

**Address by the Hon'ble Speaker Lungten Dorji at the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, 29 -31 July 2025 Geneva, Switzerland**

Your Excellency, Dr. Tulia Ackson, the President of IPU.  
Hon. Speakers, Hon. Presidents of Parliaments,  
Honorable Dy. Presidents and Dy. Speakers and Members of Parliaments,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is an immense honor and privilege for me to stand before you today as the Speaker of the National Assembly of Bhutan, representing the Parliament of the Kingdom of Bhutan. Kindly allow me to extend the warm greetings of His Majesty the King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and the people of Bhutan.

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and United Nations (UN) for jointly organizing this Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments in this grand and historic hall of the Palais des Nations. This significant initiative has brought us together to deliberate on the issues of global importance and to reflect on the collective future of our nations.

The theme of this conference: "*A World in Turmoil: Parliamentary Cooperation and Multilateralism for Peace, Justice, and Prosperity for All*" aptly reflects the pressing challenges of our time. As the world grapples with unprecedented crises - ranging from conflicts and social inequality to climate change and economic instability - it is evident that no nation can address these challenges in isolation. Our collective response must be rooted in cooperation, dialogue, and mutual understanding.

Parliaments must take our rightful place at the heart of international cooperation. We must reaffirm our commitment to upholding the rule of law, defending human dignity, and using our collective voice to demand peace where there is violence, and justice where there is impunity.

Parliaments, as the national consciences representing the will of the people, have the crucial roles to play in fostering multilateralism that transcends borders,

promotes justice, and ensures lasting peace and prosperity for all. This gathering provides us with the platform to reaffirm our shared commitment to these ideals and to build a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world. Parliaments must be the spaces not only of deliberation but of decisive action, where the principles of justice and dignity are translated into real outcomes.

In Bhutan, we are guided by the timeless philosophy of Gross National Happiness (GNH), envisioned by our beloved Fourth King, His Majesty Jigme Wangchuck. This philosophy, which transcends mere economic indicators, encompasses the holistic well-being of our people. It serves as a guiding light in our governance and decision-making processes. We believe that true progress is measured not only by material wealth but by the happiness, harmony, and well-being of our citizens.

Bhutan is committed to multilateralism and recognizes the vital role of the United Nations in promoting peace, international security, and sustainable development. Since joining the UN in 1971, Bhutan has consistently worked constructively to advance these shared objectives. Bhutan's participation in UN peacekeeping missions reflects its enduring commitment to the UN and its responsibilities as a member of the international community in maintaining global peace and security.

Multilateralism must not be allowed to fail. It is the cornerstone of international cooperation and the only path toward sustainable peace. We must reaffirm our commitment to international frameworks that uphold human rights, protect civilians, and resolve conflict through dialogue and diplomacy.

Beyond its international commitments, Bhutan is also pursuing innovative development initiatives in the region. The Gelephu Mindfulness City Project, initiated by His Majesty the King, represents a visionary effort to foster sustainable development based on Bhutan's core values of compassion, harmony, and environmental stewardship. It will be a Mindfulness City, encompassing conscious and sustainable businesses, inspired by Buddhist spiritual heritage, and distinguished by the uniqueness of our identity.

Bhutan is committed to contributing to this global effort by sharing our experiences of Gross National Happiness, promoting mindfulness-based approaches and supporting multilateral frameworks that uphold peace, justice, and inclusive development. We believe that the path to a just and prosperous world lies in our collective will to transcend differences and work together for the greater good of humanity.

In conclusion, let us commit ourselves to fostering solidarity among nations, to standing together as custodians of democracy and peace. Let us continue to work collectively to build a world where human dignity and happiness are at the core of our development efforts.

Thank you all for your kind attention, and I extend my best wishes for the success of this important conference. May our deliberations here inspire meaningful change and leave a lasting impact on our shared future.

Thank you & Tashi Delek!