

Distinguished delegates, I'm Sul hoon, head of the Republic of Korea delegation.

In this world today facing multiple challenges, the role of parliaments is more critical than ever to create a peaceful, just and inclusive society. Achieving sustainable peace and justice requires effective and accountable public administration in a democratic political environment. Parliaments play a key role in this as it makes laws and policies by converging opinions of the people and forging a compromise to change the society.

But I doubt if our parliaments are faithfully fulfilling this critical mission. We should reflect on ourselves if we do not only represent the vested interests.

The Korean National Assembly is also working hard to provide the necessary support to create a fair and just society. It opened up doors for citizens to participate in politics with a view to better reflect the diversity of interests, identify and address through legislative means injustice and marginalization overshadowed by rapid economic growth.

To give you some examples, the National Assembly made an overhaul of laws against child abuse. It also revamped laws on employment of economically vulnerable senior citizens and protection of tenants' rights. It is also actively discussing the introduction of a comprehensive

anti-discrimination bill, which prohibits unjustified discrimination in all areas.

Distinguished delegates,

I propose to make good use of digital technology in ensuring institutional transparency and effectiveness to advance democracy. Digital technology such as ICT and AI can be useful in politics and public administration. It can enhance policy transparency and effectiveness by bridging the gap in information and perspectives between the people and the state. Using ICT for data collection and interactive communication facilitates citizens' direct participation in public affairs. It helps complement the limitations of representative democracy and address marginalization caused by unfair policies.

As part of the efforts to create a more inclusive society, the National Assembly uses digital technology. It live streams policy seminars organized by MPs. This facilitates interactive communication with citizens, helping them better understand policies and have their voices heard. It also offers AI-based subtitle services to guarantee those with hearing impairments the right to information.

This world today with crisscrossed interests and tech-driven rapid social changes demands more than ever inclusive policies that serve the needs of minorities. It is our responsibilities as MPs to advocate

for such policies to ensure justice, fairness and peace.

Lastly, my heart is heavy with sorrow because of the war between Israel and Hamas. I look forward to discussing with you on values of peace and inclusiveness that are desperately needed today and the path our parliaments should take going forward.

Thank you.