



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

General Debate

on

**A world in turmoil: Parliamentary cooperation and multilateralism for
peace, justice and prosperity for all**

**Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament
Palais des Nations, United Nations Office at Geneva
Geneva, 29-31 July 2025**

SPEECH/ INTERVENTION

for

His Excellency Tan Sri Dato' (Dr.) Johari Abdul
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Parliament Of Malaysia

Bismillahhirahmanirrahim

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh & Good Morning/Afternoon.

[Salutations]

Her Excellency Hon. Dr. Tulia Ackson
President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU);

Mr Martin Chungong
Secretary-General of the IPU

Honourable Speakers and Parliamentarians,

1. We convene in Geneva at a time of global turmoil where war, climate crisis, and political instability test the very foundations of democratic governance and multilateral cooperation. Yet, in these moments of disruption, the relevance of parliamentary leadership becomes even more vital.
2. Malaysia remains firmly committed to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. Multilateralism has enabled decades of progress in trade, human rights, and poverty eradication. But today's evolving threats risk eroding these hard-won gains.
3. The evidence is stark. Nearly half the world's countries have experienced democratic decline in recent years. As parliaments, we face unprecedented pressures to maintain institutional independence and public trust. This democratic backsliding weakens not only our national institutions but the global cooperation we need to face shared challenges.
4. Malaysia's approach has been principled and practical. We recently enacted the Parliamentary Services Act 2025, restoring our Parliament's autonomy after more than three decades. This institutional reform enhances our ability to engage globally not as an extension of the executive, but as a strong, independent branch of government.
5. Through our ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Presidency, we have advanced regional cooperation even amid political differences. ASEAN's experience proves that more multilateralism--not less--is the answer to crisis. We do not always agree, but we remain committed to dialogue, consensus and peace.
6. We must also confront global disruptions with urgency and innovation. Climate change, digital disruption, and transnational crime demand coordinated parliamentary responses. These issues know no borders. They test our laws, our governance systems, and our readiness to adapt.

7. Malaysia supports urgent reform of global institutions, particularly the UN, to ensure they remain fit for purpose. We must not allow fragmentation or unilateralism to define the global order.
8. Therefore, I propose three concrete steps:
 - First, institutionalise regular dialogue between the IPU and the UN Security Council to ensure parliamentary voices are heard in peace and security deliberations.
 - Second, establish rapid-response mechanisms for parliamentary cooperation during global crises, learning from the COVID-19 experience.
 - Third, develop guidelines for parliamentary oversight of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies, to ensure human accountability in an increasingly automated world.
9. As host of the 46th AIPA General Assembly this September, Malaysia remains committed to strengthening democratic institutions and advancing inclusive, just and sustainable development through action.
10. Let us remember: prosperity for all requires closing the gaps between rich and poor, men and women, urban and rural. Justice demands that we address selective inaction in protracted conflicts including ensuring the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.
11. This Conference must not be a talking shop. It must be a workshop, a space where ideas are forged into tools for action. The world must know that amidst the chaos, parliamentarians continue to work shoulder to shoulder for peace, justice, and prosperity for all.

Malaysia stands ready to do its part.

Wabillahitaufik walhidayah. Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.