REPORT BY THE RT. HON. DR. NELLY B. K MUTTI, SC, MP, FAPRA, SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA AND THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC) GROUP'S REPRESENTATIVE IN THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, ON THE DECISIONS OF THE 301ST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION HELD ON 3RD AND 4TH OCTOBER, 2026, IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA

Mr. President, I beg to move that this Plenary Assembly do adopt the Report on the decisions of the 301st Session of the Executive Committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held on 3rd and 4th October, 2026, in Arusha, Tanzania.

TABLE OF ONTENTS

COMPOSITION AND MANDATE OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 3

1.0 SUMMARY OF DELIBERATIONS 3

1.1 The President's Activity Report 3

1.2 The Secretary General's Activity Report 3

1.3 The Sub- Committee on Finance Report 4

2.0 IPU MEMBERSHIP AND THE SITUATION OF CERTAIN PARLIAMENTS 4

2.1 Request for IPU Membership 4

2.2 Permanent Observer Status - Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) 5

3.0 AMENDMENTS TO THE IPU STATUTES AND RULES 5

4.0 ELECTION OF THE NEW IPU PRESIDENT 5

5.0 THE 2026 IPU CREMER-PASSY PRIZE 6

6.0 EMERGENCY ITEMS 6

7.0 IPU FUTURE MEETINGS 7

8.0 RESOLUTIONS OF THE 153RD IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS 7

9.0 CONCLUSION 8

APPENDIX I: COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE 10

COMPOSITION AND MANDATE OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The IPU Executive Committee oversees and makes recommendations to the Governing Council on various matters, including applications by National Parliaments or Regional Parliamentary Assemblies wishing to join the IPU. It also proposes the IPU's annual work programme and budget. It meets at least twice a year before the IPU Assemblies, and can also hold extraordinary sessions if needed. The Executive Committee makes sure that decisions taken by the Assembly and Governing Council are put into practice.

It is made up of the President, 15 elected Members from the different Geo-Political groups, the President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and the President of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians.

1.0 SUMMARY OF DELIBERATIONS

1.1 The President's Activity Report

The IPU President, Dr Tulia Ackson, MP, highlighted major activities she undertook during her tenure of office which included among others:

a. advancing parliamentary diplomacy and driving peace efforts through the creation of pathways to peace and the facilitation of the IPU engagement with countries affected by conflict;
b. advocating for inclusive and sustainable development by reinforcing the IPU's engagement in monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals;
c. promoting gender equality and women's political participation by emphasising the pivotal role of parliamentarians in translating global commitments on gender equality into national laws, policies and budgets;
d. championing parliamentary action on climate change including, among others, chairing the IPU Parliamentary Meetings held during the 29th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 29); and
e. encouraging interfaith dialogue and freedom of religion or belief by promoting dialogue between political and religious actors.

1.2 The Secretary General's Activity Report

The Secretary General informed the meeting that over the past nine months, the IPU organised the following activities:

a) National support activities in 22 countries to build the capacity of Parliaments institutionally and on key thematic issues ;
b) a total of 63 regional and global events to mobilise and leverage parliamentary action and facilitate learning, (42 in person, 19 virtual and 2 hybrid);

c) with the IPU Communications Strategy (2022–2026), coming to a close, several key milestones had been achieved including the following:
d) *Social media* : the total follower base has surpassed 120,000 followers with over 45,000 followers on X, over 45,000 on Meta platforms (Facebook, Instagram and Threads) and over 25,000 on LinkedIn ;
e) *Video strategy* : close to a million cumulative views of IPU videos on YouTube ;
f) Web traffic: 11% year-on-year growth on *www.ipu.org*. In 2025, total traffic reached 540,000 visitors with global coverage ; and
g) Over the 5-year strategic period: IPU has successfully launched four major communication campaigns in line with the annual theme:
   - ✓ I say yes to youth in parliament!
   - ✓ Parliaments for the Planet
   - ✓ Achieving gender equality
   - ✓ action by action
   - ✓ and the most recently added in 2026, Bringing human rights into focus.

1.3 The Sub- Committee on Finance Report

The Committee informed the Executive Committee that the assessed contributions amounting to CHF 12,321,900 (approximately USD15 million) were invoiced in full at the beginning of the year as revenue. For 2026, the Secretary General submitted a voluntary funding budget totaling CHF 4.7 million (approximately USD 6 million) against an opening balance of CHF 5.3 million (approximately USD 7 million) at the start of the year for programmes in 2026 and beyond.

2.0 IPU MEMBERSHIP AND THE SITUATION OF CERTAIN PARLIAMENTS

The Executive Committee examined the situation of Member Parliaments that were liable to have their membership rights suspended due to arrears in their member contributions. Pursuant to Article 5.3 of the IPU Statutes and Rules, the Executive Committee recommended the suspension of the following countries:

a. Guinea
b. Liberia
c. Marshal Islands and Tuvalu; and
d. Comoros.

Further, the Executive Committee urged the geo-political groups to continue encouraging their Member Parliaments that have been absent from the IPU Statutory Meetings and other global events to be active participants.

2.1 Request for IPU Membership

The IPU Executive Committee was informed that the IPU Secretary General received communication from the Clerk of the Parliament of Naoero requesting its affiliation to the IPU. After consideration of the matter, the Executive Committee unanimously approved the recommendation for the reinstatement of Naoero to the IPU.

2.2 Permanent Observer Status - Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC)

The Executive Committee was briefed on the request by the Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) for official observer status. However, following the debate that ensued, the committee unanimously resolved to defer the matter to a later date in order for the Secretary General to gather more information on the objectives of the grouping.

3.0 AMENDMENTS TO THE IPU STATUTES AND RULES

The Executive Committee was invited to examine any sub-amendments relating to the amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules tabled for approval at the 153rd Assembly relating to the introduction of a second emergency item.

The Executive Committee continued with its discussion from its previous session on the possible introduction of a supplementary emergency item. As outlined in Rule 11.2(a) of the Assembly: *"A request for the inclusion of an emergency item must relate to a recent major situation of international concern on which urgent action by the international community is required and on which it is appropriate for the IPU to express its opinion and mobilise a parliamentary response. Such a request must receive a two-thirds majority of the votes cast to be accepted."*

The inclusion of emergency items in the IPU Assembly had evolved to reflect shifting global priorities, with pre-2020 resolutions addressing diverse issues like climate change, conflict, terrorism and humanitarian crises. The adoption of these emergency item resolutions often stemmed from inclusive dialogue among geopolitical groups, with proposals typically co-sponsored or supported by Member Parliaments from different regions.

The Executive Committee noted that the rising crises around the world, as well as escalating geopolitical polarisation, had hindered consensus on emergency item. The Executive Committee re-considered the proposal to enable the IPU Assembly have an additional urgent matter, through the adoption of a supplementary emergency item subject to the same rules as the current emergency item, including the two-thirds majority requirement. It was further argued that this could enhance the Assembly's responsiveness, broaden the range of critical and urgent issues that could be addressed in a timely manner, and reduce the risk of equally pressing situations competing against one another for consideration by the IPU membership. The Executive Committee, however, agreed to continue with the practice of considering only one emergency item on the agenda. Further, the Executive Committee resolved to suspend the continuous revision of IPU Statutes and Rules in order for the current revised rules to be tried before any further amendments.

4.0 ELECTION OF THE NEW IPU PRESIDENT

Mr. Milton Dick, MP, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Australia, was elected the 32nd President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). Mr. Milton Dick,

won with 56% of the votes cast after one round of voting conducted by secret ballot. He succeeds Dr. Tulia Ackson, MP, of the United Republic of Tanzania, who concluded her three-year mandate at the end of the Assembly. Mr Milton Dick defeated Ms. Sahiba Gafarova, Speaker of the Milli Majlis of Azerbaijan and Mr. Rojo Edwards Silva, Member of the Senate of Chile.

5.0 THE 2026 IPU CREMER-PASSY PRIZE

Ms Rocío Abed de Zacarías, MP from Paraguay, was selected and awarded the 2026 Cremer-Passy Prize for her efforts in promoting human rights.The Prize was named after the two IPU founders, Parliamentarians, Mr Frédéric Passy and Sir William Randal Cremer, who created the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in 1889.

Ms. Abed has been a member of Paraguay's Chamber of Deputies since 2018 and is serving her second consecutive legislative term until 2028. Her parliamentary work has focused primarily on issues of health, women's rights and social inclusion, including three pieces of legislation where she played a key role. The Cremer Passy Prize is open to any sitting parliamentarian who make an outstanding contribution to the defence and promotion of the IPU's objectives, as well as those "who contribute to a more united, peaceful, sustainable and equitable world."

6.0 EMERGENCY ITEMS

There were four (4) emergency items that were submitted for consideration as follows:

a. request submitted by the delegation of Bahrain, with the support of the Arab Group and Chile on "***Ensuring freedom of navigation, maritime security, and the flow of international trade through maritime corridors and straits, in accordance with international law: A call for urgent parliamentary action";***

b. request submitted by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran on ***"Condemnation of the military aggression by the United States of America and Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and of the air and naval blockade imposed by the United States of America, as violations of international law and of the principle of non-intervention;"***

c. request submitted by the delegation of Nepal on ***"Urgent parliamentary action to address climate-related disasters and strengthen resilience in the Himalayan region and other vulnerable regions;" and***

d. request submitted by the delegation of Ukraine on ***"Protecting civilians and critical civilian infrastructure in armed conflicts: Urgent parliamentary action to uphold international law."***

Upon the resolution of the Assembly, the emergency item submitted by the delegation of Nepal on the need for **Urgent Parliamentary Action to Address Climate-Related Disasters and Strengthen Resilience in the Himalayan Region and Other Vulnerable Regions was adopted.** The proposal secured a two-thirds majority with 901 votes in favor, 78 against and 140 abstentions.

7.0 IPU FUTURE MEETINGS

The Governing Council approved, among others, the following IPU Meetings:

a. IPU Global Parliamentary Conference on Human Rights, 12th to 13th November, 2026, Geneva, Switzerland;
b. IPU Parliamentary Meeting on the Occasion of COP31 to be held on 16th November, 2026, Antalya, Turkiye;
c. World e-parliament Conference 2026 to be held from 17th to 18th November, 2026, European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium;
d. Parliamentary Track at the Internet Governance Forum 2026, to be held from 16th to 17th December, 2026, Nairobi, Kenya;
e. the 154th IPU Assembly and Related Meetings to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, 10th to 14th May, 2027; and
f. the 155th Assembly and Related Meetings to be held in ALTAGRACIA, Dominican Republic, 9th to 13th November 2027.

8.0 RESOLUTIONS OF THE 153RD IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

The proceedings of the 153rd IPU Assembly and Related meetings came to a conclusion with the endorsement of the Arusha Declaration in which the Parliamentarians agreed on the following:

a. Uphold good governance and community empowerment as the two are mutually reinforcing and are key to building trust in public institutions and to promoting the welfare and development of peaceful societies;
b. Ensure effective, accountable, inclusive and transparent institutions create the conditions for people to exercise their rights and participate in decisions that affect their lives. At the same time, empowered communities bring lived experience, knowledge and innovation that can help institutions respond more effectively to people's needs;
c. Affirm that parliamentary work needs to be grounded in people's realities stressing that the true test of good governance is what it delivers in people's lives, so as to ensure equal opportunities for all. The Parliamentarians therefore, called for laws, policies and budgets to be informed by diverse forms of evidence, including scientific and quantitative data, official statistics, local and community knowledge, and people's lived experiences;
d. Emphasise the need for parliamentarians to be present in and available to the communities they represent, particularly those that are remote or affected by crisis;
e. Acknowledge the variety of lived realities, and in particular, those of people in vulnerable and marginalised situations, as crucial. Vulnerability is context-specific, dynamic and often multidimensional, and addressing it requires an understanding of the historical, social and cultural contexts in which people and communities live and what barriers exist to equal participation in society and public life;

f. Stressing that misinformation and disinformation undermine trust and evidence-based decision-making, disempowering people and weakening social cohesion. In this vein, the Assembly resolved that Parliaments should serve as role models: communicating in accessible and culturally appropriate ways, providing reliable sources of information, strengthening public resilience to misinformation and disinformation, and promoting respectful and evidence-based public debate;
g. Parliaments become more open institutions that look beyond traditional public engagement mechanisms and build stronger partnerships with communities;
h. Parliaments should hold open and informed discussions about the opportunities and challenges presented by AI and other digital technologies, and develop guidelines and frameworks setting out how such technologies can be used responsibly to enhance public outreach and engagement, while safeguarding data protection and data sovereignty;
i. Parliaments should remain vigilant and pursue efforts by building conducive legal frameworks, providing incentives, mentorship and skills-building support, and addressing cultural and social biases that can limit access to decision-making;
j. Parliaments should remain committed to sustaining efforts for good governance and community empowerment by addressing long-term challenges;
k. Map patterns of underrepresentation in parliaments using past and current data, and identify the intersecting structural, social and institutional barriers that limit the equal participation and representation of women, youth, persons with disabilities and other groups that have historically been underrepresented, with a view to developing practical measures to address such inequalities; and
l. Consider how the responsible use of AI and other digital tools within parliaments can help enhance community outreach and engagement, and develop capacities, guidelines, frameworks and oversight mechanisms in that regard.

9.0 CONCLUSION

Let me, once again, place on record my gratitude for being privileged to represent the SADC Group on the EXCO for the IPU. I believe that these highlights will help Member Parliaments to take stock of emerging issues at the IPU.

Mr. President, I beg to move.

_____
The Rt. Hon. Dr. Nelly B. K MUTTI, SC, MP, FAPRA,
SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA

_____
McDonald MWIINGA
IPU DESK OFFICER

APPENDIX I: COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

PRESENT

1. Hon. Dr Tulia Ackson, MP, President
2. Hon. G. Morawska-Stanecka,MP, Vice President
3. Hon. Dr. Nelly B. K Mutti, SC, MP, Vice-President of the Executive Committee, African Group
4. Hon. Mr. M. Dick, MP, Vice-President of the Executive Committee, Asia-Pacific Group
5. Hon. C. Cajado Sampaio, MP, Vice-President of the Executive Committee, Group of Latin America and the Caribbean
6. Hon. Ms. I.K. Godalena
7. Hon. Sevil Mikayilova, MP
8. Hon. Hassan Aden Gueddi, MP
9. Hon. Xavier Iacovelli, MP
10. Hon. Mardani Ali Sera, MP
11. Hon. Maria del Carmen Alva Prieto, MP
12. Hon. Gabriela Morawska-Stanecka, MP
13. Hon. Hamda bint Hassan al-Sulaiti, MP
14. Hon. Karen Bradley, MP
15. Amb. Anda Filip, Secretary General of the IPU

Ex-officio Members of the Executive Committee

1. Ms. Cynthia López Castro, MP
2. Ms. Nour Abu Ghosh, MP