

**Report on the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament**

**29 to 31 July 2025**

**Palais des Nations, United Nations Office**

**Geneva.**



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## **1. Introduction**

The Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in collaboration with the United Nations, was held from 29 to 31 July 2025 at the Palais des Nations, United Nations Office at Geneva. Preceded by the 15th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament, the Conference convenes every five years to provide a platform for parliamentary leaders to address pressing global challenges, strengthen international cooperation, and share innovative solutions.

The 2025 Conference, themed “A World in Turmoil: Parliamentary Cooperation and Multilateralism for Peace, Justice, and Prosperity for All,” focused on the role of parliaments in shaping a more just, sustainable, and digitally connected world. The event gathered hundreds of participants, including 102 Speakers of Parliament, 34 Deputy Speakers, Members of Parliament, diplomats, UN officials, experts, and representatives from civil society, academia, and media.

The Conference provided an opportunity to discuss solutions to global challenges through multilateral cooperation, parliamentary diplomacy, and evidence-based policymaking. Discussions emphasized restoring public trust in democracy, upholding the rule of law, integrating UN Sustainable Development Goals into national policies, and ensuring that legislation addresses both current and emerging societal needs. Security was addressed in a holistic manner, targeting the root causes of instability such as poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation.

### **Delegation Members**

1. H.E. Tshogpon Lungten Dorji - Speaker, National Assembly
2. Hon. Namgay Dorji - Member of Parliament, National Assembly
3. Ms. Kuenzang Wangmo, National Assembly Secretariat

## **2. Highlights of the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament:**

The Parliament of Bhutan, represented by a three member delegation led by Hon'ble Speaker attended the Conference. His Excellency Tshogpon Lungten Dorji, Speaker of the National Assembly of Bhutan, addressed the general debate on the theme of this conference: "A World in Turmoil: Parliamentary Cooperation and Multilateralism for Peace, Justice, and Prosperity for All" aptly reflects the pressing challenges of our time. During the conference, the Hon'ble Speaker emphasized the imperative of enhanced international cooperation to effectively address pressing global challenges, including conflicts, social inequality, climate change, and economic instability. He underscored that no nation can confront these complex issues in isolation. Affirming the vital role of parliaments as the democratic voices of their peoples, the Speaker called for a renewed commitment to upholding the rule of law, safeguarding human dignity, and fostering collective action to advance peace and justice. He further highlighted that parliaments must take a leading role in promoting multilateralism and translating principles of justice into tangible outcomes, leveraging the conference as a platform to strengthen global dedication to a more just, peaceful, and sustainable future.

The Hon'ble Speaker also shared the visionary Gelephu Mindfulness City Project, initiated by His Majesty The King. He highlighted that this innovative initiative will develop a city founded on the principles of mindfulness, showcasing conscious and sustainable enterprises inspired by Bhutan's rich Buddhist spiritual heritage and distinct national identity.

## **3. Outcomes of the Conference**

The Conference adopted a High-level Declaration, which outlined key priorities for advancing peace, justice, and prosperity. The Declaration emphasized:

- Coordinated global action on climate change, conflict resolution, economic reform, and digital transformation;
- Restoring public trust in democratic institutions and combating misinformation;
- Integrating UN Sustainable Development Goals into national policies;
- Addressing the root causes of insecurity, including poverty, inequality, and environmental decline;

- Investment in sustainable sectors and protection of vulnerable populations;
- Responsible governance of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.

Gender equality, reinforced by the preceding Women Speakers' Summit, was a central focus. Keynote speakers, including Michael Douglas, Tulia Ackson, Maja Riniker, Tatiana Valovaya, and Martin Chungong, highlighted the need for inclusive democracy, global solidarity, and parliamentary leadership in multilateral cooperation.

#### **4. The Hon'ble Speaker meets the Hon'ble Speaker of the House of Representatives of Nepal on 30 July, 2025.**

The Hon'ble Speaker met with the Hon'ble Speaker of the Federal Parliament of Nepal on the sidelines of the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in Geneva in the presence of the MP from Gorkha District and Secretary General of the Parliamentary Committee, the Ambassador of Switzerland and Permanent Representative to the UN, and the Chief Personal Secretary to the Hon. Speaker of Nepal.

The Hon'ble Speaker of Nepal highlighted the importance of the meeting in strengthening bilateral relations between Nepal and Bhutan. He emphasized that the two countries are longstanding friends bound by strong cultural ties and shared challenges as landlocked nations. Stressing the need for development cooperation and mutual understanding, he congratulated Bhutan on its graduation from the Least Developed Country (LDC) status in December 2023, noting that Bhutan's achievement serves as both a lesson and an inspiration for Nepal.

The Hon'ble Speaker of Nepal further pointed out that, despite geographical proximity, the development of bilateral ties has been limited, except for excellent people-to-people relations. He therefore called for greater engagement between the two governments and parliaments. He proposed that the Nepal-Bhutan Parliamentary Group exchange experiences to enhance parliamentary cooperation. He also suggested that the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi - Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation BIMSTEC deepen collaboration in trade and work jointly to strengthen both organizations. Expressing concern over the severe impacts of climate change faced by both countries, the Hon'ble Speaker urged joint

action to mitigate its adverse effects. He reaffirmed Nepal's eagerness to work closely with Bhutan bilaterally, regionally, and multilaterally. He also called for an increase in high-level exchange visits, expressing hope for the upcoming visit of Bhutanese Parliamentarians to Kathmandu for the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) Regional Parliamentarians' Meet scheduled for 18–19 August 2025, and recalled the meeting during the 150th IPU Assembly in Uzbekistan as a positive step towards strengthening ties. He further extended a formal invitation to the Hon'ble Speaker of Bhutan to visit Nepal.

The Hon'ble Speaker of Bhutan, in his remarks, welcomed the appointment of Dorji Gyeltshen Lama as Bhutan's Honorary Consul in Nepal. He expressed gratitude to the Government of Nepal for providing land at Lumbini, noting that construction has already commenced. He underscored that this gesture is a testimony to the strong cultural and religious ties between the two countries, highlighting that Lumbini is an important and preferred pilgrimage site for Bhutanese people. He further emphasized the importance of strengthening not only people-to-people relations but also government-to-government and parliamentary ties.

The Hon'ble Speaker expressed interest in enhancing cooperation in trade, tourism, and cultural exchange. He also shared that His Majesty the King was inspired by Boudhanath Stupa in Nepal for the Gelephu Mindfulness City project. Sharing that Gelephu Mindfulness City follows a "one country, two systems" model in Bhutan. He highlighted that the Gelephu Mindfulness City project will create employment opportunities and help develop other parts of Bhutan.

In conclusion, he reaffirmed Bhutan's commitment to safeguarding its sovereignty while continuing to strengthen external relations. The meeting was conducted in a warm and cordial atmosphere, with both sides expressing satisfaction over the discussions and acknowledging the importance of continued parliamentary and bilateral engagement.



*Hon'ble Speaker with Rt. Hon. Mr. Devraj Ghimire, Speaker, House of Representatives of Nepal.*



*Hon'ble Speaker during the Bilateral Meeting with Hon'ble Speaker of Nepal*



**5. Attended the briefing for Speakers of Parliament on the UN80 reform initiative:**

The Speakers were also invited for a special briefing by the Representative of the UN Secretary General, where he outlined the challenges and reform priorities facing the United Nations. He highlighted that the UN currently has no mandate to systematically monitor its activities, leading to duplication of efforts across multiple stand-alone offices. The organization is also facing a funding crisis, with many member states facing a severe funding crisis, with many member states reducing or withdrawing support. Voluntary contributions have declined and the system was badly impacted when the single largest donor withdrew 40% of UN funding. Delays in the release of membership funds further hinders operations, while the spillover effect of global crises exacerbates these difficulties.

Marking the UN's 80th anniversary, he called for a stronger, more efficient organization, better equipped to address today's complexities. He outlined three key reforms: enhancing operational efficiency, conducting an implementation review to address a blockage of around 40,000 accumulated mandates and pursuing structural reforms to modernize the UN system. These reforms will focus on seven clusters, including peace and security, development, humanitarian affairs, and human rights among others.

He stressed the pivotal role of national parliaments in strengthening multilateralism, promoting peace and supporting the UN through timely contributions. Despite its challenges, the UN under the Secretary General Antonio Guterres continues to play a

central role in advancing peace and security, and in delivering vital humanitarian assistance, including providing food to 120 million people worldwide.

## **6. Observations**

1. The Conference highlighted that parliaments play a central role in promoting peace, justice, and prosperity through stronger multilateral cooperation.
2. Discussions on digital technology and international dialogue showed that parliaments need to address new challenges and work together.
3. The High-Level Declaration showed that parliaments worldwide are committed to achieving the SDGs and supporting democracy.

## **7. Recommendations**

1. Bhutan should continue to actively participate in global parliamentary forums to contribute to and benefit from collective wisdom and cooperation.
2. Parliament should strengthen its capacity in digital governance and parliamentary diplomacy to remain responsive to emerging global issues and enhance Bhutan's visibility on the world stage.

## 8. Other Engagements

During the Conference, the Speaker and the Delegation informally met with the delegations from Singapore and Mongoli. The Speaker also attended the high - level Luncheon hosted by IPU President and Secretary General and Reception hosted by Switzerland.



*With H.E. Dashzegve Amarbayasgalan, Speaker of the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia.*



*With President and Secretary General of IPU*



*With H.E. Peter Samt, President of the Federal Council, Parliament of Austria*



*With H.E. Seah Kian Peng, Hon'ble speaker of the Parliament of Singapore*

## **9. Conclusion**

The Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament successfully reaffirmed the pivotal role of parliaments in shaping a just, peaceful, and sustainable global future. Discussions on digital governance, multilateral engagement, parliamentary diplomacy, and SDG implementation underscored the critical responsibilities of legislators in promoting peace, justice, gender equality, and sustainable development.

The Conference concluded with the adoption of a High-Level Declaration, outlining key priorities for advancing peace, justice, and prosperity, and reinforcing the importance of stronger parliamentary engagement with the United Nations. Bhutan's active participation, including bilateral engagement with Nepal, highlighted the nation's commitment to innovative, responsible, and cooperative approaches to global and regional challenges. The Conference reinforced the message that strong parliamentary action, dialogue, and collaboration are essential to building a more inclusive, peaceful, and sustainable world for all.

## **10. Acknowledgement**

The delegation led by the Speaker would like to acknowledge the support and guidance received from the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bhutan in Geneva, Switzerland.

1. Ms. Dechen Pelmo , Deputy Permanent Representative
2. Mr. Passang Dorji, Counsellor
3. Mr. Pema Wangdi, Head of Chancery Finance Attache'
4. Mr. Kuenzang Jamtsho, Minister Counsellor

## **Annexure**

### **Key Documents from the Conference:**

1. **High-Level Declaration** of the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament
2. Enhancing the role of parliaments for a more effective and networked United Nations
3. Statement by the Hon'ble Speaker of the Parliament of Bhutan

The documents can be digitally accessed from the following link:

<https://www.ipu.org/event/sixth-world-conference-speakers-parliament#event-sub-page-36798/>

### **Endorsed by:**

His Excellency Lungten Dorji - Speaker, National Assembly

Hon. Namgay Dorji, Member of Parliament, National Assembly

Prepared by: Kuenzang Wangmo, Delegation Secretary