SECONDER'S SPEECH ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT THE REPORT BY THE RT. HON DR NELLY B. K. MUTTI, SC, MP, FAPRA, SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA AND THE SADC GROUP'S REPRESENTATIVE IN THE IPU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, ON THE DECISIONS OF THE 301ST SESSION OF THE IPU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON 3RD AND 4TH OCTOBER, 2026, IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA

Mr President,

It is my singular honour and privilege to second the Motion ably moved by the Speaker of the Parliament of Zimbabwe, on behalf of the Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, that this 59th 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.

At the outset, I wish to congratulate Mr Milton Dick, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Australia, on his election as the 32nd President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. I wish him success as he assumes this important responsibility.

I also wish to place on record our sincere appreciation to the outgoing IPU President, Dr Tulia Ackson, for her leadership and dedicated service to the IPU during her three-year term. It is particularly gratifying that her election to the presidency took place within the SADC region, In Luanda, Angola, to be specific, while the handover of the presidency to her successor, also took place within our region, during the 153rd IPU Assembly in Arusha, Tanzania. This is a significant milestone for our region and one that we should collectively appreciate and be proud of.

Mr President,

Needless to state that on account of this historical record and achievement by Dr Ackson, it is my considered view that the Forum should at the next plenary meeting hold a

special session to place on record its appreciation to Dr Ackson.

Allow me to draw the attention of this August gathering to an important development at the 153rd IPU Assembly, namely, the adoption of an emergency item following a period of three years during which no emergency item had been adopted.

This development underscores the importance of consensus-building among the six geopolitical groups. The successful adoption of an emergency item is not merely a question of presenting an issue before the Assembly; it requires strategic engagement, consultations and the ability to build common ground among Member Parliaments from different regions.

In this regard, I wish to emphasise the importance of geopolitical groups remaining vigilant and responsive to developments within their respective regions. It is essential that sub regional groups identify emerging issues of international concern early enough and engage strategically in building consensus around matters that may warrant consideration as emergency items.

Mr President,

Emergency items should be approached strategically. Their consideration should be informed by the urgency and significance of the matter, its international implications and the need for collective parliamentary action. Geopolitical groups, therefore, have an important responsibility to remain informed, coordinated and proactive so that the IPU can respond meaningfully to emerging global challenges.

I also wish to commend the Executive Committee for its continued work in strengthening the effectiveness of the IPU, including matters relating to membership, institutional governance and the implementation of decisions taken by the Assembly and the Governing Council.

Mr President,

I commend the Rt. Hon Dr Nelly B. K. Mutti for her continued representation of the SADC region on the IPU Executive Committee and for presenting this Report to the Plenary Assembly. The Report provides useful insights into the decisions of the Executive Committee and the issues

that require the continued attention and engagement of Member Parliaments.

In conclusion, I urge this Assembly to adopt the report.

Mr President, I thank you