

**145<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly  
Kigali, Rwanda  
11-15 October 2022**

**General Debate**

**Gender Equality and Gender-Sensitive Parliaments  
as Drivers of Change for a More Resilient and Peaceful World**

*Delivered by Kim Jin-pyo,  
Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea*

Honorable fellow Speakers and delegates!

I am Kim Jin-pyo, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.

It is a great pleasure for me to attend the 145<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly taking place in Kigali, Rwanda, which boasts a great example of a gender-sensitive parliament with the world's highest proportion of women MPs in its Chamber of Deputies.

At the outset, I'd like to express my deep gratitude to President Augustin Iyamuremye, Speaker Donatille Mukabalisa, and President Duarte Pacheco for organizing the Assembly and giving me the chance to speak.

This year marks the 10-year anniversary of the Plan of Action for Gender-Sensitive Parliaments, which was adopted unanimously at the 127<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in 2012.

Achieving a gender-sensitive parliament is one of the strongest drivers for an inclusive and gender-sensitive society. It can also serve as a vital tool to resolve multilayered crises threatening us in a more effective manner.

Distinguished delegates!

Today, I'd like to share with you the efforts of the Korean National Assembly

toward a gender-sensitive parliament and what we have accomplished so far.

First, we have been working hard to increase women's representation in politics. Back in 2000, the National Assembly introduced a gender quota of 30% for female candidates on a party list system at the national, provincial and municipal level elections. The quota has been raised further to 50% and applied more widely.

When it comes to constituency-based elections for provincial, municipal and county councils, political parties are required to nominate at least one woman per electoral district at the national level.

All these efforts have paid off. The proportion of women in parliament has increased by 21% compared with 2012. In the case of provincial and municipal councils, the share has risen by 33.3% from 2010. At the county level, the percentage has gone up by as high as 50%.

The number of women politicians in leadership positions has increased significantly. The first and second half of the current National Assembly saw the election of women Deputy Speakers for the first time in history. In the first half of the current convocation, women MPs chaired five Standing Committees out of 17.

We have witnessed a similar trend in the civil and foreign services. Data in the past five years show that in national exams for managerial-level civil servants and diplomat candidates, women accounted for 42% and 55% of successful applicants, respectively.

Secondly, we are inspecting and improving the overall operating system of the National Assembly. In 2021, we proposed to install the National Assembly Advisory Committee on Gender Equality under the Speaker's office to make the parliament more gender-responsive.

Based on this, 101 MPs tabled a resolution that included the enhancement of women representation at the National Assembly, enactment of a Gender Equality Code of Ethics for MPs, and installation of a permanent body to support gender equality at the National Assembly.

In addition, we are strengthening the gender quota system in nominating 30% or more women party candidates for electoral districts in general and local elections, and discussing the amendment of the law to establish a legal foundation to install the Women's Committee of the Whole comprised of all women MPs.

We are promoting gender mainstreaming in the legislative and policy decision-making process through the *Framework Act on Gender Equality*.

Continuous efforts are also being made to enact or amend laws to improve job security and work environment for women, and protect victims of all forms of gender discrimination and violence.

The National Assembly Human Rights Center was installed at the legislature to establish the foundation to ensure everyone working at the National Assembly can do so in a safe and gender-equal environment.

Honorable delegates,

The Korean National Assembly, and indeed, parliaments around the world, are committed to gender equality and women empowerment, but the achievement of gender equality, in a practical sense, remains out of our reach.

No country has achieved full gender equality yet, which is why more genuine efforts must be made to achieve gender equality and strengthen women empowerment.

The Korean National Assembly will not cease until we truly become a gender-sensitive parliament.

Thank you for your attention.