



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Office of the Deputy Speaker  
Oct 25, 2023



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

## 147th IPU Assembly

Luanda, Angola  
23–27 October 2023



### **Deputy Speaker's Talking Points: General Debate - *Parliamentary Action for Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG 16)***

Nigeria, a nation that has firsthand experience of conflict and instability, is deeply committed to the theme of the 147th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU): "***Parliamentary action for peace, justice, and strong institutions (SDG 16)***." Nigeria's position and contributions to the debate are informed by its history. Peace is not the absence of violence, peace is the manifestation of human understanding and compassion anchored on justice and strong institutions engendered by National parliaments and world bodies such as the IPU.

What is the reason for the existence of a nation-state with various arms of government? By extension why do we have in existence institutions such as the IPU, the United Nations and other national and international bodies? These bodies exist for the welfare and security of the citizens. When peace and justice are absent, it presupposes the failure of the purpose of Government and the associated institutions leading to skepticism and lack of trust by the people. The violence we have witnessed in the Sudan where the absence of self-counsel and wisdom has led to utter destruction of the

nation itself and more recently, the avoidable devastation of lives and property in Ukraine, Israel and Gaza. Leaders do not look for who to blame, leaders find solutions. And this, we must do. In addition, threats to democracy in Africa seen in recent coups in some African countries must be addressed especially the underlying causative factors.

Nigeria has experienced a number of challenges in recent years, including the insurgency in the North East, environmental degradation and underdevelopment in the Niger Delta, and agitations in the South East. To address these problems proactive steps have been taken for the enactment of Northeast Development Commission, Niger Delta Development Commission with other bills such as the south east development commission which is a work in progress.

The National Assembly has also passed the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA), which reformed the Nigerian oil and gas sector. The PIA is expected to promote transparency and accountability in the sector, strengthen the institutional framework, and attract investment.

As a parliament representing the people, we devoted ample time in ensuring the improvement of our electoral act amended in 2022 to enable integrity of the electoral process through technology which has led to the reduction of post-election crisis.

In response to the partnership for climate action Nigeria passed the Climate Change Act meant to ensure that global standards are met. To live up to the spirit and letter of our dream on climate Change. Developed countries must come to the assistance of Africa who are at receiving end of Climate Change.

To ensure inclusion the Nigerian parliament passed the Federal Character Commission Act for a better management of our diversity. This Legislation minimizes dominance and ensures nobody is left behind

It is often said the justice delayed is justice denied. To ensure the speedy dispensation of Justice, the Nigerian Criminal Justice Act has and continues to be improved to ensure better access to justice.

The National Assembly's legislative contributions to peace, justice, and

strong institutions have been significant. However, there is still more work to be done.

## **Conclusion**

As representatives we must come to a clear understanding that parliamentary action on peace and justice through strong institutions cannot come as a matter of wish. It is desirable. Institutions are not strong for the sake of being strong. Their strength is measured through visible outcomes when nations are at peace, there is justice for all and nobody is left behind, economically and socially.

People go to the moon not because it is easy, it requires courage. Let us have the courage to work for better outcomes for the people we represent. Thank you and God bless us all.

Nigeria's commitment to SDG 16 is not only reflected in legislative actions but also in comprehensive policies and initiatives aimed at achieving peace, justice, and strong institutions. The nation's dedication to sustainable development and climate action is evident in its efforts to reduce emissions, restore the environment, and promote innovation. Nigeria recognizes the importance of SDG 16 as a foundation for progress, and the government continues to work diligently towards these goals.

In conclusion, as representatives, we call on the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to keep an eye on the ball, as we firmly believe that a crisis in any part of the world constitutes a crisis for all.