

Dear madam president, distinguished colleagues!

First of all, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the Parliament and Government of Rwanda for the great organization of this event and your warm hospitality.

I am delighted to see many old colleagues and new members of IPU.

I. We talk a lot about a gender sensitive parliament. But what does the gender sensitive parliament really mean?

For us, I mean to Uzbekistan a "gender sensitive parliament" is a parliament that:

- **Firstly**, actively participates in the development and implementation of the state gender policy;
- **Secondly**, encourages and ensures the equality of the number of women and men in all its bodies and structures;
- **Thirdly**, adopts a gender sensitive laws that promote and protect gender equality, provides gender expertise of adapted laws;
- **Fourthly**, contributes to the formation in a society a culture that respects women's rights and gender equality.

Gender-sensitive parliament is involved in the implementation of the IPU Action plan for "Gender-Responsive Parliament" adopted ten years ago in Quebec, Canada.

II. Now, let me inform you briefly about the experience of Uzbekistan in this subject topic.

Comprehensive measures are being taken in Uzbekistan to strengthen the legislative, and institutional foundations of gender policy.

A. *Legislation foundations of the gender policy in Uzbekistan.*

In New Uzbekistan, special attention is paid to the development of gender oriented legislation, the improvement of the legal foundations for enhancing the role and active participation of women in the public political, cultural and business life of the country. In recent years, more than 50 legislative acts have been adopted in our country to ensure the women rights. In particular, gender oriented laws:

1. "On guarantees of equal rights and opportunities for women and men";
2. "On protection of women from harassment and violence";
3. "On protection of reproductive health of citizens" and several others.

We are developing a gender sensitive Constitution. The draft of Constitutional Law of Uzbekistan is a "gender sensitive" Constitution. It provides for the implementations of the provisions of CEDAW.

B. *Institutional foundations of gender policy in Uzbekistan.*

Four institutional bodies were established in Uzbekistan in recent years:

- National Commission on ensuring gender equality;
- The Committee on women and gender equality in the Senate
- The Republican public women's Council;

-The State committee of family and women.

C. Following good practices

The trends observed in Uzbekistan are in line with the global processes of expanding the representation of women at the highest levels of government, eliminating gender inequality, increasing their number in parliament, government and the judiciary. Uzbekistan, where the number of women in parliament exceeded 33%, ranks 55th in the world.

III. Ladies and gentlemen, the second part of my speech is about Tashkent Summit of women-leaders.

More than 120 representatives of women parliamentarians and 17 women speakers from more than 30 countries as well as representatives of IPU, UN, OSCE PA, CIS Interparliamentary Assambly participated in this event.

The Tashkent declaration: "**Parliamentary leadership-prevention of risks in order to increase resilience and prosperity**" was adopted at the end of the Summit. The Tashkent declaration defines priorities related to the formation of a gender oriented parliament, ensuring the sustainable development of society, peace and well being of the population in the following directions:

Firstly, stepping up concrete, immediate and effective measures to create parliaments that are gender representative and better responsive to crises as well as to implement the principles of equality , justice and sustainability, and evaluate parliamentary policies;

Secondly, support for the implementation of the IPU action plan to build a gender sensitive parliament to improve infrastructure, promote a culture that respects worklife balance, combat violence against women, and encourage a zero tolerance parliamentary culture in this regard;

Thirdly, increasing the participation of young people, especially women in the works of parliament including in leadership positions in representative bodies of power;

Fourthly, providing women and girls with decent work, building an economy that takes into account gender aspects that contribute to the social protection and vulnerable groups of the population, especially young people, women, people with disabilities.

Fifthly, enhancing the role of parliament in ensuring that social and economic recovery from crises remains climate change sensitive and based on increased environmental protection;

And lastly, promoting and protecting the rights and freedoms of women and girls on the Internet, developing technologies and supporting economic transformation.

Ladies and gentlemen, in my opinion, there is no boundary for gender equality, it is a long lasting process. Gender equality should not remain as a fashinoble expression which we use our speeches and papers. We must achieve actual results in real life.

Gender equality in books oz de jure and gender equality in action oz de facto. We shoud do our best to achieve oz de facto

In conclusion, I want kindly ask for your support of UN general assembly resolution "On strengthening the role of parliaments in implementation of SDG and protection of human rights" initiated by Uzbekistan.

The Tashkent declaration and the draft of UN Resolution will be disseminated among the participants of the Assambly.

Thank you for your attention!