



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA

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**STATEMENT ON THE DECISIONS OF THE 214TH GOVERNING COUNCIL
MEETINGS DURING THE 150TH IPU PLENARY ASSEMBLY AND RELATED
MEETINGS HELD FROM
5TH TO 9TH APRIL, 2025 IN**

TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN

**PRESENTED AT THE 57TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE SADC
PARLIAMENTARY FORUM HELD IN VICTORY FALLS CITY, ZIMBABWE,
FROM 30TH MAY TO 7TH JUNE, 2025**

BY THE

**RT HON MS NELLY BUTETE KASHUMBA MUTTI, SC, MP, FAPRA,
SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ZAMBIA AND
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SADC GROUP TO THE IPU EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

APRIL 2025

SALUTATIONS

1. Your Excellency, Dr Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Chairman of SADC
2. Your Excellency, President of the SADC Parliamentary Forum and Speaker of the National Assembly of Madagascar, Rt Hon. Speaker TOKELY Justin
3. Honourable Speakers of SADC PF Member Parliaments present and Heads of Delegations
4. Honourable Shally Josepha Raymond, Chairperson of the Regional Women's Parliamentary Caucus
5. Honourable Members of Parliament present
6. Your Excellency, the Secretary General of the SADC Parliamentary Forum, Ms Boemo Sekgoma
7. Representatives of Regional Parliaments
8. Clerks and Secretaries General of Member Parliaments
9. Members of the Diplomatic Corps
10. Representatives from Civil Society Organisations and the Press
11. Staff of Member Parliaments and the SADC Parliamentary Forum
12. Distinguished Guests
13. Ladies and Gentlemen

1.0 INTRODUCTION

I am honoured to present a statement on the key outcomes of the 214th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Governing Council meetings, held during the 150th IPU Assembly and its related meetings, in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from 5th to 9th April, 2025.

To provide context, particularly for new members of the Executive Committee (EXCO) and others who may not be fully acquainted with the structure of IPU engagements, the IPU Assembly and its Governing Council meetings are typically preceded by EXCO meetings. These comprise representatives from the six geopolitical groups, and followed by the respective geopolitical meetings.

In view of the foregoing, the SADC geopolitical group meeting took place on Friday, 4th April 2025, and was immediately followed by the Africa Group meeting. The SADC meeting was chaired by the SADC PF Chairperson, with the SADC Secretariat providing logistical and administrative support.

150th IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

The 150th Assembly and related meetings was attended by the following:

- i) 1,500 delegates from 125 Member Parliaments;
- ii) 54 Speakers from Member Parliaments; and
- iii) 20 partner organisations.

Further, three emergency items were presented by the various geopolitical groups, including the Africa group. Unfortunately, none of the Emergency items was adopted as they could not meet the required two-thirds threshold. This is the fourth consecutive IPU meeting without an Emergency item being adopted. I wish to advise the SADC EXCO and the member parliaments to be proactive in preparing emergency items as opposed to doing it during the IPU Assembly. I reckon that the SADC PF Secretariat can play a pivotal role in this matter prior to the Assembly.

2.0 OUTCOMES OF THE 295TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND 214TH MEETING OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

2.1 ACTIVITIES REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT

The Governing Council noted the report by the President of the IPU on the activities undertaken in the last six months. These included meetings in eight countries undertaken with the purpose of fostering the core principles of the IPU.

2.2 IMPACT REPORT BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE ACTIVITIES FOR 2024

The Governing Council noted the impactReport presented by the Secretary General on the activities undertaken in 2024,in line with the fivestrategic objectives of the IPU.The major highlights during the period under review included the following:

- 152 Parliaments out of 190 had endorsed the IPU's Common Principles for support to Parliaments;
- 956 human rights cases were examined by the IPU;
- 1,995 change makers had committed to the IPU's youth campaign;
- 36.1% average proportion of women MPs at IPU Assemblies compared to 35.3% in 2023. (I wish to encourage the SADC Group to ensure that the composition of delegations to IPU meetings are balanced including the young parliamentarians);
- Seventy-eight events were organised during the year under review including two Assemblies and thirty-eight national capacity building activities; and
- the accountability segment response by Member Parliaments increased from 71% in 2023 to 81% in 2024.

2.2.1 REPORTS NOTED BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Governing Council noted reports from the various standing committees of the IPU as well as other key reports as highlighted below.

- i. Working Group on Transparency, Accountability and Openness.
- ii. Report on the Committee on the Middle East Questions.
- iii. Update on IPU's Communication Strategy.
- iv. Cooperation with the United Nations.

The Governing Council also unanimously endorsed the establishment of the Committee on African Affairs aimed at fostering and monitoring peace on the African continent as was the case in the other regions. I wish to emphasise that this is a matter that has been of concern by the Africa Geo political Group for some time. It is hoped that this Committee will facilitate securing peaceful dialogue through parliamentary diplomacy in the various conflict affected areas in Africa and the SADC region in particular.

2.3 QUESTIONS RELATING TO IPU MEMBERSHIP AND THE SITUATION FOR CERTAIN PARLIAMENTS

2.3.1 *IPU Membership from Belize*

The Governing Council approved the request to admit Belize pursuant to Article 26.2(a) of the IPU Statutes and Rules, given that the Parliaments current principles were in line with the general principles of the IPU.

2.3.2 Situation of Certain Parliaments

The Governing Council approved the recommendations by the Executive Committee on the status of the following Parliaments and would continue to monitor the situation in all the countries as follows:

- i. ***Non-Functioning Parliaments*** – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Guinea– Bissau, Haiti, Kuwait, Myanmar, Niger, Sudan and Syrian Arab Republic;
- ii. ***Transitional Parliaments*** –Burkina Faso, Chad (transition now ended), Carbon (progress being made), Guinea, Libya, Mali and South Sudan; and
- iii. ***Countries where the Political Stuation wasImpacting the Functioning of Parliament*** – Palestine, Venezuela (Bolivian Republic) and Yemen.

2.3.3 Associate Members

The Governing Council approved the recommendation by the Executive Committee to suspend the rights of the Andean Parliament and the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa pursuant to Article 5.3 of the IPU Statutes who had accumulated arrears.

2.3.4 Member Parliaments Deprived of Voting Rights

The Governing Council noted that the following countries were at present deprived of voting rights and liable for suspension of full membership rights at the 151st IPU Assembly pursuant to Article 5.2 of the IPU Statutes.

- i. Argentina;
- ii. Bangladesh;
- iii. Ethiopia;
- iv. Guinea;
- v. Lebanon;
- vi. Liberia;
- vii. Marshall Islands;
- viii. Tavula;

2.3.5 Participation in IPU Assemblies

The Governing Council considered and noted the report on the number of countries that were unable to attend IPU meetings and related meetings due to financial difficulties majority of whom were from Small Islands Developing States (SIDS). Further, the Governing Council approved the proposed amendments of the Parliamentary Solidarity Fund (PSF) which sought to enhance the Funds effectiveness in supporting parliaments facing financial challenges. It is my considered view that this support can also be extended to some African countries with financial challenges.

2.3.6 IPU Membership as Permanent Observers

The Governing Council approved the following organisations to be considered as Permanent Observers of the IPU based on their objectives which resonated with the principles of the IPU.

- i. Global Greens.
- ii. World Water Council.

2.4 IPU FINANCIAL REPORT

- **Revenue** - The Governing Council noted the financial statement of the Organisation whose major revenue being from member contributions. A total of 178 MemberParliaments and fifteen associate members were assessed bringing a total of USD 13.2 million. Of this, only USD 1.4 million was not collected mainly attributed to global financial environment coupled with the situation of the Bolivian Republic of Venezuela which owed the organisation a total of USD 800,000.
- The Governing Council also noted that a total of seventy- nine MemberParliaments and Associate Members had outstanding arrears of which thirteen were liable for suspension of all membership rights under Article 5.3 of the IPU Statutes and Rules while 19 were liable for loss of voting rights pursuant to Article 5.2 of the Rules. Membership rights for three-member parliaments, namely Central African Republic, Congo and Haiti were suspended and their arrears amounting to approximately USD 250,000 were written off accordingly.
- With regard to voluntary contributions from donors, the Governing Council noted that this stood at 3.9 million Swiss Francs with donors committing a further 4.6 million Swiss Francs. As of 2024, only 3.1 million Swiss Francs was spent. Some of the organisations and countries that had continued to support the IPU included the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD), Irish Aid, World Health Organisation (WHO), China, Federal National Council of the United Arab Emirates, European Union, etc.
- **Expenditure**—a total of 99.4% of the budget was spent in consonance with the strategic objectives of the organisation while the 0.6% was on other charges.
- **Audited financial statement**—the Governing Council noted the detailed report on the external auditor’s opinion and long form report and audited financial statement for the IPU which was conducted by the Republic of Indonesia for two consecutive years.

2.5 AMENDMENTS TO THE IPU STATUTES AND RULES

The Governing Council approved the draft Statutes and Rules. I was privileged to chair this important subcommittee and I must add that the SADC group was an active participant in making proposed amendments.

2.6 VACANCIES AT THE 150TH ASSEMBLY AND ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following Honourable Members from the SADC Group were elected to various positions as follows:

- i) Vice President of the Executive Committee representing the Africa geopolitical group – **Ms Nelly B K Mutti, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia**. I wish to inform the Members that the Africa geopolitical group is represented by Algeria, Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia on EXCO;
- ii) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians – **Ms M Coulibaly Dao (Cote d'Ivoire)** and **Ms M B Mophuting (Botswana)**;
- iii) Bureau of Young Parliamentarians – **Mr Abdelkader Abderamane Koko (Chad)**;
- iv) Committee to promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law – **Mr A Guenchhouba (Algeria)**;
- v) High Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism – **Mr J Okwisa Makali (Kenya)** and **Ms S Amero (Uganda)**; and
- vi) Working Group on Science and Technology – **Mr K Kamel (Algeria)** and **Ms M Kademaunga (Zimbabwe)**.

2.7 FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE IPU

The Governing Council approved the schedule of future meetings and other specialised meetings of the IPU aligned within the strategic objectives of the organisation. Some of the key meetings were as follows:

- i. 151st Assembly and related meetings – Geneva, 19th to 23rd October, 2025;
- ii. 152nd Assembly and related meetings – Geneva, 22nd to 26th March, 2026;
- iii. 153rd Assembly and related meetings – venue and dates to be confirmed;
- iv. 15th Summit of Women Speakers – Geneva, 28th July, 2025; and
- v. Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament – Geneva, 29th to 31st July, 2025.

2.8 ISSUES RELATING TO THE PRESIDENTS OFFICE

- The Governing Council unanimously approved the adjusted conditions of service for the Presidency of the IPU aimed at supporting the office in the discharge of the mandate. The administrative arrangements to support the presidency were aimed at strengthening the support system for the Presidency as well as allocate adequate financial support.

2.9 RECRUITMENT OF THE NEW SECRETARY GENERAL

- The Governing Council was briefed on the recruitment process of the New Secretary General for the organisation following the successive completion of the two-term mandate by the current Secretary General pursuant to Article 27 of the Statutes. The selection process for the SG position commences fifteen months before the elections by secret ballot. The Governing Council was expected to elect the new SG by July, 2026.
- The full details for the procedure and process for the recruitment of the SG for the IPU is provided in the Annex of the IPU Statutes and Rules. Member Parliaments with suitable candidates are encouraged to inform their respective nationals to apply for this prestigious position.

2.10 IPU 2025 CREMER – PASSY PRIZE

The 2025 Cremer – Passy Prize winner will be linked to exceptional records on gender equality. The meeting may wish to note that during the 149th IPU Assembly, the Governing Council approved amendments to the rules for consideration by governing bodies as highlighted below.

- i) Extension of the deadline for the submission of nominees from 30th April, to 30th June, in order to give the geo political groups adequate time to consult on possible nominees.
- ii) Replacement of the current system of a primary candidate and alternate per group with one male and one female nomination with the view to making the pool of twelve candidates gender equal.
- iii) Removal of the criterion on grass roots support as it was subjective to evaluate.

The nominations for the prize should be submitted through the six geo political groups on 30th June, 2025 and may have two nominations, a male and female. The geo political groups will also be expected to provide a cover letter stating the reasons why the parliamentarian deserves the award. The prize will be awarded at the 151st Assembly in October, 2025.

3.0 CONCLUSION

Let me once again place on record my gratitude for being privileged to represent the SADC Group on EXCO for IPU. I believe that this detailed report will help member parliaments to take stock of emerging issues at the Inter Parliamentary Union.

I thank you all.