

# 148<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly

Geneva, Switzerland

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## General Debate

### **"Parliamentary Diplomacy: Building Bridges for Peace and Understanding"**

Statement by the head of the Nepalese delegation the Right Honorable Mr. Dev Raj Ghimire,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Federal Parliament of Nepal

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Excellency President of the Assembly,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank the Honorable President of the 148<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly for an opportunity to address this assembly on behalf of the Federal Parliament of Nepal.

Mr. / Madam President,

Being able to and desiring to solve differences peacefully through dialogues is an excellent example of the supremacy of humankind. Diplomacy, which initiated through treaties for the purpose of forming alliances in war and ending the war, has grown be quite comprehensive in scope today. To manage international relations through dialogue, negotiation and other peaceful means is diplomacy. Only through diplomacy which promotes cooperation and advances common interests through timely resolution of differences is it possible to create dialogue, cooperation and respect between nations for the success of the consolidated global effort to march for the utmost welfare of the entire humankind.

The traditional thought was that diplomacy is a matter of government-to-government relations and the right and responsibility of solely the government. But this narrow approach has changed, and its area has become much wider. Parliamentary diplomacy has developed as an important instrument of alternate diplomacy.

Mr. / Madam President,

Parliamentary diplomacy is an important complement to traditional diplomacy. It promotes the interests of the participating nations. Parliament in itself is the outcome of democracy and public mandate. Thus, parliamentary diplomacy adds a democratic dimension as well as legitimacy to international relations. It builds trust and goodwill at people's level. Because the diplomatic actions of parliamentarians who are consistently in close contact with the people will be aimed towards the benefit of the public and supported by the public, it produces sustainable as opposed to temporary results. The involvement of parliamentarians in diplomacy is indispensable to ensure that the voices and aspirations of the citizens are reflected in decision making in the matters of international affairs.

Mr. / Madam President,

Nepal has always remained a proponent of peace and coexistence. At different times in history, we have witnessed the consequences of larger and powerful nations not tolerating the existence of smaller and less powerful nations. A founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement, Nepal is adamant in its belief that every nation must respect each other's existence. Nepal's constitution has laid down a foreign policy based on the Charter of the United Nations, non-alignment, principles of Panchsheel, international law and the norms of world peace. This policy enshrined in the constitution has been inherited by the Federal Parliament and our initiatives in parliamentary diplomacy are inspired by the same policy.

Mr. / Madam President,

In the present, there are situations of tensions and conflicts in various parts of the world. Many of these tensions are the result of action taken by the authorities of the state without taking into consideration the intent of the people and the parliament. Parliaments, who are in the role to scrutinize the actions of the government, must put a stop to such discretionary acts and maintain peace and understanding in the international community.

The scope of diplomacy is not limited to preventing wars and ending ongoing wars. The cooperation and a consolidated effort of the nations with similar interests is necessary to face the burning challenges of the world. The UN Secretary General Mr. Antonio Gueterres, during

his visit to Nepal in October 2023, pressingly called the attention of international community towards the challenges brought by climate change.

Mr. / Madam President,

Nepal is a country whose carbon emission is very low. But it is facing a disproportionately large harm by the impacts of climate change. As the snow in the high Himalayas of Nepal are melting rapidly, the ecosystems below it are in grave danger. This has also put many nations close to the sea level, mainly the island nations, at risk. The nations impacted by this serious threat must raise a united voice in international forums. The nations that contribute most to global warming must fulfil their commitments to the nations that are most affected by it. Urging our governments to honestly execute the nation's promises is a duty of us parliamentarians. I call upon all the honorable parliamentarians of all nations present here, let's diligently fulfil this duty.

Mr. / Madam President,

Inter-Parliamentary Union has been practicing parliamentary diplomacy for world peace since the last 135 years. This has been providing a forum for discussion, brainstorming and cooperation to parliamentarians for relevant issues such as peace, international security, democracy, human rights and sustainable development. IPU has succeeded in maintaining the glory of its two cofounders Passey and Cremer being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in the very first and third years of the award's history. I wish the IPU moves forward in the days to come with the same motivation. I pledge my and my parliament's solidarity and support in this regard.

At last, I thank the Swiss government and people for the warm hospitality to me and my delegation. I also congratulate the IPU Secretariat for the impeccable management of this Assembly.

I thank everyone for the kind attention. Thank You.