



TALKING POINTS:

**“PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY: BUILDING BRIDGES AND PEACE
FOR UNDERSTANDING”**

148th IPU ASSEMBLY, GENEVA, 23-27 MARCH 2024

Your Excellency, Honourable Delegates, Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. First and foremost, I would like to start by extending my profound gratitude for inviting the Parliament of Malaysia to the 148th IPU Assembly. My name is **Zurainah Musa**.
2. Parliamentary diplomacy, is often regarded as a vital component of a nation's foreign policy, it plays a significant role in fostering peace, understanding, and cooperation of the international stage.
3. **In Malaysia, Members of Parliament can engage in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy through various channels, including official visits, parliamentary delegations, Parliamentary Friendship Groups and participation in international & regional forums.**

4. I strongly believe Parliaments have the responsibility and capabilities to build bridges and encourage peace globally. We can do so in three ways:
 - a) One, our exchanges help bridge common understanding on how regulatory frameworks needs to be developed; fostering a conducive environment for international cooperation
 - b) Two, we have a role in preventing and addressing polarization along political, ethnic and gender lines in society
 - c) Three, we are a tool to ensure International Observation and Commitment to international laws and treaties

5. Moving to my first point: Parliaments are the source of laws for all countries. It is through us, that there is check and balance of the execution in the laws that are drafted.

6. By ensuring that our parliamentarians are informed of the various laws and best practices of other countries, we are building a legislative body that is more informed and better equipped to scrutinize and harmonise domestic laws with international and regional laws and standards.
 - Harmonizing domestic legislation with international standards and agreements facilitates smoother international cooperation in several ways:
 - It enhances trade and investment
 - It improves regulatory effectiveness and efficiency
 - And finally, it ensures enhanced global governance and promotes the rule of law.
7. My second point, I would like to highlight that Parliaments are able to help prevent and resolve polarization along political, ethnic and gender lines in society.
8. The Parliament of Malaysia encourages inclusive political discourse by nurturing an environment where diverse voices and perspectives are heard and respected. **This can be achieved through parliamentary debates, committees, and forums that provide opportunities for Members of Parliament from different political parties, ethnic backgrounds, and genders to engage in constructive dialogue on national issues.**

9. Therefore, in my eyes, Parliamentarians are responsible in promoting tolerance, diversity, and respect for human rights.
10. My last point: Parliamentary diplomacy as a tool to address observation of international law and treaties. In regard to conflict resolution and mediation, **Parliamentarians of Malaysia act as an impartial actor working towards peaceful resolutions and giving assistance without the needs of arms proliferation.**
11. For example, In a show of solidarity, **both government and opposition Members of Parliament in Malaysia have contributed to the Humanitarian Trust Fund for the People of Palestine to support the Palestinian cause.** The Parliament of Malaysia has joined efforts to ease the suffering of innocent Palestinians that are increasingly oppressed by the ongoing conflict and to demonstrate undivided moral support towards their plight for justice.
12. Apart from that, our **Prime Minister, Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim during the Ministerial Question Time (MQT) reiterated Malaysia's firm and principled position on the issue of Palestine-Israel conflict and called for immediate cessation of hostilities.** In the same vein, our Prime Minister also uses his platform in the parliament, to condemn unreservedly all form of killings of women, children and civilians by any party.

13. As Parliamentarians we can and must foster this environment. Let us not allow our country to be complicit in crimes against humanity and violations of *jus cogen* international obligations. This is key for regional and international stability. For peace of the world today and for the next generation.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

14. We Do Not Inherit the Earth from Our Ancestors; We Borrow It from Our Children

15. To summarize, I would like to reinstate that Parliament of Malaysia believes that Parliamentary diplomacy enables legislators to advocate for human rights, democratic principles, and the rule of law.

16. We strongly believe that Parliamentary diplomacy serves as a valuable tool for Malaysia in bridging the gap of global peace. With embracing the principles of peace, tolerance, and cooperation through parliamentary diplomacy, Malaysian parliamentarians play a crucial role in shaping a more harmonious and interconnected world.

Thank you