

Remarks at the General Debate of the 149th IPU Assembly

by TIAN Xuejun, Vice-chairman of the Education, Science, Culture, Public Health
Committee

Madam President, dear Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to represent the National People's Congress of China at the 149th IPU Assembly. In August of this year, we commemorated the 40th anniversary of the NPC's affiliation with the IPU and successfully held the 2024 Interregional Seminar on the Achievement of the SDGs for Parliaments of Developing Countries in Beijing. This opened a new chapter for fostering solidarity and collaboration among developing countries. We are eager to take the 40th anniversary as a springboard to enhance multi-tiered and multifaceted exchanges and cooperation with the IPU and other parliaments worldwide, in our joint endeavor to build a community with a shared future for mankind.

The advancement of technology stands as a pivotal catalyst for societal progress. Currently, the global landscape is undergoing rapid transformation, with an emerging technological revolution and industrial evolution unfolding at an accelerated pace. The United Nations Future Summit was convened last month with resounding success, urging nations to bolster collaboration in scientific and technological innovation. This underscores the international community's extensive consensus and

shared aspiration for enhancing global governance on scientific and technological innovation, aiming to forge a more sustainable future. Concurrently, the misuse of cutting-edge technologies, such as artificial intelligence and gene editing, poses unprecedented challenges to the ethics of science and technology. A handful of developed countries, citing "national security" concerns, have imposed export restrictions, extraterritorial jurisdiction, and unilateral sanctions, attempting to erect "isolated enclaves with high walls." This behavior gravely undermines the legitimate rights of developing countries to utilize technology for peaceful purposes. The "technological divide" and "digital divide" between various countries and regions continue to widen, exacerbating the challenges faced in implementing the U.N. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

China has always advocated for a balanced approach to technological development and security. We have proposed and championed the adoption of resolutions on "Promoting International Cooperation on Peaceful Uses in the Context of International Security" at the United Nations General Assembly for two consecutive years. We call for the safeguarding of the legitimate rights of developing countries to utilize technology for peaceful ends, to enhance dialogue and cooperation, and to advance the inclusive sharing of technological advancements' benefits.

With a focus on further boosting international scientific and technological innovation and cooperation, I would like to propose the following:

First, uphold strategic priority and augment investment guarantees. Governments worldwide should place significant prominence on scientific and technological innovation investment, considering it a key direction of national development strategy, and increase policy support across the board. Parliaments should leverage their unique role in fostering scientific and technological innovation, providing robust legislative underpinning and oversight to ensure the successful implementation of national policies, and collectively cultivate a society-wide legal environment that champions scientific and technological innovation.

Second, maintain a people-centered approach to improve people's wellbeing. International equity and justice entails that people of all countries should partake in the dividends of technological progress. Scientific and technological innovation should adhere to the people-centered philosophy, taking the enhancement of human welfare as the driving force and the promotion of comprehensive human development as the fundamental starting point. This approach should

continuously fulfill people's aspirations and pursuit of a better life, serving the peaceful and sustainable development of human society.

Third, ensure “intelligent technology for good” and reinforce ethical governance. We must adhere to principles that increase human welfare, respect the rights to life, fairness, and justice, manage risks reasonably, and maintain openness and transparency. We should refine the governance system and mechanism for multi-stakeholder participation and collaborative governance, and cultivate the culture and safeguard mechanism ensuring technology is employed for good. In recent years, China has formulated policies on strengthening the governance of science and technology ethics, issuing the Position Paper of China on Strengthening Ethical Governance of Artificial Intelligence, thereby contributing wisdom and solutions to the challenges of science and technology ethics governance.

Fourth, foster open cooperation and reject "decoupling and serving the chain." Politicizing, instrumentalizing, and ideologically driven approaches to scientific and technological issues do not mitigate "risks" but rather cooperation and opportunities, impacting the stability of global trade and investment and the supply chain, to the detriment of the common interests of all nations. The international community should

clearly resist such tendencies, unclog channels for scientific and technological innovation and exchanges for common security and development.

Madam President, dear colleagues,

In China, it is a fundamental national policy to "revitalize the nation through science and education". "Science and technology are the primary productive forces" is widely recognized. Over the past several decades, the Communist Party of China has guided the Chinese people to successfully achieve the first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, through reform and opening up, and through scientific and technological innovation. In the coming decades, to realize the second centenary goal of building a modern socialist country in all respects, we will continue to rely on reform and opening up, and on scientific and technological innovation. This July, the Third Plenary Session of the 20th CPC Central Committee convened successfully, scientifically mapping out the comprehensive deepening of reforms around Chinese modernization, proposing over 300 significant reform tasks. We will seize this opportunity to further deepen the reform of the scientific and technological system, place scientific and technological innovation in an even more prominent position, and construct a comprehensive innovation economic system.

President Xi Jinping has emphasized that legislative exchanges are a vital component of state-to-state relations. Parliaments possess the responsibility and capability to actively contribute to the building of equal and mutually trusting relations between countries, to expand mutually beneficial and win-win development cooperation, to promote open and inclusive exchanges and mutual learning, and to advance fair and reasonable global governance, making a unique contribution to the building of a community with a shared future for humanity. The National People's Congress of China stands ready to enhance exchanges and cooperation with other parliaments across the globe, to share legislative and supervisory experiences in the field of scientific and technological innovation, and to lend positive strength to the cause of global peace and development.

Thank you.