

**Statement by the Vice President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia Mr. Hakob Arshakyan at the General Debate of the 150<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly**

**Tashkent, 5-9 April 2025**

***Parliamentary action for social development and justice***

Madam President,

Excellencies,

Fellow parliamentarians,

Ladies and gentlemen,

First, I would like to thank our friends from Uzbekistan for open-hearted and high level hospitality.

Today is the National Day of mothers and women in Armenia, and I would like to congratulate all the women in the room. Peace and prosperity to all of you.

It is an honor to speak to you today at this important moment as we work together for a more just, peaceful, and prosperous world.

As we gather for the 150th IPU Assembly, we are united in addressing the urgent challenges we face. Around the world, we see complex issues that threaten our future unless we act.

We are here to engage in the important discussions around the future we want to build - one that is founded on justice, equality, and, above all, peace.

Armenia believes that true development goes beyond economic growth. It is about creating systems that provide social protection, equal opportunities, and dignity for all citizens.

In Armenia, we have been working hard to meet the needs of vulnerable groups, ensuring that healthcare, education, and housing are not privileges for the few, but rights for everyone.

We are also focused on social inclusion, making sure that everyone, regardless of gender, ethnicity, or background, has access to opportunities. In 2025, Armenia will increase social protection spending by 14.9% compared to 2024.

It is through such actions that we strengthen democracy, build stronger societies.

Dear colleagues,

In Armenia, we know that peace is a process - long and sometimes difficult, but one, that is worth every effort.

In this spirit, we have recently taken a significant step.

Armenia confirms that the draft peace agreement and negotiations with Azerbaijan have been successfully completed.

The peace agreement is now ready to be signed, and Armenia stands prepared to finalize this truly historic step.

We invite Azerbaijan to join us in taking this critical step toward a peaceful and prosperous future for both our nations.

Thank you.