



Statement by H.E Mr. Agegneu Teshager,
Speaker of House of Federation of the Federal
Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on the 146th
Assembly of International Parliaments Union

March 2023
Panama, Bahrain

Excellency's,

Dear guests,

Ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, on behalf of the people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, I wish to cordially greet all the parliamentary delegations attending 146th Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union and hope that discussions within this framework will contribute further to the strengthening of the role of parliaments as a whole and our cooperation.

Dear colleagues, The period that we are passing through right now with its acute challenges puts a heavy burden on global community. Even so-called established democracies struggle to cope and sometimes fail in dealing with the problems. COVID-19 along with deteriorating economic conditions aggravates the situation, which unfortunately leads to further polarization of societies and growing disbelief in political systems. A subtle line between freedom of expression and disinformation faces the risk of being erased altogether. In those circumstances, the functioning of national parliaments needs to be thoroughly elaborated. I believe that those parliaments that look at the issue not only through legislative framework, but also from a broader perspective, have a chance to overcome divides and build bridges within societies. The parliaments should strengthen their role as a focal point of concerted efforts of elected representatives, the government and

civil society. More importantly, these efforts should not only cover the parliament, but spread to the whole political system and embrace all of a society. The situation with disinformation demands strong legislative efforts from our parliaments in order to further strengthen freedom of expression and eliminate disinformation and its dangerous consequences. The world community was unprepared to current difficulties that have also derived from the pandemic and took a while to find necessary responses to the situation. Now we need to be prepared for the next steps and focus more on post-COVID recovery phase in order to better face future possible challenges.

Dear colleagues, I would like to emphasize my firm belief that promotion of peace and security is a highly important tool for development of democracy, protection of human rights and ensuring sustainable development. Our leading role in peacekeeping missions, our peace-making efforts in Sudan, Somalia, and South Sudan, and our recent successes in resolving our own long-standing no-war no-peace relationship with Eritrea are prominent examples in this respect. Last year on this time, Ethiopia was just coming out of a costly conflict. This time, I am here to celebrate the signing on November 2nd 2022, of the Pretoria Peace Accord between the Ethiopian Government and the TPLF, which has led to the silencing of the guns in the Northern part of our country.

Excellencies,

Our region of Horn Africa full of both human made and natural disaster. Terrorism, Climate change, Drought and conflicts surround the region needs global efforts and solidarity to address the challenges. Ethiopia redouble its efforts to address the global economic challenges caused by the war between Ukraine and Russia and in fighting against Alshaabab across its border with Somalia and undertaking measures to resolve both conflicts and disagreements that arising among communities through dialogue to bring trust and lasting peace and mutual co-existence of its people.

To this end, Ethiopia recently established the Peace and reconciliation Commission mandated to facilitate this peace and reconciliation process across the nation. This will help Ethiopia to promote the mutual co-existence of its communities and fighting intolerance through developing democratic culture to resolve conflicts in peaceful manner.

Excellency's,

Ladies and gentlemen.

The challenge of climate change is a case in point. We all know that developing country's contribution to global warming is insignificant. Yet climate change is already affecting Africa more severely than any other part of the world. To this extent, climate change is an African problem, but its roots lie elsewhere.

Global meetings on climate change are rich with the rhetoric of climate justice, the just transition, common but differentiated responsibilities of parties. These talks, however, are hardly ever backed up with action. And Africa cannot wait. Ethiopia is definitely not waiting for solutions to come from outside. Instead, we are doing all we can to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Over the past four years, Ethiopia's contribution through our national Green Legacy initiative has mobilized 25 million Ethiopians across the nation. Collectively, we have now planted well over 25 billion trees across the country. The impact could be equated to removing 64 million gasoline-powered cars from the roads for a whole year.

For my country, investment in environmental protection is not a charity; it is driven by enlightened self-interest. For us in Ethiopia, environmental protection is about everything we are as a society. It is about our ability to feed ourselves. It is about our ability to conserve water and other precious resources. It is about our ability to preserve peace between adjoining communities. It is about our survival as a nation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

To bring about just and equality of women in political decision making and representation in the parliaments, Ethiopia undertaking major reforms and building democratic institutions to ensure equal representations of women and youth at both political decision making body and parliamentary level.

Therefore, We hope that political will, legal reforms and the mobilization of political decision makers jointly with civil society can further open the way for more women into parliament and into politics, in order to promote inclusion and, in doing so, to help strengthen the democratic system.

The IPU, throughout its long history, has always stood for the principle that global challenges require global responses, Ethiopia belief that Only through collective action and reaction, solidarity of the States and strengthening multilateral forum can confront threats to humanity and fighting against unjust.

In conclusion, Ethiopia the Expansion and deepening of relations between the parliamentarians of the Movement to serve the global efforts aimed at strengthening peace, democracy, and sustainable development, and committed to play its part to the fulfilment of the objectives the founding of Inter-Parliamentary Union.

I thank you for your attention.