



Upholding Multilateralism and Building a Beautiful Home for All

H. E. Zhao Leji
Chairman of the Standing Committee
Of the National People's Congress
Of the People's Republic of China
At the General Debate
Of the Sixth World Conference
Of Speakers of Parliament

Geneva, July 29, 2025

(Translation)

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Your Excellency President Tulia Ackson,
Your Excellencies Speakers of Parliament,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to join you by Lake Geneva for the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament. On behalf of the National People's Congress (NPC) of China, I extend warm congratulations on the opening of the Conference.

As humanity entered the new millennium 25 years ago, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held the first World Conference of Speakers of Parliament. In

response to the aspirations of people across all countries for peace, tranquility, development and prosperity, the Conference made a solemn pledge—leverage the role of legislatures to strengthen international cooperation, tackle global challenges together and realize the ideals of the United Nations (U. N.) Charter.

Over the past 25 years, legislatures the world over have deepened exchanges and cooperation, making a positive contribution to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and improving global governance.

Yet, the world we live in remains far from being peaceful. The resurging unilateralism and protectionism, the ever—widening wealth and development gaps, and the flaring geopolitical conflicts and regional wars have dealt severe blows to the international rules and order, and posed grave challenges to humanity’s pursuit of peace and development. Legislatures have a responsibility to play a positive part in fostering a new type of international relations and building a community with a shared future for mankind. To this end, I wish to share four observations.

First, let us work together to uphold peace and tranquility of the world. Humanity is an indivisible security community, and the security and development of all countries should be respected. Legislatures should uphold the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and

sustainable security, respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, and respect the development paths independently chosen by the people of all countries. We should oppose interference in other countries' internal affairs, and oppose the Cold War mentality and bloc confrontation. We should advocate bridging differences through dialogue and resolving disputes with cooperation, and support all efforts conducive to the peaceful settlement of crises, with a view to contributing to the realization of lasting peace and universal security in the world.

Second, let us work together to facilitate global development and prosperity. Economic globalization is a trend of the times. Protectionism leads nowhere, and tariff wars and trade wars produce no winners. Legislatures should place development and people's well-being front and center, pursue mutual benefit and win-win cooperation, uphold the multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization at its core, keep global industrial and supply chains stable and smooth, and jointly create an open, inclusive and nondiscriminatory environment for international economic cooperation, so as to provide a legal safeguard for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and promoting common development of all countries.

Third, let us work together to advocate exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations. Civilizations are

diverse and equal, and all of them are treasures of humanity. Legislatures should advocate respect for the diversity of civilizations, champion humanity's common values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy and freedom, promote dialogues among civilizations and cultural exchanges, increase mutual understanding and friendship among people of all countries, so that different civilizations will inspire each other and prosper together.

Fourth, let us work together to promote international fairness and justice. All countries are equal, regardless of their size, strength and wealth. International affairs should be handled through discussion by all, under universally agreed rules, and with all countries' interests and concerns in view. Legislatures should uphold and practice true multilateralism, firmly safeguard the international system with the U. N. at its core and the international order underpinned by international law, oppose all forms of hegemonic, high-handed and bullying acts, and oppose double standard, with a view to building a more just and equitable global governance system.

Colleagues,

Friends,

The NPC of China highly values and actively supports the work of the IPU. Last year, we successfully held the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the NPC's

affiliation to the IPU and the sixth Interregional Seminar on the Achievement of the SDGs for Parliaments of Developing Countries to exchange best practices and deepen cooperation, sending a message of developing countries working together for peace and development. On this occasion, I wish to announce that the NPC of China decides to donate US \$ 1.5 million to the IPU, and continue to jointly run Seminars for Parliaments of Developing Countries, with a view to supporting fellow legislatures in strengthening capacity building.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti — Fascist War. It also marks the 80th anniversary of the founding of the U. N. China always upholds a correct historical perspective on the Second World War, and firmly defends its victorious outcomes and the postwar international order. The NPC of China supports the IPU in developing a closer working relationship with the U. N. , and in playing a bigger role in international affairs. We will strengthen exchanges and cooperation with the IPU and fellow legislatures of all countries. We will work together to deliver on the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Global Civilization Initiative, and promote an equal and orderly multipolar world and a universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization. Let us join hands to build a community with a shared future

for mankind, and usher in a bright future of peace, security,
prosperity and progress for the world.

Thank you.