

146th IPU Assembly General Debate

“Promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies: Fighting intolerance”

Mr. AOYAGI Hitoshi
Japanese delegation

Thank you, Chair and everyone. I am Hitoshi Aoyagi from the Japanese delegation, and a member of “Nippon Ishin no Kai”, Japan Innovation Party in English.

In democratic countries, the legislature is expected to reflect a diversity of views and ideas into the nation’s decision-making process.

While, the national legislature functions by politicians with similar views and values coming together to form groups. The group that holds the majority commands legislative power.

When only a single group holds power in a society, that group’s views and ideas become the norm, resulting naturally in a loss of diversity and inclusiveness. At times, it can also result in intolerance or discrimination against conflicting views and ideas.

To keep this from happening, it is important that we think of our legislatures not as a collection of parties but as a collection of diverse politicians.

Our legislature floors should not be the site of power struggles between political parties in which individual legislators are bound to toe the party line.

They should more serve as forums to which individual politicians can bring a diversity of views and ideas and reflect them into the nation’s decision-making process through free expression and vigorous debate.

In this context, “majority” and “minority” should not even refer to the rigid concepts of a “ruling party” versus “opposition parties.”

The number of votes for and against is different each time, and legislatures are meant to function such that the majority and minority shifts regularly and irrespective of party lines.

I believe that if each of us works in our respective legislatures with that attitude, we would be able to contribute to the promotion of peaceful coexistence and an inclusive society.

Thank you.