

## **SPEECH**

### **at the general debate of the 148th session of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly: “Parliamentary Diplomacy: Building Bridges of Peace and Mutual Understanding”**

*(Time limit – 5 minutes)*

**Distinguished Chairperson!**

**Dear General Secretary, ladies and gentlemen!**

Our delegation also joins the words of condolences to the people of Russia in connection with the numerous victims of the recent terrorist attack.

**Dear colleagues,**

Undoubtedly, in the modern rapidly changing and unpredictable international environment, and amid a deficit of mutual understanding in interstate relations, the role and relevance of parliaments worldwide are increasing.

**Dear participants of the Assembly!**

Addressing at the 78th session of the UN General Assembly, the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted the growing tension in the global community, the departure from norms of international law, and the growing crisis of trust between countries.

In this situation, we, parliamentarians, must contribute to strengthening peace and global stability through the development of parliamentary diplomacy.

In recent years, our country has been undergoing fundamental transformations aimed at ensuring decent living conditions and protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens.

The international community and the UN highly appreciate the reforms being carried out in Uzbekistan based on our adopted Strategy "Uzbekistan 2030". This once again underscores its alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and international standards.

We strictly fulfil all commitments and are open to mutually beneficial cooperation, in which parliamentary diplomacy occupies a key place in our foreign policy.

Uzbekistan is dynamically developing its inter-parliamentary cooperation vector. Partnership ties with foreign parliaments are being strengthened. Our parliamentarians actively participate in the activities of inter-parliamentary organizations and put forward important initiatives within the framework of these structures.

**Dear friends,**

We fully support the conceptual principles of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) aimed at strengthening parliamentary diplomacy.

We believe it is necessary to focus on the following priority areas.

**First**, parliamentary diplomacy, as a key mechanism for building trust between states, should play an important role in conflict prevention.

In this regard, the IPU's efforts to achieve peace and stability deserve special attention. The visit of the Secretary-General of the Organization to Azerbaijan and Armenia serves as a bright example of resolving acute international issues. The Secretary-General acted as an important mediator in establishing contacts between the parliaments of the two countries.

We fully support the IPU's initiatives to strengthen cooperation between parliaments, which contributes to finding compromise solutions in complex situations.

**Second**, parliaments must actively defend the rights of vulnerable population groups. This also involves combating discrimination, hatred, and violence in all its manifestations.

**Third**, the importance of regional cooperation should be emphasized, which contributes to building trust between parliamentarians and addressing common problems and tasks. Thus, they can jointly advocate for the interests of their region.

As an example, successful cooperation among Central Asian countries within various platforms can be cited. These include the **Inter-Parliamentary Forum of Central Asian countries, as well as the Dialogue of Women Leaders of Central Asian countries**. These platforms have become important mechanisms for constructive discussion of regional issues.

It should be emphasized that thanks to the joint efforts of the Central Asian countries, it is possible to find fundamental solutions to issues of regional cooperation. Today, the political situation in the region has undergone a dramatic positive transformation.

**Dear colleagues,**

We are convinced that the coordinating role of the IPA will serve as a powerful resource in inter-parliamentary and interstate relations.

We will continue to support IPU's initiatives aimed at developing parliamentary diplomacy and strengthening international relations to effectively address the contemporary global challenges.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the leadership of the IPU and all member states for supporting the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, to host the landmark 150th IPU Assembly in Uzbekistan.

We have already begun work on organizing and hosting the Assembly at the highest organizational and substantive level, which will not only be the

largest in Central Asia's history but will also leave an unforgettable impression on all participants and guests.

We are confident that the Assembly will contribute to further convergence of approaches in strengthening the role of parliaments in ensuring the sustainable development of our countries.

I wish all of you a productive work.

**Thank you for your attention.**