

Statement General Debate 148<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly

23-27 march 2024

Switzerland, Genève

Theme: “Parliamentary Diplomacy, Fostering Global Harmony and Understanding”

Presentation, March 25th

---

Madam president,

Excellencies,

Distinguished colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon,

First of all, today is the day of the festival of colors; Subh Holi to everyone.

As we convene to elaborate on the theme of this general debate, it is imperative to recognize the different challenges faced by our global community ranging from polarization to threats to international peace and security. However, Merely acknowledging these issues without taking concrete action falls short of effecting

meaningful change. What is paramount is a concerted effort towards specific solutions.

In the pursuit of addressing these challenges, it is essential to emphasize the decisive role of parliamentary diplomacy in building bridges for peace and understanding. We stand at a critical juncture where meaningful action must be taken, where collaboration must transcend ideological divides, and where empathy must guide our decisions.

While diversity in opinions is inherent to our humanity, it is our collective responsibility to discern between constructive dialogue and harmful polarization. In this context, initiatives undertaken in Suriname to combat polarization through legal measures serve as a beacon of hope, underscoring the imperative of holding individuals accountable for their actions.

Furthermore, the unusual influence of social media that is necessary for a proactive approach in controlling the spread of prejudices. By fostering empathy and promoting nuanced discussions, we can mitigate the proliferation of misinformation and foster a culture of informed dialogue.

Moreover, parliamentary cooperation both at regional and international levels is indispensable in addressing pressing issues such as climate change, gender equality, and human rights. Suriname's collaborative endeavors with esteemed

organizations such as the IPU, ParlAmericas, and the UN exemplify our commitment to collective action in pursuit of global prosperity.

In addition to collaborative efforts, legislative measures play a decisive role in upholding international norms and fostering peace. Suriname's contribution to international treaties, and its commitment among other to combating money laundering and terrorist financing, underscore our steady dedication to global security. This commitment is evident through our membership and participation in The Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF). Moreover, Suriname demonstrates its commitment to addressing challenges such as the proliferation of small arms and ammunition. By conducting accurate evaluations and adherence to international protocols, Suriname remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting regional stability.

In conclusion, parliamentary diplomacy serves as a basis in fostering mutual understanding, dialogue, and cooperation. As we navigate the complexities of the modern world, let us remain resolute in our pursuit of peace, guided by the principles of empathy, collaboration, and adherence to international norms.

Thank you.