

Tashkent: A New Hub for Parliamentary Diplomacy at the 150th IPU Assembly



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In April 2025, Tashkent will host the 150th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU),

marking the first time this prestigious event is held in Central Asia. Bringing together over 2,000 parliamentarians from more than 100 countries, the assembly will provide a platform to discuss key global challenges, including conflict resolution, economic development, climate action, and human rights. This selection underscores Uzbekistan's growing role in international parliamentary diplomacy and its commitment to democratic reforms. The event will also highlight the nation's efforts in fostering regional cooperation and sustainable development.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union: A Legacy of Diplomacy

Founded in 1889, the IPU has evolved from a small group of legislators into a global institution uniting 181 national parliaments and 15 inter-parliamentary organizations, representing 6.5 billion people. Initially a consultative body for conflict resolution, the IPU has played a critical role in decolonization, human rights advocacy, and international law development. Over the years, it has expanded its mandate to include capacity-building programs for emerging democracies, support for free and fair elections, and the promotion of sustainable legislative frameworks. Today, it continues to strengthen democratic institutions and facilitate inter-parliamentary dialogue on global challenges such as the rule of law, climate policy, and inclusive development.

Parliamentary Diplomacy: The Core of the IPU's Mission

The IPU operates as a key facilitator of parliamentary engagement, addressing crucial issues

through:

1. Diplomatic Engagement – Fostering dialogue to resolve international disputes and enhance legislative cooperation.
2. Peace and Security – Strengthening conflict resolution efforts and advocating for human rights in crisis regions.
3. Democracy and Human Rights – Promoting fair elections, ensuring press freedom, and protecting parliamentarians from political persecution.
4. Gender Equality – Encouraging women’s participation in politics through dedicated programs and legislative frameworks.
5. Youth Representation – Supporting young leaders through initiatives like the “I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!” campaign, which empowers youth participation in governance.
6. Climate Action – Promoting sustainable policies by integrating environmental concerns into legislative agendas worldwide.

IPU Leadership: Driving Global Change

Tulia Ackson (Tanzania), elected IPU President in 2023, is the first African woman in this role. With a strong legal background, she champions gender equality, legislative transparency, and democratic governance. Under her leadership, the IPU has intensified efforts to ensure fair

electoral processes, curb political repression, and address global inequalities. Martin Chungong (Cameroon), IPU Secretary-General since 2014, has been instrumental in expanding the organization's influence, particularly in fighting corruption, enhancing parliamentary oversight, and strengthening democratic resilience.

The Role of Parliaments in Sustainable Development

Parliaments play a vital role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by ensuring legislative support, budgetary oversight, and government accountability. At the 2025 UN Parliamentary Hearing, Ackson highlighted that only a third of parliaments currently participate in SDG implementation reports. Addressing this gap requires increased parliamentary engagement, especially given the estimated \$2.5–4 trillion financial deficit needed to meet the SDGs. The 150th IPU Assembly in Tashkent will emphasize the role of legislative bodies in bridging this gap, fostering partnerships, and developing policies that drive sustainable economic growth, education, and healthcare reforms.

As Tashkent prepares to welcome the world's legislators, the 150th IPU Assembly marks a significant milestone in strengthening parliamentary diplomacy, fostering sustainable development, and reinforcing the role of parliaments in addressing global challenges.