

Statement of Dr. Mohammad Reza Majidi  
Secretary General of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly  
**On the Theme” *Harnessing science, technology and innovation (STI) for a more peaceful and sustainable future***  
On the Occasion of 149 IPU Assembly  
Geneva-Switzerland  
(13-17 October 2024)

Mr. Chairperson  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Dear Colleagues

At the outset let me express my sincere thanks to the IPU for placing Science, Technology and Innovation in the agenda of this IPU Assembly.

As a matter of fact, let me refer you to this very clear and shining fact that if use of science and technology is not associated with ethics, we will have recurrence of similar catastrophic tragedies we are currently witnessing in Gaza and Lebanon.

The tragic situation we are experiencing in the region reminds me of a Persian Proverb that tends to imply: Placing the knife in the hands of a drunkard”

Under this premises, I intend to infuse this implication that science and technology in our today’s world is in the hand of the extremist factions that we are experiencing in similar way in the aftermath of the ongoing act of genocide and ethnic cleansing and mass killing of children in Gaza and Lebanon.

Discussion on this highly important theme should not deviate us from core essence of humanity and lead us to the commitment of certain inhuman acts of genocide that are currently taking place in Gaza and Lebanon.

We should remind ourselves of the catastrophic tragedies of the past 374 days as a mirror image of the war crimes with a death toll of about 50,000 innocent people mostly women and children, including thousands of others who are seriously wounded or whose bodies are still under the rubbles of the buildings bombarded by the apartheid regime of ISRAEL before the very eyes of international community that has preferred to remain silent in the face of the widespread magnitude of such war crimes in the region.

Is it not high time to say “enough is enough”. Don’t you think that the ongoing escalation of tensions and continued mass killing of women and children is an alarming prelude for drawing us to another world war.

May I ask that the IPU, as the global organization of parliaments with its long-lasting history of parliamentary diplomacy with its crucial mandate to work for maintenance of peace and security will be able to do anything needed to put an end to this humanitarian crisis in the region.