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PARLIAMENT OF MALAYSIA

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)

149th IPU ASSEMBLY

GENERAL DEBATE THEME:

**HARNESSING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (STI)
FOR A MORE PEACEFUL AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

SPEECH FOR:

**HON. SENATOR DATUK NUR JAZLAN BIN TAN SRI MOHAMED
DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**

VENUE:

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

13 – 17 OCTOBER 2024

[SALUTATION]

Honourable Chairperson,
Secretary, and
Distinguished Guest.

1. It is an honour to address this esteemed assembly on behalf of the Malaysian Delegates at the 149th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly. Today's topic, "Harnessing Science, Technology, and Innovation for a More Peaceful and Sustainable Future," is crucial as we navigate an era of rapid technological advancement.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. In line with Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we must ensure that the benefits of science, technology, and innovation (STI) are accessible to all. This includes addressing disparities between the Global North and South and promoting inclusivity, particularly by encouraging participation from women and youth. This is not only a moral imperative but essential for fostering innovation and driving economic growth.
3. However, with great potential comes significant risk. The dual-use nature of many technologies, which can serve both civilian and military purposes, necessitates vigilant regulation to ensure peaceful applications while not stifling innovation. Parliaments must be proactive in creating legal frameworks to meet these needs.
4. The global technological divide remains a pressing issue. STI advancements have the potential to widen the gap between developed and developing countries. It is incumbent upon us to promote equitable access to these technologies and foster collaboration that bridges these divides.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. The rapid pace of technological change often outstrips our regulatory frameworks. As we navigate this dynamic landscape, we must adopt more agile approaches to regulation, as highlighted in the guide¹ to digital transformation in parliaments, published by IPU-ASGP.
6. Technological advancements also bring the challenge of technological unemployment. The rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI), machine learning, and automation presents a risk of significant job displacement. We must prepare for these socioeconomic impacts, ensuring that policies align to protect vulnerable groups via SDG 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth².
7. Data privacy and security are other critical concerns. As the collection and use of personal data expand, we must balance the benefits of data-driven innovation with the need to protect individual rights. Effective privacy safeguards are essential to maintain public trust and ensure the responsible use of technology.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. Misinformation³ and disinformation⁴ pose additional threats, undermining public trust in institutions and jeopardizing public health and safety. Parliaments must uphold evidence-based decision-making and promote mechanisms to combat false information, including deepfakes intimate images and AI-generated content that propagates hate speech or incites violence.

¹ <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reference/2023-09/guide-digital-transformation-in-parliaments>

² <https://www.globalgoals.org/goals/8-decent-work-and-economic-growth/>

³ Misinformation is false or inaccurate information

⁴ Disinformation is false information which is deliberately intended to mislead

9. In addressing these challenges, fostering communication and collaboration between parliaments, governments, civil society, the scientific community, and the private sector is vital. This collaborative approach ensures that diverse perspectives are considered, leading to more informed and effective policymaking.

Ladies and Gentleman,

10. Malaysia's commitment to data privacy is exemplified by the **Personal Data Privacy (Amendment) Act 2024**, approved in July 2024. This act ensures compliance with data protection regulations in commercial transactions and includes enforcement measures to prevent misuse, safeguarding Malaysians' personal rights.
11. In recognising the need and urgency to strengthen our cyber defences, the Parliament of Malaysia unanimously passed the **Cyber Security Act 2024**. The act serves as the overarching cyber security legislation, which will be read together with the existing laws relating to cyber security in Malaysia.
12. Malaysia is rapidly emerging as a data centre powerhouse, driven by advancements in cloud computing, AI, 5G, IoT, and e-commerce. **The data centre market is expected to grow by 72% from 2022 to \$2.25 billion by 2028, surpassing Southeast Asia's 47% growth.**⁵
13. It is crucial to develop robust frameworks for regulating dual-use technologies. In March 2017, Malaysia issued a gazette order to incorporate the EU's updated list of dual-use items into the **Strategic Trade (Strategic Items) (Amendment) Order 2017**.⁶ This aligns with Malaysia's commitment

⁵ <https://www.edgeconnex.com/news/edge-blog/southeast-asias-data-center-powerhouse-malaysia/>

⁶ <https://customs.pwc.com/en/recent-developments/my-eu-control-list-of-dual-use-items-201706.html>

to responsible innovation and ensuring regulatory frameworks keep pace with technological advancements.

14. Malaysia has long championed non-proliferation, reflecting its commitment to global peace and security amid rising tensions in the South China Sea. Concerned about proliferation, Malaysia engages in international and regional frameworks to prevent nuclear weapons spread and promote disarmament. **Key frameworks include the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the ASEAN Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (SEANWFZ), and the Treaty of Peace, Freedom, and Neutrality (ZOPFAN).**⁷

Ladies and Gentlemen,

15. The path to a peaceful and sustainable future lies in harnessing STI responsibly and inclusively, addressing risks, bridging divides, and fostering collaboration. Let us commit to these principles and work together to ensure STI serves as a catalyst for positive change. Thank you.

⁷ <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s42533-022-00121-2>