

Speech – 150th IPU Assembly, Uzbekistan

As we gather here today for the 150th IPU Assembly in Uzbekistan, the selection of the theme social development and justice is a timeless subject which we must never stop striving for.

It is evident that the discrepancy between the rate with which inflation increases year on year and the increase in the net income year on year for a medium income family (let alone for a low income family) is not providing peace of mind towards a sustainable living.

We gather at a time when artificial self-imposed trade imbalances are being created through the imposition of blanket wide tariffs, threatening further the financially weak and marginalised groups. These tariff increases will result in the further erosion of the already insufficient living income. We must therefore strive, and the IPU as an international body provides the right platform, to call upon our governments to fight ~~trade~~ protection measures with lasting benefits to our peoples.

We must continue to strive in favour of better distribution of wealth in the given context where a small percentage of the world's population owns the majority of the world's assets. To this affect, we must strive for wages that truly reflect the right apportion of the profits generated.

Eradicating poverty, providing access to basic services (healthcare, education and housing), fair wages and good working conditions, the integration of immigrants and the participation of women, youth and minority groups.

I would like to thank Uzbekistan for your warm hospitality, and may this gathering serve to deliver concrete action for further social development and justice.

Rahmad.