

अन्तर-व्यवस्थापिका संघको १४९ औं सभामा
राष्ट्रिय सभाका सम्माननीय अध्यक्ष नारायण प्रसाद दाहालज्यूको सम्बोधन
शान्तिपूर्ण र दिगो भविष्यको लागि विज्ञान, प्रविधि र नवप्रवर्तनको सदुपयोग

Harnessing science, technology and innovation

Honourable President,
Excellencies Speakers, and Presidents
Distinguished Members of Parliament
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I feel honored to address this august gathering of parliamentarians from around the world at the 149th IPU Assembly on behalf of the Federal Parliament of Nepal.

I bring with me the greetings and best wishes of the thirty million people and the Federal Parliament of Nepal, from the birthplace of Gautama Buddha, an apostle of peace, and the land of Mount Everest, for the success of this Assembly.

Inter-parliamentary union has remained as an important platform for the deliberation and contribution to address pressing challenges, including climate change, natural disasters, geopolitical tensions, poverty, and inequality in the world today.

The theme '**Harnessing Science, technology and innovations (STI) for a more peaceful and sustainable future**' resonates well with the tune of the world today, particularly following the recent adoption of the **Pact for the Future, Global Digital Compact, and the Declaration on Future Generations** by the Seventy-ninth UN General Assembly.

The rapid development in science, technology and innovation has brought a wide range of opportunities for making peoples' life easier and better. It also holds transformative potential towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals set forth in 2015. In this context, we, the representatives of Parliaments of the countries across the globe, need to make laws and supervise their implementation so as to ensure equity in peoples' access to technology and the distribution of benefits.

Madam President,

This august forum of world's parliamentarians needs to deliberate on pertinent issues of our time.

- There is a huge divide within and between countries in the capacity development and access to information technology. Over 2.6 billion people in the world are still off-line. Therefore, we all need to work together to overcome these challenges and ensure equitable access to the gains of science, technology and innovation for all.
- The legislatures of the world with the constitutional responsibility of making laws and supervising their effective implementation for the benefit of human society must deliver on our mandate, particularly in shaping the development of science and technology while addressing the associated risks and challenges such as data privacy, cyber security, misinformation and spread of harmful content.
- We should focus creating environment for international cooperation and collaboration in research, development, resource mobilization and youth engagement in the field of science, technology and innovation while provisioning necessary regulation in order to ensure equal access to technology for all.
- It is imperative for parliaments to exchange experiences of law-making, implementation, and the best practices in order to bridge the gap between developed and developing countries in the fields of science and technology.
- The efforts made by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to incorporate AI in its Action Plan and formulating a new Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology by creating the Working Group on Science & Technology is commendable.

The development in science, technology and innovation and its achievements should be viewed as the global good for the benefit of humankind, rising above the narrow nationalism. We can minimize the adverse effects of Science, Technology and Innovation through mutual cooperation and exchange of knowledge and experiences in this field.

Madam President,

Nepal is a republic of 30 million people and a plural society with ecological, geographic and demographic diversity. Nepal is a federal democratic republic country. Reflecting the diversity of the country, the Constitution Nepal has institutionalized an inclusive and proportional system to ensure the representation of women, minorities and marginalized communities.

We express gratitude to the international community and friendly countries for the good wishes and support to the successful conclusion of Nepal's peace process. The bill on 'Enforced Disappearances Enquiry, Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act' has been unanimously adopted by both the houses of Nepal's federal parliament paving path to a lasting peace in the country.

Our Himalayas, including the highest peak of the world, the Mount Everest are heavily affected by the adverse impacts of climate change. Considering overall climate justice, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and fellow Parliaments have important roles in fostering cooperation among nations and facilitating the transfer of technical and financial resources as well as capacity-building assistance from developed to developing countries. Therefore, we call upon the international community for availing Nepal adequate financial resources and climate resilient technologies in order to mitigate the climate induced loss and damage.

Nepal, the holy birthplace of Gautama Buddha, has embraced foreign policy of 'friendship with all, enmity to none,' based on the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of Panchsheel, and the values of world peace. As the country preparing to graduate from the LDC category in 2026, Nepal needs additional international assistance to build its capacities.

Madam President,

We are confident that the Inter-Parliamentary Union will continue to play an effective role in contributing to the contemporary international issues including peace and security, democracy, human rights, and sustainable development. I assure you of the full cooperation and solidarity of the Federal Parliament of Nepal in achieving the objectives and goals of this world parliament.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the government and people of Switzerland for their warm welcome and hospitality in this beautiful city of Geneva. I also extend my special thanks to the Inter-Parliamentary Union for the excellent management of this Assembly.

Let's continue to enhance inter-parliamentary cooperation for more peaceful and sustainable future.

Thank you for your kind attention.
