

**146<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly**  
**Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, 11-15 March 2023**  
**General debate on the theme**

**Promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies: Fighting intolerance**

**Statement by the leader of the delegation from Nepal, the Right Honorable Mr. DEV RAJ GHIMIRE, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Federal Parliament**

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Your Excellency the President of the Assembly,  
Honorable Members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Federal Parliament of Nepal, it gives me immense pleasure to address this august gathering of the 146<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly being held in the beautiful city of Manama.

Excellency,

We all know that after learning from the experience of two world wars and with the aim of preventing humanity from the scourge of war, the United Nations was established in 1945 as a sincere initiative to promote world peace and harmony and shape a universal morality of peaceful coexistence, equality, justice and human welfare. The General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948 proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, whose preamble I wish to recall states the recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.

Excellency,

Nepal is a multiethnic, multilingual, multi-cultural and a geographically diverse country. The Constitution of Nepal is committed to preserving and promoting cohesiveness, solidarity, tolerance and goodwill amid our diverse cultures, society and ethnicity. This is our uniqueness as well as a symbol of social cohesiveness and peace.

Excellency,

Every human being wants to achieve their aspirations and realize their potentials. This is hard to accomplish without peace and broader cohesiveness. Strong inclusive democracy requires an environment where every individual and community can exercise their rights equitably with participatory system of governance. Thus, it is necessary to bring the deprived and under privileged communities into the mainstream.

The last three decades of Nepal's political history is an example of how collective efforts of the major political forces ended the decade long armed conflict and established peace. The Constitution that embodies the principles of inclusiveness and guarantees the proportional representation and participation of all sections of our society was promulgated in 2015 and currently it is in implementation. As a result, women representation in the federal parliament stands at 34 percent and at 36 percent in provincial assemblies and 41 percent at the local level. While women participation is gaining more significance in legislation, women leadership is also being established in administration.

Excellency,

Information is more easily and widely accessible today than it has ever been. The use of information technology has helped spread information rapidly. Amid misinformation, false data, misleading statistics and hate speeches, promoting peace, tolerance and coexistence has been equally

challenging today. I would like to draw the kind attention of the world community towards this challenge through this forum today.

Excellency,

The Constitution of Nepal elucidates the perpetual values of our foreign policy. By adhering to the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, non-alignment, panchasheel, international law and norms of world peace, our Constitution lays the foundation of balanced and independent foreign policy and diplomacy. Nepal has therefore always remained an advocate of peace and coexistence.

Excellency,

The Inter-Parliamentary Union has constantly been making cohesiveness and inclusion as a main agenda of its discussions. Remaining true to its motto of “For democracy, for everyone”, it has always made commendable efforts to put the parliaments all over the world in consistent dialogues for peace and prosperity. Today, I take this forum to pledge solidarity, on behalf of Nepal’s parliamentarians, towards peaceful coexistence and establishment of equitable, inclusive society.

I would like to conclude by expressing my sincere gratitude to the Bahrain Parliament, the Government, Honorable Speaker and the Bahraini people for giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts in this assembly and for the warm hospitality extended to me and my delegation. I wish for the grand success of this IPU Assembly.

I thank you.