



REMARKS BY

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SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

146th IPU ASSEMBLY

GENERAL DEBATE UNDER THE THEME:

“PROMOTING PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND INCLUSIVE

SOCIETIES:

FIGHTING INTOLERANCE”

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Check Against Delivery

**President of the Council of Representatives
(H.E Ahmed bin Salman Al-Musallam)**

**President of the IPU,
Secretary General of the IPU,
Members of Parliament,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is an honour to stand before you today as the head of the Namibia Parliamentary delegation, representing our nation's commitment to promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies by fighting intolerance.

**Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights establishes that the recognition of equal and inalienable rights of all individuals without discrimination. Societies that uphold these principles are more likely to be peaceful, cohesive, and democratic. Furthermore, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies is a critical aspect of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the IPU's core mandate to promote peace and cooperation among peoples of the world. As parliamentary

representatives, we play a vital role in promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am proud to share with you our efforts towards promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies while fighting intolerance in Namibia.

We are a diverse country with many different ethnic groups, languages, and cultures. However, we believe that our diversity should be celebrated and used as a tool to build a more inclusive and tolerant society. To achieve this goal, our parliament has taken several notable legislative interventions since we gained our independence in 1990.

These include among others;

- Affirmative Action to promote employment equity,
- Legislation against gender discrimination;
- Combatting of Domestic Violence Act;
- Combatting of Rape Act,
- Amendments to the Criminal Procedure Act, and
- Amendments to High Court Act – to ensure promotion of and access to justice by all.

These are just few of the laws enacted to protect the rights of all individuals.

In addition, our parliament has launched initiatives aimed at promoting cultural pluralism and peaceful coexistence through interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue through the Enhancing of Participatory Democracy in Namibia (EPDN) project.

The Namibian government has implemented policies that ensure equal representation of women in government and decision-making positions. We have also created opportunities for young people to engage in the political process and make their voices heard. Thus, the number of youth representation has increased in our parliament to 6 Members, representing 5% of our Parliament. We have also created Children's Parliament as a platform where young people engage each other and talk about issues of tolerance and promotion of human rights. This enable our young people to at the tender age engage in issues that crosscut peaceful co-existence.

Finally, our parliament is committed to being more inclusive in its engagements with the citizenry. We recognize that the voices of all our citizens and aspirations are taken into account when developing policies and legislation.

The Namibian Parliament stands ready to work with fellow IPU Member Parliaments to share best practices, identify key drivers to combat intolerance and exclusion, and develop comprehensive approaches to address these challenges.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies by fighting intolerance is essential for creating a more cohesive, democratic, and resilient world. Therefore, it is imperative that as representatives of our people, we take necessary steps to address these challenges, and the IPU's commitment to promoting cohesion and inclusion is an important step towards building a more peaceful and prosperous future for all.

I thank you.