

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY MS. ASUMAN ERDOĞAN, HEAD OF THE
DELEGATION OF TÜRKİYE TO THE IPU**

147TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**“PARLIAMENTARY ACTION FOR PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS (SDG 16)”**

Thank you Madame President / Mr. President

Distinguished Colleagues,

I would like to thank our hosts Angola for excellent hospitality and especially the President of Angola for his leadership and strong stance vis-a-vis the current problems in international arena.

I want to bring up the situation in Gaza to your attention at the outset of my speech.

We all know that children don't tell lies. This is Asım. He lives in Gaza. You can watch his interview with a joirnalist in social media platforms. The journalist asks him what happened to your face. Asım says it happened when their house was bombed. Did anybody warn you beforehand? No. Did anybody get hurt? Yes. My mum and dad are killed. Are you alone? No I have a brother and sister. They are in intensive care now. We have many Asım's in Gaza, with similar stories.

The ongoing attacks on Gaza are causing devastating effects on innocent civilians. It is inhumane and a blatant violation of international law to force 2.5 million residents of Gaza who have been subject to indiscriminate bombing and collectively deprived of electricity, water, and food, to relocate in the south of Gaza.

We must act to protect the dignity and value of Palestinian lives and of the right of Palestinian people to demand liberation from colonial occupation. To declare that all people have a right to independence and freedom, and then deny this right to Palestinian people, can only be explained by racism and dehumanization. This is exactly what we see happening when Israeli minister said “I have ordered a complete siege on the Gaza Strip. There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel. Everything is closed. We are fighting human animals, and we act accordingly,”

A mentality that deliberately targets civilians, hospitals and schools should face legal and moral consequences under international law.

We strongly condemn the loss of civilian lives and attach high importance to the restoration of calm in the region as soon as possible.

Israel's indiscriminate targeting of the Palestinian people in Gaza is unacceptable and must stop.

Unhindered flow of humanitarian assistance is still an urgency.

These developments once again show the importance of the two-state solution with the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Palestine.

Following this, there should also be a guarantee mechanism for monitoring, verifying and when needed, enforcing the obligations of the parties.

Türkiye remains ready to assume a guarantor role together with some other regional countries.

I would like to talk about great implementations done by Türkiye to reach the goals of SDG16. But lives of children matter more than everything.

Thank you for your attention....