



**BAHAGIAN PENYELIDIKAN DAN PERPUSTAKAAN**  
*RESEARCH AND LIBRARY DIVISION*  
**PARLIMEN MALAYSIA**  
*PARLIAMENT OF MALAYSIA*

---

**150th INTER-PARLIMENTARY UNION (IPU) ASSEMBLY**

**TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN**

**5th - 9th APRIL 2025**

**THEME:**

**GENERAL DEBATE:**

**PARLIAMENTARY ACTION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND JUSTICE**

---

**SPEECH TEXT**

*for*

**MALAYSIAN DELEGATION**

---

Honourable President,  
Distinguished Delegates, and  
fellow Members of Parliament,

Good evening, Assalomu aleykum, (pronoun: as-sa-lam-mu-a-lai-kum) hayrli kun  
(Pronounced: hayr-li-kun).

## **Introduction**

1. Today, as we gather for the 150th IPU Assembly in Tashkent, we stand at a crucial moment in history.
2. Our discussions and actions carry the weight of expectations from the people we represent. It is imperative to reflect the voices of our constituents. For they have entrusted us with their hopes and aspirations.
3. The theme of this assembly coincides with the current need for parliamentary action for social development and justice. We reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that the principles of equity, inclusiveness, and justice are rooted in our national and global agendas.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. As Members of Parliament, we serve as architects of change in our country. It is our responsibility to shape policies that align with our people's needs. This role goes beyond legislation; it involves listening to, understanding, and supporting those who are often marginalised (the elderly, the disabled, refugees, and children). We must include these groups in our decisions and actively shape their future.

## **Malaysia's Initiatives**

### Malaysia's Perspective: Poverty Eradication and Social Protection through the 12th Malaysia Plan

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. We stand today at a pivotal moment in our nation's journey. Malaysia finds itself not just at a crossroads, but at a critical juncture where our path forward demands resilience, unity, and visionary leadership.

6. The challenges we face are not unique to us alone but resonate with many of the nations represented here today. We grapple with the complex realities of globalization, the fluctuations of financial systems, and the rapid surge of technological advancements.
7. These forces, while transformative, have also deepened existing inequalities, pushing some to the margins and widening the gap between those who thrive and those who struggle.
8. But let us be clear — these challenges are not insurmountable. They are calls to action, urging us to reshape our strategies and redefine our priorities.
9. In the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we must recognize that social development is not merely an agenda item to be ticked off. It is, in fact, the bedrock of an equitable and just society. Without it, progress is merely a fleeting illusion.
10. Imagine a Malaysia where every individual's well-being is prioritized. A nation that upholds the inherent worth of every person, regardless of gender, age, or socio-economic background. A society that not only acknowledges diversity but actively celebrates and includes it. That is the vision we must strive toward — a vision where opportunities are not privileges for the few, but rights for all.
11. We take pride in the steps we have taken. The Malaysian Parliament has been at the forefront of championing social initiatives, fighting the scourge of poverty, and enhancing social protection frameworks. Our universal healthcare system is a testament to our commitment to inclusivity, ensuring that no Malaysian is left behind. It is a reflection of our dedication to the principle that health is a fundamental human right.
12. Yet, as we push forward, we must remain vigilant, questioning ourselves at every step. Are we doing enough? Are we truly addressing the root causes of inequality? Are our actions making a tangible difference? The answer must be a resounding “Yes!” But achieving this requires more than just words. It

demands unwavering dedication, steadfast cooperation, and a collective will from every part of the government and the Malaysian people themselves.

13. We must not be passive observers but active participants in shaping a future where no one is forgotten. Let us draw strength from our diversity, solidarity from our shared struggles, and hope from our collective dreams. Together, we will build a Malaysia that is not just stronger, but fairer and more compassionate — a Malaysia that leads by example on the global stage.

14. In this regard, the Malaysian Initiative is currently being intensified based on the roadmap set out in the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP), a comprehensive initiative that aims to reshape Malaysia's path towards inclusive and sustainable development.

15. I would like to emphasise that one of the main objectives of the 12MP is building an inclusive and more resilient society. Key measures include an expanded social safety net to provide support to the most vulnerable populations; and directed financial assistance which addresses immediate needs, and increasing skills development programmes, particularly for youth and women.

Ladies and Gentleman,

16. Indeed, as Members of Parliament, we must actively support initiatives of this kind, ensuring that they are adequately funded and implemented effectively. Our role is to champion policies that are in line with the needs of our constituents, especially in marginalised communities.

17. But is it enough to simply support these initiatives? Should we, as Members of Parliament, just be passive supporters, nodding our heads in agreement?

18. Absolutely not! Our duty goes beyond mere endorsement. We must also be the vigilant eyes and the steadfast guardians of accountability. Our role is not just to promote policies but to ensure that these plans are executed with precision and purpose.

19. Are the resources reaching those who need them most? Are the promises made turning into real, tangible outcomes? These are the questions we must continuously ask.
20. We are not just policymakers; we are the checks and balances that safeguard the interests of the people. Our commitment to progress must include a relentless pursuit of transparency and effectiveness.
21. We owe it to our constituents to ensure that their hopes do not get lost in bureaucratic red tape or inefficiency. Let us not just support but actively scrutinize, guide, and ensure that the plans we advocate for truly deliver on their promises."
22. I would like to emphasise here that as we face social challenges, we must deepen our understanding of structural inequalities. The digital divide poses a significant obstacle to social inclusion. In Malaysia, as in most countries, access to technology determines educational and economic prospects.
23. It is therefore appropriate that we prioritise investments in digital literacy and infrastructure to ensure that all citizens, especially those in rural and underserved areas, can participate equitably in an increasingly sophisticated digital world.
24. Furthermore, the current climate crisis is magnifying the vulnerabilities of already marginalised populations. It is our duty as parliamentarians to enact laws for sustainable development that address environmental concerns while enhancing social equity.
25. Integrating social justice into our climate policies will not only broaden our approach to environmental challenges but will also strengthen our commitment to justice for all citizens.

## Challenges Ahead and Global Responsibility

### A Call for a New Social Contract

Ladies and Gentleman,

26. As we delve deeper into the implications of a new social contract, we must reflect on its significance for Malaysia and the wider world.
27. The UN Secretary-General has emphasised the urgent need for a framework rooted in human rights that encompasses universal social protection, decent work, and inclusivity in decision-making processes.
28. For Malaysia, this is not just an ambition — it is an urgent call to action! We must forge ahead with bold, robust policies that guarantee every citizen access to essential services like healthcare and education. But it cannot stop there! We must also ensure that every hardworking Malaysian is met with fair wages and works in safe, dignified conditions. This is not just about policy — it is about honoring the fundamental rights of our people.
29. But how can we truly claim to build a fair and inclusive society if we as Members of Parliament do not amplify the voices of those who have been marginalized for far too long? Women, youth, and disadvantaged groups must not just be heard; they must have the power to shape parliamentary decisions.
30. We must actively create platforms that empower these voices, embedding their perspectives into the very core of our legislative practices. Only then can we confidently say that we are building a nation where every citizen is valued and prioritized.
31. This collective responsibility is not a burden but a tremendous opportunity — an opportunity to transform our society from the inside out. As members of the International Parliamentary Union, we must embrace this challenge with passion, resolve, and a steadfast commitment to equity and justice. The world

is watching, and our actions will define the future we shape for generations to come!

32. Thus, it is vital that we proactively create platforms for the voices of women, youth, and marginalised groups, allowing them to influence parliamentary decisions. By embedding these principles into our legislative practices, we can ensure that the needs and rights of all citizens are acknowledged and prioritised, thereby building a more equitable and just society.

33. This collective responsibility is not just a challenge; it is an opportunity for transformation, one that we must embrace as members of the International Parliamentary Union.

34. We have a unique opportunity to strengthen our commitment to this new social contract. We must work to create a shared framework that transcends national borders, ensuring that the principles of social development and justice are not mere trifles but actionable commitments backed by political will and resources. Together, we can spearhead this movement towards a more inclusive contract that empowers every member of society to thrive.

### Conference Reflections

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At this important gathering, I urge each of you to reflect on some critical questions: What essential elements should our proposed new social contract for humanity encompass? How can we ensure that people, not markets or technology regain control of social development? And what new commitments do we need to make from this summit to prioritise the needs of those we serve?

## Closing

35. In closing, let us view this assembly as not merely a forum for dialogue but as a pivotal platform for transformative action. I urge each delegate to consider the essential elements of a new social contract that prioritises humanity's needs above all else.
36. As we return to our respective countries, let us carry with us not just the resolutions forged here but an unwavering commitment to enact meaningful change. Together, we possess the collective power to redefine our societies, champion inclusivity, and uphold the principles of social development and justice.
37. Now is the time for decisive action. Let us commit ourselves to not just envisioning a better future but to actively working toward its realisation. Together, we can turn our aspirations into a tangible reality that benefits all citizens.
38. Thank you, *Rahmat* (pronounced: rah-mat) for your dedication and commitment.