



REMARKS OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT OF ESWATINI

**THEME: A WORLD IN TURMOIL: PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION AND
MULTILATERALISM FOR PEACE, JUSTICE AND PROSPERITY FOR ALL**

MADAM PRESIDENT OF IPU DR TULIA ACKSON

ACTING CHAIRPERSON OF THE PLENARY

SECRETARY GENERAL OF IPU MR MARTIN CHUNGONG

HON SPEAKERS AND PRESIDENTS OF PARLIAMENTS

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES

IT IS WITH PROFOUND HUMILITY AND DEEP RESPECT THAT I RISE TO ADDRESS
THIS DISTINGUISHED ASSEMBLY OF GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS,
POLICY ARCHITECTS, AND

DEFENDERS OF DEMOCRATIC VALUES. WE CONVENE AT A PIVOTAL MOMENT
UNDER A THEME BOTH SOBERING AND ASPIRATIONAL: “A WORLD IN TURMOIL:
PARLIAMENTARY

COOPERATION AND MULTILATERALISM FOR PEACE AND

JUSTICE FOR ALL.”

TODAY’S GLOBAL LANDSCAPE IS SHAPED BY A CONVERGENCE OF CRISES,
ARMED CONFLICT, ECONOMIC DISPARITY, ECOLOGICAL DEGRADATION,
PANDEMIC RECOVERY, AND THE EROSION OF TRUST IN DEMOCRATIC
INSTITUTIONS. THESE COMPLEX THREATS DEFY BORDERS AND DEFY
UNILATERAL ACTION. THEY COMPEL US TO RESPOND NOT AS ISOLATED
ACTORS, BUT AS A UNITED PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNITY
COMMITTED TO JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND ENDURING PEACE.

PARLIAMENTARY LEADERSHIP IN A FRACTURED WORLD

AS CUSTODIANS OF DEMOCRATIC MANDATES, PARLIAMENTS HOLD A SACRED DUTY TO EMBODY THE HOPES OF CITIZENS, ENACT LAWS THAT SHIELD THE VULNERABLE, AND DEFEND THE INTEGRITY OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS. PEACE AND JUSTICE MUST BE TREATED NOT MERELY AS OUTCOMES, BUT AS PREREQUISITES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE.

IN THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI, WE UNDERSTAND THAT NATIONAL STABILITY CANNOT BE DIVORCED FROM GLOBAL PEACE. OUR CHALLENGES, WHETHER ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, OR SOCIETAL, ARE INTIMATELY TIED TO THE BROADER CURRENTS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. THUS, WE BELIEVE PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY MUST BE BOLD, PRINCIPLED, AND UNRELENTING IN ITS PURSUIT OF COMMON GROUND.

MULTILATERALISM: A PATHWAY TO COLLECTIVE RESOLVE

IN TIMES OF FRAGMENTATION, MULTILATERALISM REMAINS OUR MOST POTENT ANCHOR. AS A PROUD MEMBER OF THE AFRICAN UNION, THE UNITED NATIONS, AND OTHER REGIONAL BODIES, ESWATINI AFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT TO RULES-BASED ENGAGEMENT, SHARED RESPONSIBILITY, AND RESPONSIVE GLOBAL GOVERNANCE.

YET MULTILATERALISM MUST EVOLVE. IT MUST BECOME MORE INCLUSIVE, REPRESENTATIVE, AND ACCOUNTABLE. OUR CITIZENS DESERVE NOT DECLARATIONS, BUT DELIVERABLES. AND IT IS THROUGH ROBUST PARLIAMENTARY SCRUTINY THAT INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS ARE TRANSLATED INTO LOCAL REALITIES.

PROSPERITY & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY: ESWATINI IS PURSUING A GROWTH-ORIENTED STRATEGY TARGETING A 12% ECONOMIC GROWTH RATE. THIS INCLUDES INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION, MSME SUPPORT, AND INNOVATION HUBS TO STIMULATE INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT. THE COUNTRY ALSO IS EXECUTING A COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE STRATEGY ACROSS 12 SECTORS, INCLUDING AGRICULTURE, ENERGY, AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, ALIGNED WITH THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

BRIDGING CAPACITY GAPS AND STRENGTHENING SOLIDARITY

LET US ALSO RECOGNIZE THE DISPARITIES IN INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTH ACROSS LEGISLATIVE BODIES. POLITICAL POLARIZATION, LIMITED RESOURCES, AND UNEVEN ACCESS TO INFORMATION THREATEN OUR ABILITY TO COLLABORATE MEANINGFULLY. HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT WITHOUT TOOLS. TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION, VIRTUAL DIALOGUE PLATFORMS, AND CROSS-BORDER LEGISLATIVE NETWORKS OFFER NEW PATHWAYS FOR ENGAGEMENT, TRANSPARENCY, AND SHARED LEARNING.

MOREOVER, PARTNERSHIPS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY, ACADEMIA, AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS CAN FORTIFY OUR COLLECTIVE CAPACITY. THESE ALLIANCES MUST BE STRATEGIC, SUSTAINED, AND GROUNDED IN MUTUAL RESPECT.

A CALL TO PURPOSEFUL ACTION

HONOURABLE DELEGATES, WE MEET NOT SIMPLY TO RECOUNT ADVERSITY, BUT TO CHART A NEW COURSE. THE ROAD AHEAD DEMANDS COURAGE TO SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER, TO ADVANCE LAWS THAT HEAL RATHER THAN DIVIDE, AND TO CREATE INSTITUTIONS THAT REFLECT THE DIGNITY OF ALL PEOPLE.

LET US RISE ABOVE DIVISION AND CYNICISM. LET US AFFIRM OUR SHARED HUMANITY THROUGH PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION THAT TRANSCENDS GEOGRAPHY AND IDEOLOGY. ESWATINI STANDS READY TO ENGAGE, TO LEAD, AND TO PARTNER IN FORGING A WORLD DEFINED NOT BY TURMOIL, BUT BY TRANSFORMATION. A WORLD IN WHICH PEACE IS PROTECTED, JUSTICE IS INSTITUTIONALIZED, AND NO VOICE IS LEFT UNHEARD.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.