

**PRESENTATION OF RT. HON. ALBAN SUMANA  
KINGSFORD BAGBIN, THE SPEAKER OF THE  
PARLIAMENT OF GHANA, AT THE 146<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY  
AND RELATED MEETINGS OF THE INTER-  
PARLIAMENTARY UNION, MANAMA, BAHRAIN**

**THEME: PROMOTING PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND INCLUSIVE  
SOCIETIES: FIGHTING INTOLERANCE**

His Royal Majesty Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, King of the  
Kingdom of Bahrain

His Excellency Ahmed bin Salman Al Musallam, Speaker of the  
Council of Representatives of Bahrain and President of the  
146<sup>th</sup> Assembly and related Meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary  
Union

His Excellency Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-  
Parliamentary Union

His Excellency Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU  
My Colleagues, Rt. Hon Speakers, Presiding Officers, and Members  
of Parliament

All other protocols, respectfully observed.

It is a pleasure to be in this beautiful city of Manama, Bahrain, to  
attend the 146<sup>th</sup> Assembly and related meetings of the IPU. On  
behalf of the delegation from Ghana and on my part, I extend our

warm fraternal greetings and gratitude to His Majesty the King of Bahrain, the Government, Parliament and People of Bahrain, for accepting to host this conference and putting at our disposal such a splendid and well-equipped conference facility. I sincerely congratulate you for this show of solidarity and commitment to the principles and values of the IPU.

Mr. President, today's world is plaque with many complexities, uncertainties, insecurity, disasters, economic depression, and conflicts. The theme of this Assembly, **promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies: Fighting intolerance**, could not have been more appropriate, given the extent of violence, statelessness, conflicts, poverty, exodus now mildly referred to as migration, cataclysmic turmoil and deaths. I salute the IPU and the organizers for the appropriateness of the theme of the conference.

Mr. President, the world, is no doubt, a diverse and polarized creature. Different races, gender, religions, continents, traditions, cultures, potentials, languages, histories, live and depend on it. We have no choice than to accept the diversity, since diversity is the spice of life. But for polarization, if we put our hands to the wheel, we could close the poles, unite and coexist in peace and harmony. I believe we are all ad idem in this vision, hence our collective commitment to the slogan, **for democracy, for everyone**. Yet, a few intolerant ones, are jeopardizing this global effort of promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies.

Distinguished participants, Parliaments all over the world, are in a better position and empowered to counter these destructive efforts of the few.

Mr. President, the Parliament of Ghana, has worked and is still working to promote peaceful coexistence of different tribes, religions, creed, race, color, gender, political opinions, migrants, etc. Thanks to the provisions of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana. Additionally, Parliament has enacted the National Peace Council Act, Vigilantism and Related Offences Act, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Act, and established through various legislations, a well-structured and independent Judiciary and Justice System. Ghana is committed to developing a democratic culture, free of intolerance. A democratic culture that promotes respect for all people, human rights and freedoms, human dignity, equality, women empowerment and gender parity, inclusiveness in decision making, etc. As a result, the 2022 Global Peace Index ranked Ghana 2<sup>nd</sup> in Africa for having a high level of internal peace.

Mr. President, we can achieve this in the world together. The need for the global population to pursue the harmony that is embedded in the architecture of the world is now. The Sustainable Development Goals come in handy to lead the way, especially, in the area of global partnerships and inclusive societies.

No country can successfully develop alone. We will need to complement the efforts of one another. We are stronger when we

act together than when we act individually. And even when our purposes and goals coincide, a healthy competition makes our lives healthier, better and longer.

We must therefore not only learn to coexist in peace, we must also work to promote inclusive growth and development by consciously working to prop up the development of the least developed nations. Underdevelopment and poverty are some of the main drivers of intolerance, such as xenophobia, terrorism, conflicts, etc.

As legislators, it behoves on us to encourage tolerance and inclusive development through the laws we make and, particularly, through the tools of our oversight of the Executive to ensure that our respective countries are set on the paths of peace, security and sustainability. We have to commit ourselves to holding governments of our countries to contain corruption, eliminate waste, ignorance and greed. This is the smooth road to building fair, just and prosperous societies.

Mr. President, the IPU can rely on the Parliament of Ghana, to achieve the theme of this Assembly. The Parliament of Ghana will work in partnership with the IPU and all members to fight intolerance and promote peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies. The Parliament of Ghana is translating the values and principles of good democratic governance into concrete benefits for the people. This explains why a large gender parity delegation

of four ladies, four men, three of whom are from government and three from the opposition, led by the Speaker, from Ghana is here to work with the IPU and its members to craft out resolutions that will further the course of the theme and humanity as a whole.

Ghana believes, it is only when we succeed in the implementation of this vision, that the world will know true peace and prosperity.

I thank you for the audience.