

Honourable delegates

In the face of worldwide crises, it is easy to feel powerless, that there is really nothing an individual country can do do, especially a small country like mine. But remaining silent is not an option and we must take every opportunity to speak that we can get.. I am grateful therefore that the InterParliamentary Union gives me this opportunity of a few minutes to speak on this very important theme.

I speak only declare my country's commitment to the goals set out in this theme for this Assembly – Peace, Justice and strong institutions.

The world needs peace. Today the world is plagued with innumerable conflicts, between nations, between peoples and between groups that differ on the lines of race, ethnicity, religion and political affiliation. Our attention is largely focused on the war inUkraine and in Palestine. But we can add others. Judging the causes and reasons for theses conflicts are complex but what is evident is that theses conflicts are all useless. There will be no winners. Even those who assert themselves militarily will be losers because they along with all os us will inherit a poorer world, physically and morally damaged.

Without having to judge on who is right and who is wrong, our concern is that there are innocent people paying the price, and a huge price. Death, destruction, suffering, poverty, disease, starvation. Our hearts weep at the plight of peoples in Palestine, Ukraine, Yemen, Sudan and other areas of conflict.

The irony is that the world has made tremendous progress in knowledge technology and capabilities to control and exploit our environment. Verily we live in a world of wonder. . Unfortunately That includes the capacity to wage war, which put us all at risk. Progress has made the world more dangerous.

We can conquer space and we can replicate human behaviour through artificial intelligence but we still have wars that put us back centuries.

The question today is whether we can find our back to the ideal of establishing peace and security for all countries and peoples.

The theme of this assembly is correct in focusing on justice. Justice is the essence but it includes many things. It is not only justice after a wrong has been done but

it needs justice at the core of all relations between communities, groups, nations and regions. It requires respect for the rights of all others tolerance and a spirit of fairness where rights clash. It requires an acceptance of the principles of international law and the acceptance of arbitration.

This is where strong institutions come in. In the first place it concerns the international institutions created after the European wars of the last century refreedom as the world wars. The United Nations and the array of supporting institutions have been useful in maintaining stability over the last 70 centuries but they have not been enough and they are not enough to see us through the challenges of today. These institutions are powerless when its members refuse to adhere by the principles of justice. There is recognition that we need to reform and revitalize these institutions so that they can be effective in securing peace and stability. Whether this will come is the question.

The second recourse is the strengthening of democratic institutions in all countries of the world. Democracy is not a guarantee but our best recourse in preventing conflict because it is what can stop those who hold power from engaging in endeavours harmful to the interests of their citizens as a whole.

The declaration of this organization, Democracy for everyone, remains the best recourse for preserving peace and security. I return to an earlier point. It is ordinary citizens that pay the price of war. It is those who hold power who make wars. Civilians, men women and children engaged in the pursuits of ordinary life will seek to avoid war. So, ensuring the participation of everyone in the decision making at all levels is what can help to preserve peace. This is what we as member countries can pledge to work for today. I am here to pledge the commitment of my country and my parliament to this goal.

Thank you