements, consider taxes and subsidies to stimulate sustainable development, and gather to share knowledge and raise awareness on the pertinent issue of concern.
- 52.** Further, it was acknowledged that, parliaments must confront the rising tide of misinformation, particularly around climate action. Digital manipulation was noted as undermining science, eroding public trust and weakening democratic governance.
- 53.** Besides the government efforts, the panel underlined that the private sector was vital in these efforts as its innovation and capital were essential,

particularly with regards to climate, digital transformation and equity. Parliaments must therefore establish strong, enforceable rules to prevent greenwashing, whether at home or abroad, and set up fiscal policies – including taxation – to reward genuine green innovation, not cosmetic compliance.

54. In the concluding deliberations of the panel, it was recommended that parliamentarians must be determined, more accountable and ready to change the means of achieving SDGs.

Panel 4: What role for parliaments in shaping our digital future?

55. The panel discussion was moderated by Ms. Caitlin Kraft-Buchman, CEO/Founder, *Women at The Table* and included the following panellists—

- (i) Hon. Hugo Motta Wanderley da Nóbrega (Brazil), President of the Chamber of Deputies;
- (ii) Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill, UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Envoy for Digital and Emerging Technologies;
- (iii) Ms. Sulyna Abdullah, Chief of Strategic Planning and Membership and Special Advisor to the Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union (ITU);
- (iv) Mr. Jovan Kurbalija, Executive Director, DiploFoundation and Head of the Geneva Internet Platform (GIP).

56. The following issues emerged from the panel discussion—

Legislative balance between innovation and protection

57. There was need to create a balance between innovation or protection of rights as both were required in the current global dispensation. Accordingly, there was need for a responsible legal framework anchoring human beings at the centre while allowing digital technology to flourish.

Need for adaptability

58. A practical tool was presented, noting that effective legislation needed to be: agile to respond in a timely fashion with the ever changing technology; adaptable to adjust as digital technological situations changed; and anticipatory as there exist a compelling need to plan ahead for the emerging digital technologies as driven by AI. Participants observed that there is no clear template yet for AI legislation across the world. Indeed, the United Nations had so far not produced a universal framework for AI governance, and Parliaments were exploring a variety of legislative approaches. There was a need for ongoing exchange of experience and lessons learned, noting the EU AI Act, whose effectiveness would only become clear over time.

International cooperation as a condition in AI governance

59. The panel observed that no individual stakeholder could adequately tackle the challenges of AI legal governance. It was therefore necessary that there should be a multilateral approach in mapping out AI governance to avoid legal gaps should each country singularly developed its own legal framework for AI governance. Speakers emphasised that the UN Global Digital Compact, adopted in September 2024, demonstrated that international cooperation on digital governance was not just possible but was essential, especially if the digital divide was to be closed holistically.
60. The panel also noted that digital transformation must be environmentally sustainable, with countries leveraging renewable energy for AI development to mitigate possible environmental harm.

Capacity-building for parliamentarians

61. Participants in the panel discussion acknowledged that parliamentarians need to appreciate and understand the ecosystem of digital technologies better. The capacity-building needed for parliamentarians in this regard did

not require them to be academics but to make them appreciate the societal impacts of digital technologies so that they are equipped to exercise robust oversight on their governments and the technological companies. With the right capacity-building, parliamentarians would be informed on emerging digital technologies to ensure the MPs were able to monitor trends and assess impacts on society.

- 62.** The example of Zimbabwe was given where a parliamentary Committee of the Future was being created to work with universities on AI research and development in order to assist parliamentarians to appreciate the digital technological development trends.
- 63.** The panel discussion was concluded with a clear message that parliaments had both the opportunity and responsibility to ensure that the digital future served humanity. In that context, the IPU was co-organising a conference on *The role of parliament in shaping the future of responsible AI* in Malaysia on 28-30 November 2025, to which parliamentarians were invited to participate as part of capacity-building.

Panel 5: Protecting and promoting the rights of persons in vulnerable situations: Towards comprehensive anti-discrimination action

- 64.** The panel discussion was moderated by Ms. Claire Doole, spokesperson and former BBC correspondent and included the following panellists—
- (i) Hon. Ms. Angela Thokozile Didiza (South Africa), Speaker of the National Assembly;
 - (ii) Hon. Angelo Farrugia (Malta), Speaker of the House of Representatives, President of the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law and member of the 6WCSP Preparatory Committee;
 - (iii) Ms. Nada Al Nashif, Deputy United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

(iv) Ms. Yvonne Apiyo Brändle-Amolo, CEO of the Global Minority Parliamentarians Caucus and President of the Swiss Diversity Association.

65. The panel explored both persistent and emerging challenges to the rights of persons in vulnerable situations, including racial minorities, LGBTQI persons, migrants, people with disabilities and others facing intersecting forms of discrimination. The panel observed that despite international commitments and constitutional guarantees, more than three-quarters of countries still lacked comprehensive national anti-discrimination legislation. The legal vacuum significantly impeded protection and accountability of States. Participants noted the critical role of parliaments in adopting robust anti-discrimination frameworks, overseeing their implementation and ensuring access to justice.

66. It was also noted that the gap between international norms and domestic practice was growing wider through the erosion of multilateralism and increasing resistance to human rights. Delegates expressed concerns on the use of social media to amplify harmful stereotypes and scapegoating narratives. Education and public engagement were identified as essential tools to promote inclusion and human dignity, and parliaments were called upon not only to legislate, but to also act as forums for public debate and social dialogue.

67. In the concluding reflections, the importance of political leadership and inclusive participation in driving change was underscored with calls for the promotion of gender quotas and reserved parliamentary seats for marginalized communities.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

6WCSP Declaration

**“A world in turmoil: Parliamentary cooperation and multilateralism for
peace, justice and prosperity for all”**



#6WCSP

High-Level Declaration of the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament¹ (Geneva, 29–31 July 2025)

A world in turmoil: Parliamentary cooperation and multilateralism for peace, justice and prosperity for all

We, Speakers of Parliament from around the world, have come together to take stock of the many crises that engulf the world today, and to reaffirm the fundamental principles that must guide our future parliamentary action.

As Speakers, we can help inspire public debate, uphold democratic practices in our parliaments and engage in parliamentary diplomacy to advance peace and understanding among peoples. Above all, we can exercise moral leadership and serve as role models for our fellow parliamentarians and citizens at large.

A world in turmoil

We note with concern that conditions around the world are not significantly better today than when we last met, in 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, almost everywhere globally, we observe a pervasive sense of malaise and anxiety. This reflects, in our view, a lack of peace, understood not only as freedom from conflict but also as the fulfilment of basic human needs at the individual and societal level.

Particularly alarming is the accelerated erosion of multilateralism and the growth of self-seeking, zero-sum perspectives that overlook the complex realities on the ground. Progress towards a peaceful world and the transformative vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its accompanying Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which inspired our past declarations, has all but stalled. In particular:

- We are witnessing a growing trend for disregard of the rule of law and increased threats to democracy, both nationally and internationally.
- Conflicts within and between countries, as well as civilian casualties disproportionately affecting women and children, have grown in number and scope. Unchecked, these conflicts have created circumstances in which violations of international humanitarian law and human rights are occurring with greater frequency. Terrorism and violent extremism remain prevalent features of the global landscape.
- Rising nationalism and the implementation of protectionist policies are eroding the spirit of collaboration and cooperation among nations. This trend poses a threat to global interconnectedness and challenges the principles of cooperation and solidarity that underpin multilateralism.

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¹ The term "Speakers of Parliament" is considered to encompass all presiding officers of unicameral national parliaments or of either chamber of bicameral national parliaments, regardless of their actual title ("Speaker", "President", "Chairperson", etc.).

- Increasing disinformation and the misuse of global communication platforms has led to the distortion of public perception and decision-making processes. This phenomenon has the potential to sway elections, policy decisions and international relations.
- Progress in promoting inclusiveness, accessibility and support for people with disabilities in political offices has been slow, leading to a lack of representation and participation, which can perpetuate policies that inadequately address the needs and rights of the disability community.
- The number of forcibly displaced people is at an all-time high.
- An alarming resumption of the nuclear arms race with increasing threats of weapon use and the erosion of disarmament norms constitutes an existential risk to human survival.
- Politics has grown more fractured: too often opposing parties are depicted as enemies and common ground among political factions is too hard to find. The role of evidence-based decision-making and fundamental scientific truths is being called into doubt.
- The planet's carrying capacity, which determines the limits of sustainability, continues to be strained, with no end in sight. The world is facing a climate emergency, with most of the burden borne by developing countries and people in vulnerable situations.
- Poverty is again on the rise and inequalities are deepening.
- Economic and financial power is increasingly concentrated in the hands of the few, challenging principles of fairness, equality and inclusive participation. A comprehensive review of funding structures could facilitate better prospects to close existing gaps, reduce inequality, and encourage more cooperative participation among nations.
- Progress towards gender equality and the realization of women's rights is far too slow, facing resistance and regression in a number of countries.
- Intolerance towards migrants and refugees, faith-based communities, indigenous people and other people in vulnerable situations, including stateless persons, is resurgent.
- Artificial intelligence and other emerging information and communication technologies are penetrating every aspect of human existence with only limited tools to protect people and institutions.
- Young people remain extremely underrepresented in political decision-making when they, and future generations, will be most affected by the shortfall in efforts to address all these challenges.
- The existing international political and economic architecture has fallen short in responding to all the above challenges and crises.

To recover from this mix of slow progress, setbacks and emerging threats, we need to do more than simply address their main causes. Above all, we need to appeal to a basic sense of shared humanity and to work collectively towards a more peaceful, just and prosperous world that is solidly anchored in the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

As long as there is no justice and impunity prevails for the perpetrators, there will be no real peace for people experiencing exclusion, exploitation, violence, discrimination and the denial of fundamental rights and freedoms.

Key transitions toward peace, justice and prosperity

Inspired by the IPU's values and principles, as well as by the outcomes of major United Nations processes over the past few years, we conclude that building a more peaceful, just and prosperous world requires the following key broad policy transitions:

- Ensuring the complete and consistent observance of international law and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in a coherent and non-selective manner.
- Building strong, transparent and accountable institutions to maintain peace and justice. This includes reforming judicial systems, enhancing law enforcement, and ensuring that governance structures are inclusive and equitable.

- Prioritizing and investing in conflict prevention, as well as redefining “security” more broadly, pairing the traditional concept based on military might with the approaches of human security and common security,² so as to achieve comprehensive and sustainable security.
- Promoting the peaceful, secure, open and inclusive use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), in accordance with international law, including international human rights law, and joining efforts to prevent and combat cybercrime and malicious cyber activity by supporting global and regional cooperation, capacity-building, and responsible State behaviour in cyberspace, including through the United Nations and its specialized bodies, while respecting privacy and other fundamental rights.
- More effectively embedding the SDGs into national policies, strategies and budgets to provide an integrated approach to eradicating poverty, addressing climate change, reducing inequalities, and fostering peace, justice and prosperity.
- Shifting the current economic paradigm to a more people-centred model based on cooperation, solidarity, inclusion and sustainability. Economic models such as the paid care economy, the green economy and the circular economy, among others, need to be mainstreamed. The transition away from an economy based on fossil fuels needs to accelerate if we are to enjoy a sustainable future on this planet. Simultaneously, this shift should be carefully planned, taking into account different national circumstances and priorities. Cooperation should be the driving force of scientific and technological innovation for the betterment of humanity.
- Investing more in health, education, environmental preservation, and other public goods that benefit individuals directly. Expenditure on social programmes and public infrastructure should be seen as *investments* in the future and not merely as present-day costs. Austerity measures dictated by budget shortfalls and other financial imperatives need to be calibrated to protect the people in vulnerable situations first.
- Advancing gender equality, in law and in practice, in all fields and at all levels, especially in parliaments but also in international institutions, in civil society and in the business sector, as a necessary condition of peace, development and justice. The world cannot afford to waste 50% of its talent. Gender parity in parliaments is a key step in the meaningful transition towards achieving gender equality and respect for women’s rights worldwide. Laws, policies and budgets must be analysed and monitored through a gender lens to ensure that they are delivered equitably and support a culture of zero tolerance of discrimination and violence against women.
- Empowering young people, harnessing their perspectives and potential, building their trust in policymaking and leveraging their innovation so they can better contribute to resolving global challenges. This includes boosting the political participation and leadership of both young men and women and delivering youth-responsive public policies in all fields.
- Valuing diversity in our societies as an asset to be nurtured and protected as opposed to a threat to be feared, including by ensuring that the rights of all individuals, as recognized in international human rights law, are respected and protected. Greater inclusion of diverse experiences and the cross-fertilization of ideas and cultures, which in turn enhance knowledge, lead to innovation and facilitate the efforts of all stakeholders to navigate the complexities of this century. More awareness of our diversity can also help to build tolerance, acceptance and mutual understanding between people, communities and groups, creating the conditions for lasting peace. Migration has long been a contributor to diversity as well as development and can be appropriately managed to maximize its benefits to both destination and origin countries.
- Embracing the idea that global problems require collective action based on the realization that no single State or group of actors can tackle these global challenges alone. Multilateral engagement is the most effective way for countries to find solutions to the burning issues of our time, from nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation to climate change, global financial stability, global health, international trade, artificial intelligence and migration. Multilateral cooperation mechanisms such as the G7, G20, BRICS, OECD and others need to work in close cooperation and coordination with the United Nations-led multilateral system.

² *Human security* focuses on protecting individuals from threats of fear, want, and indignity by addressing the root causes of insecurity and human suffering; *common security* embodies the idea that no nation can achieve security alone, at the expense of another, and that the best way for countries to build security is through cooperation, reciprocity and multilateralism.

- Reinforcing the practice of democracy in our countries and in international relations, with a strong emphasis on multilateral engagement, and upholding democratic values of transparency, inclusive dialogue and promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout politics and society. Parliaments, as the core representative institution of the nation, have a special responsibility to embody democratic practices and values and ensure accountability.

Our commitment going forward

We welcome the United Nations Pact for the Future of September 2024 and its accompanying Global Digital Compact and Declaration for Future Generations as the latest effort by the global community to reconstitute multilateral order on stronger foundations, turbocharge the SDGs and find common ground on the key issues of our time.

We highlight the crucial role of parliamentary organizations and inter-parliamentary cooperation in global governance, in particular in supporting respect for the norms and principles of international law, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, human rights and sustainable development.

We note in particular Action 55 of the Pact, which calls for a deepening of the engagement of parliaments in the work of the United Nations, including its inter-governmental processes, which builds on 25 years of growing interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU. We note with satisfaction the IPU's work to help democratize global governance by opening the United Nations-led multilateral system to the input of parliaments and parliamentarians.

With this background in mind, we will work to:

- Step up efforts to build stronger and more effective multilateralism, with the United Nations at its core, that delivers for the people and the planet.
- Help advance effective reform of the United Nations, including of the Security Council, as well as of the global financial architecture, for peaceful, just and inclusive societies, for achieving the SDGs and closing the financing gap for developing countries.
- Ensure a fair, open, non-discriminatory multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization at its core, and foster a favourable trade and investment environment for all.
- Raise awareness within parliaments of major United Nations agreements such as the Pact for the Future, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the Global Compact on Refugees, and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, among others, so that, within each national context, commitments are implemented through law, regulations, policies and budgets.
- Encourage parliamentary oversight of the positions taken, and agreements entered into, by governments at the United Nations and other international forums.
- Share knowledge with constituents and the public at large of major United Nations agreements to support deeper national ownership and understanding of their goals.
- Ensure more active participation of our parliaments in key United Nations and other global processes in order to provide input and enhance parliamentary ownership of relevant outcomes, paying particular attention to the inclusion of all major political forces and the participation of women and young people.
- Facilitate gender equality and greater representation of youth as well as people in vulnerable situations and other underrepresented groups in our parliaments to better reflect their share of the general population and ensure their participation and influence. This includes ensuring that parliaments are safe environments free from discrimination and violence.
- Open our parliaments up to greater participation in the legislative process by civil society, the business community, the scientific community, labour unions, faith-based communities, minority groups as well as citizens at large in all their diversity.
- Strengthen trust and embrace hope for our common future through the IPU's work on interfaith dialogue.
- Pursue parliamentary diplomacy as a complement to governmental efforts in order to prevent and resolve conflict by addressing its root causes, engaging in direct dialogue with all relevant actors, and prioritizing civilian safety and respect for International Humanitarian Law.

- Recognize and promote science diplomacy as a fundamental tool for addressing the problems the world faces, informing decision-making processes and advancing diplomatic objectives more broadly. Parliaments should actively support the integration of scientific expertise into diplomatic efforts and use evidence-based approaches to create more informed policy.
- Support the prevention of arms-inflicted human suffering and ensure parliamentary oversight of commitments to disarmament and arms control measures and to non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- Encourage parliamentary hearings that, inter alia, examine the root causes of conflict and insecurity, such as climate change, environmental degradation, food insecurity, disease, poverty, social exclusion and discrimination.
- Actively participate in global efforts to regulate and harness the potential of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, in order to maximize their benefits and minimize their risks.
- Support a plan of action to build digital competencies among parliamentarians and the parliamentary administration, to ensure that parliament is a modern institution that is equipped to shape our digital future, notably with regards to the ethical regulation of artificial intelligence.
- Promote inclusive and effective legislative processes, to support a culture of mutual respect, dialogue and understanding within parliamentary deliberations, ensuring that all voices, perspectives and constituencies are heard and valued.
- In parliaments where one does not already exist, consider the establishment of a parliamentary Committee of the Future to deal with emerging cross-cutting issues.

We thank our hosts, Switzerland and the United Nations Office at Geneva, as well as the United Nations Secretary-General and the President of the United Nations General Assembly, for their support of our Conference, which has been yet another demonstration of the close partnership between the IPU and the United Nations: one of the keys to making this world a better place, with pathways to peace, justice and prosperity for all.

N.B. It is recognized that due to their constitutional positions or other factors, certain Speakers cannot directly associate themselves with substantive political statements, and therefore should not be seen as indicating specific support for all sections. Nonetheless, on behalf of their chambers, they recognize the importance of the issues raised and the intentions of their colleagues in proposing particular ways forward.

Appendix 2

Remarks by the Hon. Gladys Boss, MGH, MP, Deputy Speaker of the National
Assembly – Leader of Delegation



PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

13TH PARLIAMENT | FOURTH SESSION

**REMARKS BY HON. GLADYS BOSS, MGH, MP, DEPUTY SPEAKER OF
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARLIAMENT OF KENYA, AT THE
6TH WORLD CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT**

GENEVA, 29TH – 31ST JULY, 2025

General Debate: *A world in turmoil: Parliamentary cooperation and multilateralism for peace, justice and prosperity for all*

Your Excellencies, Hon Speakers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is an honour and privilege to address this esteemed gathering of the 6th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, convened under the auspices of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations.
2. I bring you warm greetings from the people and the Parliament of Kenya.
3. The theme for this Conference could not have been timelier. These are difficult times in global governance as the world grapples with multiple crises — ranging from climate change and health pandemics to regional and global conflicts. It is increasingly clear that no single nation can face these challenges alone. Dialogue and cooperation are vital for humanity to surmount these challenges.
4. Strong and effective multilateralism, anchored in mutual respect and shared responsibility, remain our best hope for a more just, peaceful, and sustainable future.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. Parliaments, as the embodiment of the people's will, have a critical role to play in restoring trust in multilateralism and more specifically, in institutions of governance. Our legitimacy stems from the people,

and it is our duty to amplify their voices within the global governance framework.

6. Kenya is a **strong proponent** of **parliamentary diplomacy** in support of multilateral efforts to find solutions to modern day challenges. The Kenyan Parliament actively engages in regional and international forums to foster regional peace, stability, and democratic governance.
7. Through the East African Community, the Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR) and the Pan-African Parliament, we contribute to **regional integration** and **conflict resolution** efforts. Our Parliament has also supported international initiatives, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate adaptation frameworks.
8. At the national level, the Parliament of Kenya has worked to ensure that global commitments — on gender equality, climate resilience, and health equity — are translated into tangible policies and laws that serve communities across our 47 counties. These initiatives, anchored on global commitments, are a demonstration of multilateralism at work locally.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. As we deliberate here, let us recommit ourselves to the IPU's founding ideals that strive to strengthen parliaments as enablers for positive change, lasting democracy, accountability and peace.
10. Let us champion inclusivity, especially the meaningful participation of women, youth, and marginalized communities, in both domestic and international decision-making.
11. In closing, we must re-dedicate ourselves to a multilateral system that is more transparent, responsive, and representative. Kenya welcomes the UN80 reforms initiative and is keen on reforms that make the UN more effective.

Thank you.

**THE HON. GLADYS BOSS, MGH, MP,
DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY,
PARLIAMENT OF KENYA**

Appendix 3
Programme



29-31 July 2025 Geneva, Switzerland

World Conference of Speakers of Parliament



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



United Nations

#6WCSP

Programme of the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

(Geneva, 29-31 July 2025)

Palais des Nations, United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)

Tuesday, 29 July 2025

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 10:00 – 12:00 | Final meeting of the Preparatory Committee¹
<i>(Room IX, Building A)</i> |
| 14:00 – 14:50 | Arrival of Speakers / Welcome by the IPU and United Nations
<i>(Hall 14 – Pregny Gate)²</i> |
| 15:00 – 16:00 | Inaugural session of the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament
<i>(Assembly Hall, Building A)</i> |
| 16:00 – 18:00 | Start of the General Debate on <i>A world in turmoil: Parliamentary cooperation and multilateralism for peace, justice and prosperity for all</i>
<i>(Assembly Hall, Building A)</i> |
| 16:00 – 18:00 | Panel discussion
<u>Panel 1: Women's and youth participation in parliament in a time of polarization and adversity</u>
<i>(Room XVI, 5th floor, Building A)</i> |
| 18:15 | Official reception offered by Switzerland
<i>(Bar Serpent, Building E)</i>
<i>All Speakers of Parliament, MPs, other Heads of Delegation, Ambassadors, special guests and up to four accompanying persons per delegation are welcome.</i> |

¹ Closed meeting

² Only VIP cars (two per delegation) will be allowed access through the Pregny Gate. All other vehicles should enter the UNOG compound through the Chemin de Fer Gate (see security information note).

Wednesday, 30 July 2025

- 09:00 – 10:00 A briefing for Speakers of Parliament on the UN80 reform initiative
(Room IX, Building A)
- 09:30 – 13:00 **Continuation of the General Debate**
(Assembly Hall, Building A)
- 09:30 – 11:00 **Panel discussion**
Panel 2: Innovating for a peaceful future, crafting new solutions for a turbulent world
(Room XVI, Building A)
- 11:30 – 13:00 **Panel discussion**
Panel 3: Achieving the SDGs by 2030: What new opportunities for international cooperation?
(Room XVI, Building A)
- 13:00 – 13:30 Group photo (Speakers only – no accompanying persons)
(Hall 14, Building A)
- 13:30 – 15:00 Lunch offered by the IPU President and Secretary General in honour of Speakers and Heads of Delegations (by invitation only)
(8th Floor Restaurant, Building A)
- 15:00 – 18:30 **Continuation of the General Debate**
(Assembly Hall, Building A)
- 15:00 – 16:00 Amplifying the voices of Small Island Developing States: Parliamentary leadership for urgent climate action. Informal meeting of Speakers of Parliament from the Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
(Closed meeting)
(Room IX, Building A)
- 15:00 – 16:30 **Panel discussion**
Panel 4: What role for parliaments in shaping our digital future?
(Room XVI, Building A)
- 17:00 – 18:30 **Panel discussion**
Panel 5: Protecting and promoting the rights of persons in vulnerable situations: Towards comprehensive anti-discrimination action
(Room XVI, Building A)

Thursday, 31 July 2025

- 09:30 – 11:00 **Continuation and conclusion of the General Debate**
(Assembly Hall, Building A)
- 11:00 – 13:00 **Interactive Debate with major stakeholders**
(Assembly Hall, Building A)
- 13:00 – 14:30 Briefing on what the IPU can do for parliaments and parliamentarians
(Room XVI, Building A – light refreshments will be served)
- 14:30 – 17:00 **Closing session**
Reports from the panel discussions
Adoption of the High-level Declaration
(Assembly Hall, Building A)