

150th IPU Assembly

General Debate: *Parliamentary action for social development and justice*

*Esteemed Colleagues,
Members of Parliament,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am honored to stand before you today to elaborate on a topic that is central to the future of our countries - social development and justice. Social development is not merely about economic growth or political stability; it is about ensuring human well-being for all and improving the quality of life for our citizens.

Parliaments play a significant role in shaping societies that are just, inclusive, and progressive. A democracy is not solely defined by the right to vote or the freedom of expression, but by actions that aim to ensure that every individual has the opportunity to live with dignity and equality.

We fully share the conviction recognized in the Charter of the United Nations and the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development according to which “social development and social justice are indispensable for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security. In turn, social development and social justice cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security.”

As we stand here today, the world is confronted by many challenges, starting from armed conflicts, to poverty, to environmental degradation. During these difficult times, we have successfully managed to maintain peace and stability in our country that gave us an opportunity to focus on economic and social development that would allow our citizens to thrive.

In the last couple of years, Georgia had enjoyed steady economic growth, which continued this year too. Georgia is also among TOP 20 in Europe in the Heritage’s Economic Freedom Index 2025. Economic freedom is impossible without robust justice system, respect for the rule of law, and effective state institutions, and we see economic growth as an instrument of poverty reduction and social well-being but also of national security and regional peace.

As the Parliaments are elected by the people, it is crucial to remember that we shall make laws that serve the people. In Georgia, we are committed to social development that enhances the well-being of all. Over the past years, we have made strides in supporting families, ensuring social justice, universal healthcare, upholding the rights of vulnerable groups.

We consider the family as a building block of a society and this is why we put family support at the center of our social development agenda.

- We developed a health system accessible to all regardless of background or income;
- We have also established social security programs that protect families in times of hardship; We have also developed various programs for supporting large families;
- We increased financial support at prenatal, postnatal and childcare stages;
- In the last decade, pensions increased fourfold.

In addition, we adopted the legislation that ensures non-discrimination and equality. For example, the Law on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination, the Concept of Equality of Men and Women, Women's Economic Empowerment Concept.

Furthermore, we approximated our labor legislation with European Union standards, established and strengthened the mechanisms of oversight over protection of rights of the workers and labor safety norms (Labour Inspection Office).

We also introduced laws that protect the rights of persons with disabilities, we ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and enhanced social support for disabled citizens (Indexation of social package);

Moreover, considering the fact that we have IDPs from Georgia's occupied regions, we pay significant attention to their integration into our society, implement various support programs, including the provision of housing.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The role of the parliament is not just to legislate but also to ensure the effective implementation of the passed laws. It helps us evaluate the impact of those laws on real people and adjust our strategies when necessary. This is why we pay much attention to increasing transparency, strengthening anti-corruption measures, and building a system of accountability within the Parliament.

As we look toward the future, I would like to emphasize the importance of global cooperation to address the challenges of social development and justice. A new social contract for humanity shall be responsive to complex challenges of the modern world.

- First of all, it shall focus on domestic and global peace and security by moving away from militaristic approaches to resolving conflicts and focusing on diplomacy, conflict prevention;
- It shall be based on democratic governance, accountability and transparency;
- It shall aim to promote economic growth that will not only focus on GDP but also on reducing inequality and improving the well-being of all people;
- It shall encompass the important goal of environmental sustainability as moving to a green economy and sustainable practices will protect our countries and our planet;
- It shall also address ethical implications of emerging technologies.

Dear Colleagues,

In closing, I would like to highlight that in Georgia, we are deeply committed to our partnerships with the international community. We stand ready for fruitful exchange and discussions with each of you to contribute to the creation of a just, sustainable and prosperous global community.

Thank you.