

**Statement by the Chairperson of the Council of Republic of
the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus**

H.E. Madam Natalia Kochanova

Dear Madam President!

Dear Mr. Secretary-General!

Ladies and Gentlemen!

On behalf of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, I am sincerely pleased to welcome all participants of the landmark 150th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union!

First of all, allow me to express my deep gratitude to the leadership of the Republic of Uzbekistan for inviting the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus to today's large-scale event, as well as for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to all Assembly participants.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly serves as a unique platform for discussing pressing issues on the international agenda that concern our nations and our peoples. The Assembly has managed to uphold the principles of equal and respectful dialogue in its work. This strengthens the role of parliamentary diplomacy in finding solutions to modern challenges and threats, as well as in implementing strategies for progressive development based on the core principle of sustainable development — social justice.

Amid the onslaught of geopolitical transformations, our world is changing rapidly — wars, conflicts, hostility, arms races, the revival of bloc mentality and confrontation — all of this increasingly engulfs our planet with each passing day. With every new 'record' in military spending, the long-term risks of large-scale wars grow.

The demand for social justice is coming to the forefront on a global scale!

In today's world, social justice and social responsibility are increasingly being replaced by the opportunistic interests of states seeking global dominance.

Income inequality, often along gender lines, as well as unequal access to basic public goods, leads to growing social imbalances both within and between countries.

How can we ensure sustainable social development when illegal sanctions are imposed, when the world is engulfed in conflicts that claim lives, and when fundamental human rights — including the right to life — are sacrificed for geopolitical competition?

Dear colleagues!

In this time of crisis in international relations, we, as parliamentarians, must become active defenders of socio-economic human rights, advocates for justice and solidarity, and guardians of peace and stability at the global level.

Parliaments, as architects of social policy, must actively pass laws aimed at protecting citizens' rights, ensuring social equality, creating conditions for a decent standard of living, supporting vulnerable groups, and promoting sustainable societal development.

The people, their interests, and needs have always been, are, and will remain the foundation of the Republic of Belarus's state policy. In just over three decades of independence, Belarus has achieved successes that we are proud of and that future generations of Belarusians will continue to cherish. **We have built a truly sovereign and independent state.**

Today, Belarus stands tall — it is a country of great opportunities, a country for living! And our people are deeply

grateful for these achievements to our wise Leader — the President of the Republic of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko.

In our parliamentary work, we are guided by the principle that laws must be fair, rooted in real life, and adopted for the people, for every individual.

Universal access to healthcare, clean drinking water, quality food, and education — these are not just benefits but fundamental values that Belarusians have long taken for granted as integral parts of daily life, thanks to consistent social policies. Our priorities remain unchanged.

Dear colleagues!

Social development and justice, as well as the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, require global cooperation. Parliaments must actively engage with one another, share experiences and best practices, and build a network of unity and solidarity.

The Republic of Belarus is a peace-loving country.

In international engagements, Belarusian parliamentarians promote the ideas of peaceful coexistence, equal and fair interstate cooperation.

It is essential that we join our efforts to discuss and develop joint initiatives.

The establishment, within the Inter-Parliamentary Union, of an informal association — **the Group of Friends for Peaceful and Constructive Development** — could become a new vector of parliamentary strength — parliamentary diplomacy — in strengthening international understanding.

Redirecting funds from militarization to social policy development could significantly improve people's quality of life and strengthen societal stability. Instead of investing in weapons and military infrastructure, these resources should be channeled

into key social areas: education, healthcare, maternal and child protection, and state support for vulnerable groups.

Such an approach could unite the international community around constructive goals and ensure long-term development, peace and security of our countries.

In conclusion, let me wish you all successful and productive work for the prosperity of our nations and the well-being of our peoples.

Thank you!