



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

To all IPU Member Parliaments

Geneva, 22 July 2026

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

We have the honour of addressing you on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. As the cornerstone of international refugee protection, the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol remain essential instruments in protecting the lives, rights and dignity of all persons fleeing conflict, violence and persecution.

To date, 149 States have acceded to the Convention and/or its Protocol, reflecting the global recognition of the importance of international refugee protection. Accession provides States with a clear and predictable legal framework, strengthens international cooperation and supports principled responses to forced displacement. Furthermore, accession enables the respective State and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to collaborate in mobilizing international support and technical expertise to share the responsibility of protecting refugees.

The 1951 Convention is fully aligned with the Global Compact on Refugees, affirmed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2018 as a framework grounded in international solidarity and more equitable international cooperation on refugee protection. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) itself adopted a series of pledges that were submitted to the Global Refugee Forum in 2023 and which further inform the IPU's institutional partnership agreement with UNHCR. Within this context, the IPU is a contributor to the [Multi-Stakeholder Pledge to the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol](#) with the aim to encourage parliaments of States who have not yet done so to accede and/or withdraw their reservations to these instruments. This call was further reiterated by the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IPU IHL Committee) in its report to the IPU membership during the 152nd IPU Assembly held last April.

In this spirit, we appeal to your personal political leadership and that of your Parliament, to support the IPU's and UNHCR's joint advocacy initiatives relating to the 75th Anniversary of the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol.

We respectfully invite you and your Parliament to consider the following parliamentary actions identified by the IPU IHL Committee and noted in the enclosed checklist for parliamentary action. The IPU and UNHCR remain available to provide technical advice and support, as appropriate in advancing efforts to strengthen refugee protection and durable solutions to forced displacement.

Such support could entail consultations with relevant national institutions; assessment and reform of existing legal frameworks, particularly those ensuring access to rights; capacity-building for responsible authorities; and guidance in developing or strengthening asylum systems in line with international standards.

We would greatly value your leadership in this regard and would welcome receiving information on the actions taken by you and your Parliament to advance refugee protection. We look forward to our continued cooperation in support of this shared objective.

Yours sincerely,

Anda Filip
IPU Secretary General

Barham Salih
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees