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COMMENTS MADE BY H. E. Dr. JEWEL HOWARD TAYLOR AT THE 146th IPU
ASSEMBLY IN
MANAMA, THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN and the READMISSION OF LIBERIA INTO
THE IPU

GREETINGS:

His Majesty, Malik al-Bahrain Hamid bin Isa Al Khalifa,
His Royal Highness the Prime Minister of Bahrain,
Officials of the Bahraini Government present,
Excellences,
The Honorable President of the IPU,
The Honorable Secretary General of the IPU,
Officials and Members of the ~~Bahrain~~^{IPU} Parliament present,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a humbling duty for me; on behalf of my nation Liberia and the Liberian Legislature; to accept the call for my Nation Liberia to return to the fold of the IPU; after a long absence. This return to the IPU is of significance, especially taking note of the historical fact that Liberia was one of the original founding member Parliaments of the Organization in October 1889; at a time when there were no established means for Governments or parliaments to work together internationally.

Thankfully from this unit of initially - 55 French, 28 British, 5 Italians and 1 representative each from Belgium, Denmark, Hungary, Liberia, Spain and the United States; the IPU as per the intent of the framers; has indeed become a Global Union of not just Parliaments of Nation States but of people; who have accepted to play critical global roles to promote peace, democracy and sustainable development the world over; provide a safe space for ALL NATIONS OF THE WORLD TO MEET AND DIALOGUE on issues regarding Peaceful Coexistence, greater Inclusion, Gender Equality, mitigation of Climate Change, Development and Global Governance amongst other key issues. The IPU also provides a platform for A CALL TO ACTION ON URGENT OR EMERGING ISSUES

which affect our one World; and keeps a key focus on assessments and performance of member states on generally agreed key points.

Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen; over the years, the IPU continues to raise the bar on the possibilities which exist in order to enhance greater cooperation and cohesion amongst Nations and people; thus moving into a sphere of multilateralism in pursuit of a more Equitable and Peaceful World for ALL.

In view of these facts, permit me to reiterate; amongst many; two urgent challenges which are key to the fundamental principles of the IPU and are central to its work; even as we gather to debate issues of vital importance over the next few days.

These 2 challenges surround issues of Gender Inequality and Climate Change; which in and of themselves are central to all of the focal points for this years assignment.

As the World celebrated International Women's Day on March 8, 2023; it was sad to note that the statistics from various reputable sources each bring to light one poignant fact - that there continues to remain a very slow rate of increase in gender equality the World over.

Today, these numbers continue to stare us in the face from across the Nations of the World; and even in the representation of Women in Parliaments here at the IPU; which remains at about 26% - despite huge calls to action from every corner of the globe. Though we all agree that there are critical links between gender, social equity and climate change; and that in fact increased Gender Equality Numbers reflect better standards overall of the key development indicators, including Peace and Security and Climate Change.

For Women, the question remains - WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO ENSURE TRUE EQUALITY FOR 50% OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION?

Of recent, on one hand - there are strong calls for climate change mechanism to

deal with the negative global challenges already upon us ; this is further evidenced by the strong financial support mechanisms put into place to ensure the trajectory of climate change is shifted towards greater sustainability.

Whilst on the other hand - the issue of gender equality and the real reforms needed to shift the balance lags woefully behind; with the general perception being that **WOMEN NEED TO CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR THEIR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS; AND MUST STRUGGLE AND BEAR THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE SHACKLES WHICH OLD WOMEN DROWN,**

Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen; there is no better forum to raise these issues than the IPU - as a critical global force for good, needed to shift the balance for greater equality for half of the world's population - its women.

As a female, I beg your indulgence to make a clarion call - for an end to and an equal focus on the issues attending improved gender equality ; as you put towards climate change, global peace and development.

“For the stark truth remains, that as long as Women are left behind; the work being done in all other aspects of peaceful coexistence and sustainable development - affect only 50 percent of the World's population. And that is not our best, as it falls far below the human standards being set by this Global World Body.”

As we deliberate over the next several days, may our deliberations as true representatives of the people of the World; reflect their true hopes and aspirations; and our actions be dictated by the true needs of the majority.

In closing, please permit me to express the gratitude of the Liberian delegation and I; to His Majesty the King and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain for providing all courtesies and an enabling environment for the IPU and key stakeholders of our one World - to meet, in order to chart the path forward towards Global Peace and Security for ALL in this season.

I thank you.