

**Statement of Bangladesh Parliament in General Debate by
Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury MP, Speaker**

Madam President of IPU,

Hon'ble Parliamentarians

Distinguished Delegates

It is indeed a great honour and very special privilege for me to take part in the General Debate on **“Parliamentary Diplomacy; Building Bridges for Peace and Understanding”** at the 148th IPU Assembly, in Geneva on 24 March 2024.

Distinguished Delegates,

Author Ray Dalio in his Book “Principles for Dealing with the Changing World Order” clearly states *“the biggest thing affecting, most people in most countries through time is the struggle to make, take and distribute wealth and power, though they have also struggled for other things like ideology”* (Page-24).

Such struggles have massive implications in people’s lives, creating a complex world order. Bringing about peace and understanding in such a fragmented world order requires Parliaments to adopt a proactive role of Parliamentary Diplomacy. Parliaments need to undertake a range of international activities to increase mutual understanding between countries and nations to serve better the cause of representation of people.

Parliaments are premier representative institutions, center-piece of democracy, representing people and their hopes and aspirations; home of lively debates and promulgation of legislation on issues essential to the wellbeing of the people they represent.

We Parliamentarians around the globe are entrusted with the duty to bring about positive changes in the lives of the people we serve. As people’s representative, our role, gives us the unique ability to create a world where everyone has an equal opportunity to attain their aspiration and no one is left behind. Parliaments must therefore, work together to ensure every individual a life with human

dignity. Greater voices of people must be allowed in multi-lateral decision-making process in order to be able to respond to multi-faceted impacts of globalization, having ramification on democracy.

The changing face of globalization creates new order of emerging economies, technology, innovations and development. Climate change, refugee and migration, forcible displacement, conflicts and wars, human trafficking, terrorism, violent extremism are issues that transcend national boundaries. In this backdrop Parliaments cannot just confine their role within the periphery of domestic or national institutions. Hence the concept of internalization of the institution is gaining momentum. Parliamentary Diplomacy is now at the center-stage.

A range of international activities of Parliamentary Diplomacy at all different layers within bilateral, regional and multi-lateral framework proves to be instrumental in resolving complex issues through dialogue and peaceful negotiation. Developing Parliamentarism serves as important platform in addressing transnational challenges through increased exchange and interaction between Parliaments, forging strong diplomatic ties, strengthening their deliberative roles.

Parliamentary Diplomacy helps to create consensus in less formal setting and make democracy deliver better in responding to challenges of poverty, inequality and sustainable, inclusive and equitable development.

Thomas M. Frank stated- ***“Democracy is becoming a global entitlement that collective international processes (including Parliamentarism) will increasingly promote and protect.”***

Bangladesh Parliament promotes Parliamentary Diplomacy through Parliamentary Friendship Groups and its engagement with IPU, CPA, PUIC and other inter-parliamentary forums. Under the leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Bangladesh Parliament envisages to build an equitable society, free from poverty, discrimination and exploitation, where justice-economic, social and political will be ensured for all.

Let us- the Parliamentarians across the globe work together to shape the language of our politics by building our Parliaments as strong, responsive and smart institutions, nurturing the values of equality, freedom, rule of law, respect for diversity, pluralism and tolerance.

Let Parliamentary Diplomacy be instrumental in *“creating a world that can be free of poverty, hunger, war and human sufferings and achieve global peace and security by building bridges for the well-being of humanity,”* as stated by our Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Thank You

Joy Bangla.

Joy Bangabandhu.

May Bangladesh Live Forever.