

IPU 150th Assembly and Related Meeting

Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 5-9 April 2025

The Speech by

Hon. Abdul Raheem Abdulla, MP, Speaker of the People’s Majlis

on

“PARLIAMENTARY ACTION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND JUSTICE”

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Honorable President of the IPU,
Honourable Secretary General of the IPU,
Honorable Speakers of Parliaments, and Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalaam Alaikum, Good morning.

It is a great pleasure to address this Assembly on the theme of
“Parliamentary Action for Social Development and Justice.”

Before I start, let me extend my sincere appreciation to the government, parliament and people of Uzbekistan for their warm hospitality and for hosting this important gathering.

Madam President,

As representatives of the people, it is our responsibility to work toward improving the lives of the people and ensuring justice.

It must not be just a vision.

The policies we adopt and the decisions we make, must translate into positive progress, for those who rely on us to advocate for their rights and well-being.

Madam President,

Social development has always been a priority in the Maldives.

The Parliament of Maldives plays an important role in bringing progress to everyone.

Over the years, we have passed several important legislations to maintain social justice.

The **Child Rights Protection Act** ensures the safety of our children and their well-being.

The **Gender Equality Act** guarantees equal opportunities for men and women, while the Prevention of **Domestic Violence Act**, strengthens protections for those facing violence.

In addition, the **Pension Act** establishes the Maldives Retirement Pension Scheme, to ensure financial security for retirees, while the **Disability Act** provides financial assistance for persons with disabilities.

Under the **Social Health Insurance Act**, a universal health insurance system was created to protect citizens from the financial burden of health costs.

These laws are not just policies on paper. They are real steps towards creating an equal and just society.

To ensure their proper implementation, parliamentary committees such as the **Human Rights and Gender Committee**, the **Social Affairs Committee** and the **Independent Institutions Committee**, closely monitor the performance of the government and hold institutions accountable.

Madam President,

Fighting poverty and reducing disparities between people should be central to our efforts.

The Government of Maldives has always worked to ensure that everyone has access to essential services, such as health care, education and housing.

As President **Dr. Mohamed Muizzu** highlighted in this year's Presidential Address, efforts to strengthen the **zakat** system, will play an important role in generating income for the needy, and eradicating poverty in the country.

Madam President,

A strong economy is also very important for social development.

We need to create more opportunities for small businesses, support young people and women in entrepreneurship.

Empowering small and medium enterprises and young entrepreneurs, has been a consistent focus of the Maldivian government.

We have established a small and medium enterprise hub.

We are offering multiple grant programs, loans, and education programs for entrepreneurs.

Madam President,

While technology is advancing rapidly, opportunities and challenges are faced at the same time.

Though digital technology connects people, and drives economic growth, the digital divide still limits opportunities for many communities. The Maldives is actively investing in digitization and financial inclusion, ensuring that modern technology plays a key role, in improving economic and social well-being.

Efforts are being made to ensure that young people, and women can benefit from new opportunities.

Investing in **ICT** infrastructure and **E-governance** is also one of our visions to build a modern, inclusive, and technology driven society.

Madam President,

As we all know, climate change is a major threat to small island countries like the Maldives.

Rising sea levels and extreme weather events threaten our homes, economies and way of life.

We believe that climate justice is also social justice.

I urge all Member States to work together, to protect climate vulnerable countries and promote sustainability for future generations.

Madam President,

At a time , when the world is facing conflict and economic challenges, we need to remember the importance of mutual support and of

choosing dialogue over division. The Maldives fully supports these principles. We must ensure that social development and justice guide our policies.

Madam President,

The Maldives is deeply concerned about the ongoing conflict in Gaza and the suffering of civilians. We urge swift international action to end the violence and uphold justice.

As parliamentarians, we must demonstrate political will. We must take real action beyond words. To promote **justice, equity and sustainability**, let us ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live with dignity and hope.

Thank you.