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## Video message by Dr. Tulia Ackson, IPU President

9th MIKTA Speakers' Consultation  
Strengthening Multilateralism, Addressing Intergenerational Challenges

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Excellencies Speakers of the Parliaments of the MIKTA countries,  
Honourable parliamentarians and colleagues,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and a privilege to address you today. Let me start by thanking Madam Speaker Maharani for this invitation to share some thoughts about the role of parliaments in bolstering global governance, strengthening multilateralism, and tackling intergenerational challenges.

When most of us hear the words “multilateralism”, “diplomacy”, and “global governance”, images of diplomats, ambassadors, and Heads of State speaking against a green marble background at the UN come to mind. Indeed, we think about New York, Geneva, Nairobi, and Vienna. We picture officials negotiating peace processes, trade agreements, and international treaties. Traditional diplomacy is a noble calling, and actions taken by diplomats are of critical significance.

However, diplomacy and multilateralism do not and *should not* end there: it is clear that in the twenty-first century, global governance does not equate to traditional intergovernmental relations. Rather, multilateral outcomes are determined by a complex interplay of actors in a dynamic, interconnected, and globalised world in which decisions impact individuals, economies, and ecosystems all over the planet, extending beyond national borders.

In light of this global complexity and given our role as representatives of the people, parliamentarians' participation in multilateral matters is critical to ensuring that international outputs are adequately rooted the needs and requirements of our citizens. In other words, parliamentary diplomacy must be vigorously pursued if we believe that global governance ought to be democratic and inclusive, the two IPU core values embedded in the Organization's motto: *For democracy. For everyone.*

Let me commend you in this regard, as your engagement in this 9th Speakers' Consultation is a testament to your work and efforts to incorporate a robust parliamentary dimension to the important work of the MIKTA partnership. This goes hand in hand with the IPU's core mission of bringing parliamentarians' voices to the world stage, multilateral processes, and fora such as the UN, the G20, and the WTO.

Indeed, I want to emphasise that MPs are key players that connect the global to the local, translating international commitments into national realities and holding their governments to the highest standard of accountability when it comes to upholding and implementing global agreements.

Less than a month ago, we met in Angola and adopted the Luanda Declaration, which made that message very clear: strong institutions and good governance enable the effective policymaking necessary to achieve all the Sustainable Development Goals. And as members of parliaments – to cite the Declaration – “*the buck stops with us*”. We must be at the forefront of much-needed governance reforms, ensuring transparency, accountability, and restoring trust in our institutions.

Distinguished colleagues,

As members of parliament, we are close not only to our people back home but also to lawmakers across the globe. The hopes of our communities have far more in common than some would have us believe, and we know that by coming together and fostering trust, we can discover solutions that benefit everyone. As I hope I have managed to convey, I feel very strongly about the need for parliamentary diplomacy in the modern world.

Let me briefly give you the relevant example of climate change, as I know you are addressing this topic in your discussions. On this critical issue, the role of parliament is indispensable.

It has been eight years since the Paris Agreement was signed. And yet, we are not close to meeting the emissions reduction targets established for 2030. It is abundantly clear that we are veering off course. According to meteorologists, this summer season was one of the warmest on record. There were record-breaking heat waves, extensive drought, heavy storms, floods, and devastating wildfires throughout the world.

The IPU has launched its *Parliaments for the Planet* campaign to turn words into action: by effectively utilising our core legislative, oversight, budgetary, and representation functions, MPs can play a huge part in tackling climate change. We have the ability to transform international climate change commitments like the Paris Agreement into tangible laws and policies within our respective countries. We have the ability to effectively advocate for the interests of our constituents who are most impacted by climate change. We have the ability to guarantee that national budgets prioritise climate action and allocate sufficient funds towards mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, and investment in green technologies.

And the IPU is here to support you in your efforts. We will continue to foster exchanges of good practices and experiences among parliaments and collaborate with partners and climate experts to equip parliamentarians with the tools they need to help reduce global warming and achieve international climate agreement obligations. In this regard, I would like to reiterate our standing invitation to the Annual Parliamentary Hearing at COP, which will take place on December 6, in Dubai.

Dear friends,

The issues we face will affect the world for generations to come. Although we all have a stake in these, the people that will be most impacted by our action – or inaction – are young people and future generations. Young people have an indelible right to be included in decisions about their futures.

But this is more than just about rights. To confront these issues, we also need all the talent, energy, and innovation that we can muster to come up with solutions. As digital natives born into modern technologies, young people are one of our greatest resources. So youth participation and intergenerational dialogue are not only the right things to work for, but they are smart things as well.

Parliaments have so much potential to be vehicles for this inclusion. But unfortunately, we are very far from where we need to be. The IPU's youth report released last month shows that despite half the world being under 30 years of age, less than 3% of the world's MPs are under 30. 39% of chambers of parliament have no MPs under 30. And young women are doubly discriminated. Only 1.4% of world MPs are women under 30.

We can, and must, do better.

This also is why the IPU launched the “*I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!*” Campaign. It is to propel an intergenerational movement of changemakers of all ages. It proposes a series of practical solutions that parliaments can take, such as adopting youth quotas, lowering the age of eligibility for office, and empowering young MPs and those aspiring to hold office. It also calls for more youth caucuses in parliament. I am happy to see that MIKTA is examining this issue at this meeting.

Special attention must also be paid to promoting more young women into politics, which is why IPU and the United Nations produced a *Call to action on women’s political participation and leadership*. By further nurturing young women’s political aspirations, supporting young women candidates, and empowering them once in office, we can also make our parliaments more effective in improving the lives of all.

Dear Speakers of MIKTA,

You have gathered to ponder some crucial and pressing matters: How do parliaments fit into the evolving global governance scene? What is our role in shaping a world that’s fair, sustainable, and harnesses the power of youth?

The essence of your response lies in your collective ability to listen, engage, and act decisively. As the voices of people from all corners of the world, you are uniquely positioned to channel the diversity and richness of perspectives that make up our global community. Your role transcends the traditional boundaries of governance; you empower, inspire, and forge paths towards inclusive and sustainable development.

Thank you once again for this opportunity to speak before you. I wish you a day rich in dialogue, insights, and positive outcomes, and I look forward to greeting you in person in the very near future.