

**Statement by the Hon. Speaker at the
Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament
Geneva, Switzerland, 29th to 31st July 2025**

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

**Dr. Tulia Ackson, President of the IPU,
Distinguished Speakers of Parliament,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is both a privilege and a responsibility to address this Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament at a time when the world is experiencing deep and widespread turmoil. On behalf of the Parliament of Sri Lanka, I extend my sincere appreciation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations for convening this essential dialogue under this timely theme.

In this era marked by conflict, political instability, climate anxiety and economic hardship, the human family faces unprecedented uncertainty. In such a world, the role of Parliaments is more critical than ever before. We serve not only as lawmakers but also as guardians of democratic legitimacy, as advocates for justice, and as instruments of peacebuilding and accountability.

Parliamentary diplomacy and multilateral cooperation are vital tools for rebuilding global trust. Through our bilateral and multilateral engagements, which include Parliamentary friendship groups, Parliamentary networks, study visits and delegations, we have the ability to foster understanding, mediate conflict and advance shared human values. These platforms allow Parliaments to learn from one another, strengthen democratic practices, and collectively address cross-border challenges such as terrorism, pandemics, migration and cyber threats.

Parliament of Sri Lanka has long embraced this spirit of cooperation. We have been a proud member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union since 1949 and of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association since our independence in 1948. We are also a founding member of the Association of SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians. These partnerships have allowed our Parliamentarians and staff to gain valuable experience and build institutional capacity through training, dialogue and exchange.

Notably, Sri Lanka has hosted several seminars and conferences in collaboration with IPU and CPA, underscoring our commitment to multilateral Parliamentary engagement. With friendship associations established with over 50 countries, the Parliament of Sri Lanka continues to expand its role in regional and global diplomacy. We also actively promote Parliamentary cooperation through international youth

exchange and professional development programmes, helping to build the next generation of democratic leaders.

Excellencies,

Parliamentary cooperation is not symbolic, it is strategic. When we act together, we reinforce the foundations of peace, prosperity and justice. Our cooperation strengthens the legitimacy of international norms, amplifies the voices of our citizens and bridges the divides among nations, communities and cultures.

We in Sri Lanka have seen how dialogue and reconciliation, even after a prolonged conflict, can guide a nation forward. Our Parliament is committed to advancing inclusive governance, constitutional reform and peacebuilding through democratic channels.

As we mark the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace, established by the UN General Assembly, we reaffirm that Parliaments have a decisive role in turning global ambitions into national action. It is our duty to bring the people's voice into international policymaking and to translate international commitments into meaningful local realities.

Madame President,

Let us leave this Conference not only with new perspectives, but with renewed purpose. The world may be in turmoil, but through Parliamentary cooperation and multilateral solidarity, we can help restore stability, justice and dignity for all.

Thank you.