

# Report on the Participation of the Bhutanese Delegation in the 152nd Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly

Istanbul, Türkiye | 15-19 April 2026



## 1. Introduction

A delegation from the Parliament of Bhutan participated in the 152nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and its associated meetings held in Istanbul, Türkiye, from 15 to 19 April 2026.

The Assembly convened under the theme “**Nurturing hope, securing peace, and ensuring justice for future generations.**” It brought together parliamentarians from across the world to deliberate on pressing global challenges, strengthen parliamentary diplomacy, and promote peace, justice, and sustainable development.

## 2. Composition of the Delegation

The Nine Member Bhutanese delegation was led by the **Hon’ble Speaker H.E Lungten Dorji** of the National Assembly, who also Chaired the Asia-Pacific Group (APG), accompanied by the following Hon’ble Members of Parliament and officials from the National Assembly

1. **Hon’ble Ugyen Tshering**, National Council, Paro Dzongkhag
2. **Hon’ble Tshering Wangchen**, National Council, Monggar Dzongkha
3. **Hon’ble Namgay Dorji**, National Assembly, Draagteng–Langthil, Trongsa
4. **Hon’ble Dorji Wangmo**, National Assembly, Khengkhar–Weringla, Monggar
5. **Hon’ble Namgay Dorji**, National Assembly, Khamdang–Ramjar, Trashiyangtse
6. **Mr. Rinchen Dorji**, Secretary General, National Assembly Secretariat
7. **Mrs. Sonam Lhamo**, Chief, Information and Communication Division, National Assembly Secretariat
8. **Mrs. Namgay Pem**, Human Resource Assistant, National Assembly Secretariat

## 3. Participation in the General Debate, Key meetings and Engagements

During the General Debate, the Hon’ble Speaker, H.E Lungten Dorji, delivered his address reaffirming the country’s strong commitment to multilateralism, the principles of the United Nations Charter, and a rules-based international order.

The statement emphasized that in the face of growing global uncertainty, nurturing hope must be grounded in responsible leadership and collective action. Drawing on Bhutan’s development philosophy of Gross National Happiness (GNH), the Hon’ble Speaker highlighted: A people-centered approach to governance; The importance of wellbeing and environmental sustainability; Inclusive and balanced socio-economic development.

The address further highlighted Bhutan's commitment to intergenerational responsibility, ensuring that policy decisions safeguard the rights and opportunities of future generations.

Bhutan also highlighted efforts to strengthen public trust in democratic institutions through transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement, including initiatives to enhance women's representation and youth participation. (Address attached in Annexure I)



*H.E Lungten Dorji, delivering his address in the General Assembly*

### **3.1. Asia-Pacific Group (APG) Meeting**

Bhutan, in its capacity as Chair of the Asia Pacific Group, successfully convened and presided over the APG meeting. In his opening remark, the Hon'ble Speaker of the Parliament of Bhutan, welcomed members and thanked them for their trust in Bhutan to lead the Group.

The Chair expressed appreciation to the outgoing Chair, Tian Xuejun, for his leadership and contributions.

The Chair highlighted the diversity of the region and emphasized the importance of unity, inclusiveness, and equal participation of all member states. It was noted that the Group's collective voice is important in global parliamentary discussions.

Members were briefly guided through the agenda, including adoption of agenda and minutes, briefings from the Executive Committee, regional updates,

consideration of vacancies, emergency items, and hearing with candidates for the Secretary-General of the IPU.

The Chair underscored the need for fairness, consensus, and balanced representation in decision-making, and reaffirmed Bhutan's commitment to leading with impartiality and openness.

The remarks concluded with a call for constructive discussions in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect

Key outcomes included:

- Adoption of the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting
- Briefings from APG representatives to the Executive Committee
- Consideration of vacancies to IPU bodies
- Consideration of emergency items
- Interaction with candidates for the post of Secretary-General of the IPU
- Presentation of sub-regional reports including ASEAN Plus Three

Bhutan emphasized inclusivity, consensus-building, gender balance, and equitable representation. Hon'ble Dorji Wangmo, Member from Kengkhar-Werringla constituency was also nominated to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians from the Asia Pacific Group.

Bhutan will also be chairing the next meeting to be held in Aurusha, Tanzania before it hands over to the next Chair in alphabetical order as per the APG Rules

*( Opening Remark by the Hon Speaker and Draft minutes of the meeting attached in Annexure II and Annexure III respectively)*



*H.E Lungten Dorji Chairing the Asia Pacific Group Meeting*



*Delegation attending the Asia Pacific Group Meeting*



*H.E Lungten Dorji with former Chair of the APG H.E. Tian Xuejun, China*

### **3.2. General Debate Chairing**

The Hon'ble Speaker also chaired a segment of the General Debate on 17 April 2026, demonstrating Bhutan's active leadership role within the Assembly.



*H.E. Lungten Dorji Chairing a segment of the General Debate*

### **3.3 Meeting of Chairs of Geopolitical Groups**

Hon'ble Speaker, His Excellency Lungten Dorji also attended the meeting of the Chairs of the six Geopolitical groups of the IPU held on 15 April 2026 following

the meeting of the APG. In the meeting, His Excellency reported on the outcome of the Asia Pacific Group meeting.



*H.E Lungten Dorji presenting the report of the APG to the Meeting of Chairs of IPU geopolitical groups*

As Chair of the APG, Hon'ble Speaker H.E. Lungten Dorji also delivered a farewell note to the outgoing Secretary General of the IPU, Martin Chungong, at a ceremony held on 19 April 2026 in Istanbul. He paid tribute to Chungong's 12 years of exemplary leadership, highlighting his role in strengthening parliamentary diplomacy, promoting democratic governance, and expanding the IPU's global engagement, particularly with the United Nations and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Speaker noted Chungong's strong commitment to inclusivity, especially in advancing gender equality and youth participation, and acknowledged his direct support to Bhutan through the IPU's Gender Partnership Programme. He also praised Chungong's integrity, humility, and dedication to dialogue, stating that he leaves behind a stronger, more inclusive, and more relevant IPU. The address concluded with sincere gratitude and best wishes for his future endeavors.

The Hon'ble Speaker also congratulated the Secretary General-elect, Ms. Anda Filip, on her appointment and reaffirmed his commitment to working closely together in the future. He further expressed sincere gratitude to the host country, Türkiye, for its warm hospitality, excellent reception, and the outstanding organization and support provided throughout the Assembly.

*(Farewell Speech Annexed as Annexure IV)*



*H.E Lungten Dorji delivering his farewell address to the outgoing Secretary General Martin Chungong on the final day of the IPU*

### **3.3. Accountability Segment**

Bhutan was featured in the Accountability Segment of the General Debate held on 18 April 2026 in partnership with the World Future Council.



*Hon'ble Ugyen Tshering delivering his intervention*

Bhutan's Biodiversity Act of 2003 (amended in 2022) was highlighted as a best practice. Hon'ble Ugyen Tshering from the National Council delivered an intervention, followed by a video presentation showcasing the Act's impact and significance.

## **4. Forums and Standing Committees**

### **4.1. Forum of Young Members of Parliament**

Hon'ble Tshering Wangchen, from the National Council attended the Forum of Young Members of Parliament. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians convened on 16 April 2026 to deliberate on key issues relating to youth engagement in parliamentary processes. The Forum reviewed global and national progress on youth participation, drawing on insights from the IPU's latest report, and discussed ongoing challenges and recommendations to strengthen youth inclusion.

Members exchanged views to contribute a youth perspective to the 152nd Assembly, including inputs to draft resolutions on post-conflict peacebuilding and the promotion of a fair and sustainable global economy.

The Forum also initiated preparations for the 153rd Assembly by considering the appointment of a rapporteur to develop a youth overview report on inclusive social development, particularly focusing on the rights and empowerment of persons with disabilities. Members provided preliminary recommendations to guide this work.

Additionally, the Forum paid tribute to the outgoing IPU Secretary General and held a hearing with candidates for the position. Other matters were discussed under any other business.

### **4.2. Forum for Women Parliamentarians**

Hon'ble Dorji Wangmo and Hon'ble Namgay Dorji attended the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.

The 41st Session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was held on 15 April 2026, bringing together both women and men MPs to advance gender equality in parliamentary work. The session opened with welcoming remarks and the election of the President for the 41st Session of the Forum, followed by the adoption of the agenda.

Participants were briefed on ongoing efforts to promote gender equality, including the work of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, the Gender Partnership Group, and related IPU initiatives.

The Forum contributed to the 152nd Assembly by reviewing draft resolutions on post-conflict peacebuilding and building a fair and sustainable global economy

from a gender perspective. Members worked in groups to develop recommendations and propose gender-responsive amendments for submission to the respective Standing Committees.

A panel discussion highlighted the growing impact of conflicts on women and girls, emphasizing increased violence, inequality, and limited participation in peace processes. Participants exchanged views on immediate and long-term measures to protect rights, combat gender-based violence, and strengthen women's role in peacebuilding.

The Forum also held a hearing with candidates for the position of IPU Secretary General and conducted elections to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians. Hon'ble Dorji Wangmo was nominated from the Asia-Pacific Group to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians; the nomination was received by the Forum for Women Parliamentarians and endorsed by the Assembly.

The Bureau of Women Parliamentarians ensures that gender equality and women's issues remain central to the IPU's work. It organizes the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, promotes women's participation in leadership roles, and develops programmes to strengthen gender awareness within the organization.

Established in 1990, the Bureau is composed of representatives from all geopolitical groups. It includes a President and two Vice-Presidents, and plays a key role in guiding gender-related initiatives and reporting to the Governing Council.



*Hon'ble Dorji Wangmo and Hon'ble Namgay Dorji at the Forum for Women Parliamentarians*



*Bureau of Women Parliamentarians*

Hon'ble Dorji Wangmo also attended the Second Sitting of the 55th Session of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians on 18 April 2026, which discussed the

provisional agenda and preparation of the 42nd Session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians (October 2026) and provisional agenda and preparations of the 56th Session of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians (October 2027), among others.

## 5. Bilateral Engagements

The delegation also held bilateral meetings with: Nepal and Thailand and also interacted with other parliamentary counterparts, strengthening cooperation and parliamentary diplomacy.



*H.E. Lungten Dorji with the Delegation from Bangladesh*



*H.E Lungten Dorji with Speaker of Australian Federal Parliament H.E Milton*



*With H.E. Mr. Mongkol Surasajja, President of the Senate, Leader of the delegation from National Assembly of Thailand*



*With the Nepalese Delegation*



*H.E Lungten Dorji with H.E Numan Kurtulmuş, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey*

## **6. Association of Secretaries General of Parliament (ASGP )**

On the sidelines, the Secretary General of the National Assembly also participated in meetings of the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP), which focuses on enhancing parliamentary administration through international cooperation and exchange of best practices. *(Report on the meeting attached as Annexure V )*



*Group work in session in the ASGP*

## 5. Key Outcomes of the Assembly

### 5.1 Adoption of Resolutions

The 152nd IPU adopted the following resolutions :

1. Resolution - The role of parliaments in establishing robust post-conflict management mechanisms and restoring a just and lasting peace . *The resolution calls for nationally led peacebuilding rooted in United Nations principles; holistic recovery for institutions and economies; reconciliation and dialogue; and protection of women, youth and displaced persons.*
2. Resolution - Building a fair and sustainable global economy: The role of parliaments in combating protectionism, reducing tariffs and preventing corporate tax avoidance *The Resolution urges parliaments to fight protectionism, tax dodging by multinationals, and inequality. It calls for reform of the World Trade Organization and digital trade equity.*
3. Resolution - The urgent need for concerted parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and support peacebuilding in the Middle East and other regions  
Motion - Advancing parliamentary action on artificial intelligence.*It condemns systematic breaches of international humanitarian law including civilian attacks and aid blockages.*
4. The Assembly also adopted the **IPU Strategy for 2027-2031**  
The IPU Strategy for 2027-2031 ultimately aims to support democratic parliaments that work together for the people through three inter-connected objectives:
  - Building strong and inclusive parliaments
  - Facilitating parliamentary diplomacy, dialogue and joint action
  - Strengthening the IPU as a responsive and accountable organization

It emphasizes deeper engagement within the parliamentary ecosystem and leverage of digital and communication tools, including responsible use of artificial intelligence.

The Strategy is underpinned by IPU policy work on peace and security, democracy, human rights, sustainable development, climate action, gender equality, and youth participation.

## 5.2 Election of the Secretary General

The IPU elected its ninth Secretary General Ms. Anda Filip, from Romania at the 152nd IPU Assembly on 19 April 2026. She will succeed Martin Chungong of Cameroon, whose third and final term ends on 30 June 2026. She is the first woman to hold the post in the IPU's 137-year history.

Anda Filip of Romania has worked at the IPU for over 20 years, and has been Director for Member Parliaments and External Relations since 2011.



*Casting secret ballots for election of Secretary General of the IPU*

*Casting secret ballots for election of Secretary General of the IPU*

The **Secretary General** serves as the Chief Executive of the Organization, overseeing the management of the Secretariat and reporting directly to the IPU Governing Council. Together with the President, the Secretary General helps to shape and carry out the IPU's strategic plans, guided by the Executive Committee.

The Secretary General is elected for a four-year term, renewable twice, and serves as the IPU's chief executive. The post carries responsibility for managing the Secretariat, principally based at the IPU's headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and reporting to the IPU's governing bodies.

There have been eight Secretaries General since the IPU was founded in 1889.



*Newly elected Secretary General Ms. Anda Filip flanked by outgoing Secretary General Martin Chungong and Tulia Ackson President of the IPU*

### **5.3 Emergency Items**

The Assembly voted on three proposals for emergency items addressing The urgent need for concerted parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and support peacebuilding in the Middle East and other regions mainly:

**1. Condemnation of the attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran against the Gulf Cooperation Council States and Jordan**

Request submitted by the delegation of Bahrain delegations of Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (12 April 2026)

**2. The urgent need for concerted parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and support peacebuilding in the Middle East and other regions**

Request submitted by the delegations of Qatar, Australia, Türkiye, France, Brazil, Zambia, Poland, Portugal and Italy, with the support of the Arab Group, the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean and the African Group and Poland (13 April 2026)

3. Condemnation of military aggression and acts of terrorism against the Islamic Republic of Iran by the United States of America and Israel, including those involving the use of foreign military bases in the Persian Gulf countries

Request submitted by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (15 April 2026)

The third emergency item, submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran, was withdrawn. Following the vote on the remaining two emergency items, the proposal submitted by Bahrain failed to secure the required two-thirds majority, receiving 203 votes in favour, 415 against, and 752 abstentions.

The second proposal was subsequently endorsed for debate after securing the necessary two-thirds majority, with 1,316 votes in favour, 3 against, and 51 abstentions.

## **7. Bhutan's Contributions and Future Recommendations**

Bhutan made significant contributions to the Assembly by:

- Effectively chairing the Asia-Pacific Group for the first time
- Chairing a session of the General Debate
- Contributing to key discussions and committee deliberations
- Showcasing Bhutan's development philosophy and environmental leadership
- Highlighting Bhutan's status as a carbon-negative country and its constitutional commitment to maintaining at least 60 percent forest cover

## **8. Recommendations and Way Forward**

### **1. Enhance engagement in Standing Committees and Forums**

Encourage more active and strategic participation of Bhutanese delegates in IPU Standing Committees. Early preparation, technical inputs, and coordinated positions will enable Bhutan to contribute meaningfully to global parliamentary discourse and influence outcomes.

It is recommended that a dedicated core group consistently attend IPU meetings to ensure continuity, deepen institutional understanding, and enhance Bhutan's ability to effectively leverage its participation.

## **2. Continue proactive leadership within the Asia-Pacific Group**

Sustain and build on Bhutan's constructive role within the Asia-Pacific Group by actively contributing to group positions, fostering consensus, and pursuing leadership opportunities where appropriate.

## **3. Leverage IPU platforms to advance Bhutan's development priorities**

Utilize IPU forums to highlight Bhutan's development philosophy and priorities, including Gross National Happiness, sustainable development, and climate resilience. Strategic engagement can help mobilize partnerships, enhance visibility, and strengthen parliamentary diplomacy

## **4. Establish a permanent IPU secretariat unit within the Parliament.**

In light of the increasing scope of engagement and Bhutan's expanding role within the IPU, there is a clear need to establish a dedicated IPU coordination office in both Houses, led by the National Assembly of Bhutan.

A joint secretariat mechanism would:

- Ensure continuous and coordinated communication with the IPU Secretariat
- Enhance understanding of IPU rules, procedures, and processes, enabling more effective participation
- Support bilateral engagements and parliamentary diplomacy efforts on the sidelines of IPU events
- Promote Bhutan's interests more strategically in the international political arena
- Strengthen institutional memory and consistency in engagement
- Improve awareness and preparedness of Members of Parliament regarding IPU functions, opportunities, and obligations

## **5. Strengthen budget planning and allocation for IPU engagement**

In view of the expanding scope of participation in Inter-Parliamentary Union activities, budget provisions for Members' participation in IPU Standing Committees, the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, and related engagements should be duly taken into consideration during the annual budget planning process, to support more consistent and effective participation.

## 8. Conclusion

The 153rd Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly is scheduled to be held in Arusha , Tanzania from October 5–9, 2026.

Prepared and submitted by

Sonam Lhamo  
Delegation Secretary  
27 April 2026

Endorsed by

H.E Lungten Dorji  
**Speaker**

## ***Annexures***

Annexure I -Address by H. E Lungten Dorji in the General Assembly

Annexure II- Address by H.E Lungten Dorji, Chair of APG

Annexure III- Asia-Pacific Group Meeting Draft Minutes

Annexure IV- Farewell Speech for Outgoing Secretary General by H.E Lungten Dorji as Chair of APG

Annexure V - Report by the Secretary General on the ASGP meetings

## **Annexure I - Address by H.E Lungten Dorji in the General Assembly**

**Madam President,  
Excellencies,**

**Mr. Secretary General,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

On behalf of the Parliament and the people of the Kingdom of Bhutan, I extend my sincere appreciation to our gracious hosts—the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye—and to the Inter-Parliamentary Union for convening this Assembly under the timely theme: *“Nurturing hope, securing peace, and ensuring justice for future generations.”*

We meet at a time of profound global uncertainty. Conflicts, geopolitical tensions, economic instability, and climate pressures are affecting not only nations in crisis, but also ordinary people everywhere. For developing countries, these challenges are especially severe—driving rising costs of living, food insecurity, and increasing pressure on livelihoods.

In such times, hope must not remain an aspiration—it must become a responsibility of leadership, anchored in action.

Bhutan reaffirms its strong commitment to multilateralism, the United Nations Charter, and the rules-based international order as essential foundations for peace and stability.

For Bhutan, hope is grounded in values. Guided by our philosophy of Gross National Happiness, we measure progress not only by economic growth, but by the wellbeing of our people, the strength of our communities, and harmony with nature. This reflects our deep commitment to intergenerational responsibility—ensuring that the decisions we take today safeguard the future.

In our Parliament, these values are put into practice through transparency, accountability, and inclusive representation. We are working to strengthen public trust in democratic institutions, which remains essential for peace, social cohesion, and long-term stability.

We are also advancing inclusion. Bhutan is taking steps to enhance women’s representation in Parliament and to promote greater participation of young people in democratic processes—recognizing that they must help shape the future they will inherit.

Parliament plays a critical oversight role in upholding integrity. Independent constitutional bodies report annually to Parliament, reinforcing transparency, accountability, and the rule of law.

Bhutan also values parliamentary diplomacy. Through dialogue and cooperation, we seek to promote mutual understanding and contribute to collective solutions in an increasingly divided world.

Ensuring justice for future generations requires forward-looking action. Bhutan's constitutional mandate to maintain at least 60 percent forest cover reflects our strong commitment to environmental stewardship. As a carbon-negative country, we continue to demonstrate that conservation and development can go hand in hand.

We are also addressing emerging challenges, including rapid technological change. Bhutan is advancing a human-centered and responsible approach to artificial intelligence, ensuring that innovation remains ethical, safe, and aligned with human wellbeing.

### **Excellencies,**

The challenges we face—poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, and technological disruption—require collective and forward-looking solutions. Bhutan remains committed to contributing to global efforts, including the UN Pact for the Future and the Declaration on Future Generations.

As parliamentarians, we must lead with wisdom, solidarity, and compassion.

Bhutan may be small, but under the enlightened leadership of His Majesty the King, we remain steadfast in our belief that a peaceful and just future must be built on human dignity, environmental responsibility, and shared purpose.

Let us reaffirm our common responsibility: to nurture hope through accountable governance, to secure peace through dialogue, and to ensure justice through forward-looking action.

Let us act with urgency and unity—for the choices we make today will define the world of tomorrow.

**Thank you.**

## Annexure II- Opening Remark by H.E Lungten Dorji, Chair of APG

**Opening Remarks by the Hon'ble Speaker of the Parliament of Bhutan  
Chair of the Asia Pacific Group  
Asia Pacific Group Meeting  
152nd IPU Assembly, 15 April 2026 9:30-11:00 am, Istanbul, Türkiye**

Excellencies,

Honourable Speakers and Distinguished Delegates, Dear Colleagues,

A very good morning to you all.

It is a great honour for Bhutan to chair the Asia Pacific Group for the first time. I sincerely thank all members for the trust and confidence placed in us. We accept this responsibility with humility and with a strong commitment to serve the interests of our region.

At the outset, I would like to express our deep appreciation to the outgoing Chair **Honorable Mr. Tian Xuejun**, for his dedicated leadership of the Group. Under his guidance, the Asia Pacific Group continued to engage constructively within the IPU and maintained strong coordination among members. We thank **Honorable Mr. Tian Xuejun**, for his steady stewardship and valuable contribution to our collective work.

Colleagues,

The Asia Pacific region represents extraordinary diversity in culture, history, political systems and levels of development. Yet we are united by common aspirations for peace, prosperity and stability. Our region carries significant weight within the IPU, and our collective voice has the potential to shape global parliamentary dialogue in meaningful ways.

As Chair, Bhutan will work to ensure that our Group remains inclusive, respectful and united. Every member state, regardless of size, must have the opportunity to contribute fully to our discussions. Our strength lies in our ability to listen to one another and to find common ground where possible.

Allow me to briefly refer to today's agenda which has been shared earlier.

We will begin with the adoption of the agenda, followed by the adoption of the minutes of our previous meeting held during the 151st Assembly in Geneva. I hope we can proceed smoothly on these procedural matters.

We will then receive a briefing from our members serving on the IPU Executive Committee. Their updates are important for keeping our Group informed of developments within the organization and for ensuring that our regional perspectives are well reflected in Executive Committee deliberations.

We will also hear a report from the ASEAN Plus Three Group meeting. Regional coordination within sub groupings contributes positively to our broader cooperation within the Asia Pacific Group.

Another important item before us is the consideration of vacancies to be filled during this Assembly. I encourage members to approach this discussion in a spirit of fairness, balance and consensus, with due regard to equitable geographical representation and gender balance.

We will also consider requests for the inclusion of Emergency Items in the Assembly agenda and discuss the nomination for the Drafting Committee on the Emergency Item. These decisions are significant, as they reflect how our region responds to urgent global concerns.

We will also hear from the candidates shortlisted for the position of Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). Each candidate will be allotted three minutes to present their vision and proposed contributions, followed by two minutes for questions and interaction with members of the Group. I take this opportunity to wish all candidates every success.

Further, the co-Rapporteurs Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia), Mr. J.M.R. Edwards (Chile) and Ms. J. Sabao (Zambia) will also briefly present on the draft resolution on Building a fair and sustainable global economy: the role of parliaments in combating protectionism, reducing tariffs and preventing corporate tax avoidance on behalf of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development on draft resolution.

Excellencies,

Bhutan will carry out its role as Chair with impartiality and openness. Our aim is to facilitate dialogue, strengthen coordination and uphold the unity of our Group.

I look forward to constructive and productive discussions this morning. Let us continue to work together in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect.

Thank you.

## **Annexure III- Asia-Pacific Group Meeting Draft Minutes**

**Asia-Pacific Group Meeting at the 152nd IPU Assembly  
Wednesday, 15 April 2026**

**9:30 am - 11.00 am**

**Garden 2, floor M, Hilton Bomonti Conference Centre  
Istanbul, Türkiye**

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### **DRAFT MINUTES**

The Chair, Hon'ble Lungten Dorji, Speaker of the National Assembly of Bhutan, opened the meeting at 9:40 am.

In attendance: Australia, Afghanistan , Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, China, Fiji, Iran, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Maldives, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Timor Leste, Thailand, VietNam

#### **1. Opening remarks by the Chairperson of the Asia-Pacific Group**

The Hon'ble Speaker of the Parliament of Bhutan, Chair of the Asia Pacific Group at the 152nd Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly, welcomed members and thanked them for their trust in Bhutan to lead the Group.

The Chair expressed appreciation to the outgoing Chair, H.E Tian Xuejun, for his leadership and contributions.

The Chair highlighted the diversity of the region and emphasized the importance of unity, inclusiveness, and equal participation of all member states. It was noted that the Group's collective voice is important in global parliamentary discussions.

Members were briefly guided through the agenda, including adoption of agenda and minutes, briefings from the Executive Committee, regional updates, consideration of vacancies, emergency items, and hearing with candidates for the Secretary-General of the IPU.

The Chair underscored the need for fairness, consensus, and balanced representation in decision-making, and reaffirmed Bhutan's commitment to leading with impartiality and openness.

The remarks concluded with a call for constructive discussions in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect

**2. Adoption of the agenda**

The meeting adopted the Agenda for the meeting without any changes.

**3. Adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting held at the 151st IPU Assembly in Geneva, on 19 October 2025**

The minutes of the APG meeting held in Geneva that was circulated by the Chinese delegation was adopted as no amendments were received.

**4. Briefing by the Asia-Pacific Group Members of the IPU Executive Committee (Hon'ble Milton Dick, Speaker, Australia )**

Hon'ble Milton Dick, Speaker , Australian Federal Parliament reported on the activities of the Executive Committee .

**5. Report of the ASEAN+3 Group meeting (Hon. Assist. Prof. Nopadol IN-NA, Thai delegation)**

The delegation of Thailand presented a report on the ASEAN Plus Three Group Meeting held on 15 April 2026, prior to the Asia-Pacific Group Meeting, during the 152nd Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly.

The meeting was attended by delegations from 10 member countries. The Group adopted its agenda and the minutes of the previous meeting held during the 151st Assembly in Geneva.

The Group considered vacancies to be filled during the Assembly but did not nominate any candidates for the six IPU bodies.

The Group did not propose any emergency item for inclusion in the Assembly agenda.

The meeting also noted the handover of the ASEAN Plus Three chairmanship from Thailand to Viet Nam, which will chair the Group at the 153rd IPU Assembly in Tanzania.

The report concluded with an expression of support for continued cooperation and constructive engagement within the Asia-Pacific Group.

## **6. Vacancies to be filled during the 152nd IPU Assembly**

The APG endorsed the following nominations from the APG for the vacancies to be filled in the 152nd IPU for the Standing Committee on United Nations and Bureau of Women Parliamentary.

1. Standing Committee on United Nations - Ms. SOMAYEH RAFIEI , Islamic Parliament of Iran
2. Bureau of Women Parliamentarian - Ms. DORJI WANGMO , National Assembly of Bhutan .

The following nominations were submitted in individual capacity.

3. Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law- Mr. ALI ASHGAR Bagherzadhe, , IRAN (submitted in individual capacity)
4. Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians - Mr. MANOUCHEHR MOTTAKI Islamic Parliament of Iran (Submitted in individual capacity )

## **7. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of Emergency Items in the Assembly agenda**

The meeting was informed of two emergency items in the Assembly Agenda by Australia and Iran

1. The urgent need for concerted parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and support peacebuilding. Request submitted by the delegations of Qatar, Australia, Türkiye, France, Brazil, Zambia, with the support of the Arab Group, the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, the African Group and Poland (13 April 2026)
2. Condemnation of military aggression and acts of terrorism against the Islamic Republic of Iran by the United States of America and Israel, including those involving the use of foreign military bases in the Persian Gulf countries. Request submitted by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (15 April 2026)

**8. Nomination for the Drafting Committee on the Emergency Item**

The APG endorsed the nominations of the following two candidates to the Drafting Committee on Emergency Items.

1. Senator Andrew McLachlan, Australian Federal Parliament
2. Mr. Abbas GOLROU / Iranian MP

**9. Hearing of the candidates for the Position of Secretary General of the IPU**

The APG conducted hearings for the following candidates for the position of the Secretary General of the IPU.

1. Ms. Dionysia-Theodora Avgerinopoulou- Greece
2. Ms. Anda Philip, Romania
3. Ms. Fato Dieng Thiam, Senegal
4. Ms. Cecilia Widegren, Sweden

**10 Presentation by the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development**

A brief Presentation by the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development on draft resolution; Building a fair and sustainable global economy: the role of parliaments in combating protectionism, reducing tariffs and preventing corporate tax avoidance was also made to the Group by Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia).

**11. Any Other Business**

With no other for discussion, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:40 am

## **Annexure IV- Farewell Speech for Outgoing Secretary General by H.E Lungten Dorji as Chair of APG**

**Farewell Speech delivered by the Hon'ble Speaker H.E. Lungten Dorji at the farewell ceremony of Martin Chungong , the Secretary General of the IPU, 19 April 2026, Turkey, Istanbul .**

Today we gather to honour and bid farewell to our outgoing Secretary General, Martin Chungong.

Martin brought to this role a distinguished background in international relations and law, along with decades of experience in multilateral diplomacy. Throughout his career, he has been known as a principled negotiator, a thoughtful leader, and a true bridge-builder.

During his 12 Years tenure, he strengthened the core mission of the Inter-Parliamentary Union—advancing parliamentary diplomacy, promoting democratic governance, and amplifying the voices of people through their elected representatives. Since assuming office in 2014, he has overseen a period of steady institutional reform and global engagement, expanding the IPU's membership reach and deepening its collaboration with the United Nations system, particularly in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals.

Under his leadership, the IPU became more responsive to emerging global challenges, including conflict, democratic backsliding, and the need for stronger parliamentary oversight. He championed inclusivity, ensuring stronger participation of women, youth, and underrepresented groups, and consistently advocated for gender-balanced parliaments worldwide.

Importantly for Bhutan, under his leadership, the IPU—through its Gender Partnership Programme—supported the conduct of a gender-focused workshop for the Parliament of Bhutan. This tangible support reflects his commitment to translating global principles into meaningful national impact.

He reinforced the IPU's role as a trusted platform for dialogue, even in the most challenging times, and advanced cooperation on key global priorities such as sustainable development, peace, and human rights.

More than his achievements, we will remember Martin for his integrity, humility, and deep commitment to dialogue and mutual respect.

As he steps down, he leaves behind a stronger, more inclusive, and more relevant IPU. Martin, we thank you sincerely for your leadership and dedication, and we wish you every success in the journey ahead.

Thank you.

## **Annexure V - Report by the Secretary General on the ASGP meetings**

**12 April 2026: 13 April 2026: 14. April 2026:**

**15 April 2026:**

**Morning session:**

Traveled from Paro to Delhi Traveled from Delhi to Istanbul

Registration and preparation for the 152<sup>nd</sup> IPU at Hilton Bomonti Conference Centre.

Attended the Asia-Pacific Group meeting.

## **152<sup>nd</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly Report**

Following the adoption of the APG agenda, the Chair of the APG provided briefing to the IPU

Executive Committee. This was followed by the ASEAN+3 Group presenting the meeting report. The members engaged in deliberations regarding the nominations for the vacancies to be filled during the 152<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly.

The APG also addressed the consideration of requests for the inclusion of emergency items in the Assembly agenda, as well as the nominations for the drafting committee concerning emergency items.

Potential candidates for the position of IPU Secretary General presented their candidacies and the APG's meeting for the day concluded with a presentation from the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development regarding the draft resolution: Building a fair and sustainable global economy: the role of parliaments in combating protectionism, reducing tariffs, and preventing corporate tax avoidance.

### **Afternoon Session:**

The Bhutanese delegation led by the Hon'ble Speaker attended the 152<sup>nd</sup> IPU inaugural ceremony at the Grand Ballroom, Hilton Bomonti.

### **16 April 2026:**

Participated in the one day cultural tour program organized for the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments (ASGP). Visited Topkapi Palace and Hagia Sophia and took part in Bosphorus cruise.

### **17 April 2026:**

Attended the opening of the ASGP meeting.

### **Morning session:**

The President of the ASGP introduced the new Secretaries General from the member countries followed by the announcement for the election of vice president of ASGP.

Mr. Huseyin Kursat Kirbiyik, Secretary General of the Grand National Assembly of Turkiye delivered his welcome speech and made a brief presentation on the parliamentary system in Turkiye.

The Secretaries General from the following two countries made presentations on the theme- In the news and innovations at parliament.

- Mrs. Le Thu Ha, National Assembly of Vietnam on “Going digital: a strategic turning point of the National Assembly of Vietnam and
- Ms. Kiiibra TEYMUR, Grand National Assembly of Turkiye on sustainable parliament-interventions taken by the Grand National Assembly on ensuring sustainability.

The presentation was followed by group discussions.

### **Afternoon session:**

Ms. Steejit Taipiboonsuk from the House of Representatives of Thailand was elected as the Vice President of the ASGP.

Subsequent to the election, an informal discussion group was convened for a General Debate centered on the question: How do we strengthen the protection of parliament as a democratic institution? The groups were tasked with discussing and providing answers to the following inquiries:

- Who holds responsibility for safeguarding Parliament as a democratic institution (for example: Member of Parliament, Parliamentary staff, journalist, the public, law enforcement authorities, etc.)?
- How do we protect democratic norms and procedural rules of parliament, particularly in times of crisis or significant political turnover?
- How do we protect parliamentary buildings, in terms of security and historical preservation of buildings? And
- How do we defend parliament against the executives and judiciary?

The Secretaries General discussed the topics informally in language specific groups (English, French, Arabic, Spanish) and a rapporteur from each group presented the summary of the discussion.

**18 April 2026**

**Morning Session:**

The Secretaries General from the following nine countries made presentation on- How are Secretaries General appointed and how do we define the scope of the role?

- Mr. Jean Philippe Brochu, House of Commons of Canada
- Mrs. Fiona Kalemba, Parliament of Malawi
- Dr. Ahmed Abd Elghani, Egyptian Senate, and Mr. Ahmed Manna, Egyptian House of Representatives
- Mr. Abdulla Mussa, House of Representatives of Libya
- Mr. Philippe Schwab, Federal Assembly of Switzerland
- Mr. Antonio Mahumane, Assembly of the Republic of Mozambique
- Ms. Steejit Taipiboonsuk, House of Representatives of Thailand
- Mr. Abdullahi Haji Gedi Mumin, Upper House of the Federal Parliament of Somalia
- Mr. Pedro Agostinho de Neri, National Assembly of Angola

**Afternoon Session:**

- Presentation on the recent work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) by Mr. Martin.
- Presentation by the candidates and election for the post of extraordinary member of Executive committee.

After the elections, the members were divided into groups for a general debate on the topic- Does your parliament allow its staff to undertake remote working? The members had to carry out informal discussion in the group with the focus on following questions:

- i. Does remote working provide benefits to the organization? What are the risks?
- ii. What are the regulations in your parliament regarding remote working? For example, do you have a minimum number of days required in the office?
- iii. Do you have some roles for which it is impossible to offer remote working, and how do you reconcile inequalities?

The members shared differing opinions along with benefits and challenges.

Following the general debate, two Secretaries General made presentation of innovations at parliament. The presentations were made by:

- Mr. Xolile George from the Parliament of South Africa on “Oversight Presidency in the South African parliament and
- Mr. John Njoroge Mutega from East African Legislative Assembly on “Public participation and parliamentary oversight”.

## **19 April 2025**

### **Morning session:**

Following five Secretaries General made presentation on the use of artificial intelligence within Parliament

- Ms. Sarah Davis from the UK House of Commons
- Mr. Kalipha MM Mbye from the National Assembly of the Gambia
- H.E. Ms. Kareema Mohaned Abdulla Alabbasi, from Shura Council
- H.E. Mohammed Alsisi Alboainain from the Council of Representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain
- Dr. Omar Abdulrahman Alnuaimi from the Federal National Council of the United Arab Emirates and

The presentation was followed by question and answer session.

This was followed by a presentation on- In the news and innovations at the parliament by Mr.Gabriel Malebang from the National Assembly of Botswana.

### **Afternoon Session:**

Secretaries General discussed the topic informally in language specific groups (English, French, Arabic, Spanish) on the role of the parliamentary administration in measuring the legislative impact of laws.

The groups were tasked with discussing and providing answers to the following inquiries:

- What role does the parliamentary administration play in the evaluation of laws?
- The mechanisms and methodologies used by parliamentary secretariats to assess the post-enactment impact of legislations.
- How evidence-based evaluation contributes to improving law quality and accountability and
- How collaboration with academic and research institutions, and using AI tools, can strengthen legislative impact assessment frameworks.

A rapporteur from each group presented the summary of the discussion.

### **Some of the key takeaways from the 152<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly and related meetings:**

#### **1. On Artificial Intelligence (AI):**

For use of AI, there is a necessity for a framework regarding AI within the Parliament. As well as an evaluation of maturity across four dimensions: governance, technical capability, organizational capability and democratic impact. There are opportunities to leverage AI for data-driven oversight and AI-assisted legislative review. Nevertheless, considerations regarding AI governance and digital sovereignty are essential. The Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Parliament and Responsible AI was endorsed by over 200 participants from 65 nations. This declaration outlines 13 recommendations for parliamentary actions concerning AI policy, oversight, the application of AI, and institutional preparedness. It is important to ascertain whether Bhutan was a signatory

to this declaration, as parliaments are urged to provide a progress update by June 1, 2026.

## **2. On the use of digital tool and technology**

Numerous parliaments are modernizing their Hansard Division (Parliamentary record) system to facilitate the automatic conversion of spoken words into text, thereby saving time and enhancing accuracy. Some of the Hansard divisions have developed and implemented a Ministerial Response Tracker, which included features such as a digital dashboard for planning and monitoring compliance with standing orders to improve accountability. Additionally, some have established digital archives, transitioning from physical to digital records, creating searchable platforms, and ensuring that information is accessible to both citizens and the diaspora.

Furthermore, certain parliaments are considering the adoption of AI-powered tools to manage questions, motions, and bills, simplifying the tracking and searching of parliamentary documents. Upgrades to parliament websites are also underway to enable two-way engagement, allowing for not only reading but also interaction.

Prepared and submitted by: **Date:** 24 April 2026

Rinchen Dorji  
Secretary General  
National Assembly Secretariat

## **Bhutan's Position**

Guided by advice of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bhutan cast 5 votes in favour and 5 against the emergency item, The urgent need for concerted parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and support peacebuilding in the Middle East and other regions.

And cast all 10 votes in favour of the second emergency item, The urgent need for concerted parliamentary efforts to preserve ceasefires and support peacebuilding in the Middle East and other regions.