

**The Speech of**

**Dr. Hamda bint Hassan al-Sulaiti**

**Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council of the State of**

**Qatar**

**Head of the Delegation of the Shura Council of Qatar**

**At**

**The**

**144<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**

**Nusa Dua, Republic of Indonesia**

**From 20<sup>th</sup>, to 24<sup>th</sup>, March, 2022**

*In the name of Allah the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful*

**H.E. Ms. Puan Maharani - Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives**

**H.E. Mr. Duarte Pacheco - President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union IPU**

**Your Excellencies speakers of parliaments and heads of delegations**

**Brothers and sisters**

**May Allah's peace, mercy and blessings be upon you**

I am pleased to express on my own behalf and on behalf of the delegation of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, participating in the 144<sup>th</sup>, General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and related meetings, our deep gratitude and

Thankfulness to the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia and the friendly Indonesian people for their generous hosting of this General Assembly and welcoming the representatives of the peoples of the world in the Bali Islands, for their good reception and for the thorough organization of the event.

The convening of this General Assembly is of great importance, given the centrality of the topics on the agendas of the General Assembly, the Governing Council, and the Standing Committees and of the other bodies of the Union. It further draws importance from the timing of its convening in the light of the military conflicts the world is witnessing, and due to the considerable tension threatening security and peace throughout the world.

## **Brothers and sisters**

The main theme that our General Assembly will address is how to work together to achieve a complete halt to carbon emissions, and how parliaments can be mobilized to act on climate change; this requires us to do more and to coordinate all initiatives to salvage what can be salvaged and to reach the goal in determined timeline.

It is no secret to all of you that the issue of reducing carbon emissions concerns all humanity and has an impact on the future of humanity, calling on all States to commit to reducing these emissions to "zero" by 2050, if the world is to avoid repercussions of 2.4°C warming by the end of this century. Therefore, it is not impossible to work to reduce and avoid this risk, if all States, as well as key economic actors, muster efforts and join hands.

Such hopes started looming in the horizon, especially if most States implement their commitments, which would help developing countries reduce the rate of mortality due to these toxic emissions, as well as protect farms and all organisms threatened by continued increased emissions.

In this context, I am honored to shed light in this important forum on the wise policies of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, The Emir of the State of Qatar. HH assigns the utmost importance to the preservation of the environment, as demonstrated in his taking several unprecedented initiatives worldwide, including Qatar's commitment to host a carbon neutral version of the 2022 World Cup. FIFA -2022 will be the first carbon neutral version in the history of the sport. It will be the first without harmful emissions.

Doha is geared-up to welcome hundreds of thousands of fans from around the world to enjoy watching the teams of the world's qualifiers. So far, the Global Sustainability Assessment System has certified four of the Doha Olympic stadiums dedicated to the finals, and Qatar will keep its commitments to use solar energy to operate the championship stadiums. Further, the authorities have decided to minimize the use of water and materials and recycle them. Solar panels will be used to light the stadiums. The authorities will work on afforestation of the green areas surrounding by planting local trees and plants, the measures to further avoid carbon emissions, include dismantle some stadiums after the end of the tournament to be gifted to some friendly countries.

### **Brothers and sisters**

The wise policy of His Highness the Emir of the State of Qatar constitutes an essential asset to combat climate change. In his opening speech before the Shura Council, His Highness focused on Qatar's interest in clean and renewable energy and on the need to pass legislations necessary to achieve this noble goal. One of His Highness's initiatives at the international level was his announcement of Qatar's contribution of \$100 million to support small islands developing states and the less developed countries to deal with climate change, natural hazards, environmental challenges as well as building the capacity to cope with its devastating effects.

As part of Qatar's efforts to address climate change, Qatar's National Environment and Climate Change Strategy was launched as one of the key pillars of Qatar's National Vision 2030, in line with the 17 UN-approved Sustainable Development Goals. Particularly as it aims to implement several projects aimed at reducing air

pollutants, reducing carbon dioxide emissions and increasing reliance on renewable energy sources.

Qatar Airways has played a major and vital role during the Covid-19 pandemic in the past two years, transporting millions of passengers while most international airlines had stopped, and Qatar Airways transported medicines, vaccines and medical supplies to many countries around the globe.

Qatar Airways has also become the first air carrier to join the IATA platform, which offers innovative environmental solutions. Qatar Airways operated its first carbon neutral flight on November 1, 2021, in partnership with this Union.

### **Brothers and sisters,**

A clean environment is a prerequisite for sustainable development, but this will be attained if only the international community is able to live in security and peace, and the remaining hotbeds of tension in the world have been eliminated. It is regrettable that these days we are witnessing serious developments between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Ukraine, threatening international peace and security in the region and around the globe.

In Qatar, we believe in the need to respect the national sovereignty of all states, the importance of peaceful coexistence between states, strengthening cooperation between countries, resolve all differences between States peacefully, and resort to negotiations and recourse to international legitimacy and international law. We hope that this general assembly of the IPU will be a key party to appealing to all parties to halt the escalation

and resolve the dispute peacefully for the good of both nations and for the good of all humanity.

I wish the IPU ever success, and in attaining the desired results.

**May Allah's peace, mercy and blessings be upon you.**