

**REMARKS BY RT. HON. ABBAS TAJUDEEN, PHD, GCON, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, AT THE SIXTH WORLD CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, ON THE THEME: “A WORLD IN TURMOIL: PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION AND MULTILATERALISM FOR PEACE, JUSTICE AND PROSPERITY FOR ALL, FROM 28<sup>TH</sup> TO 30TH JULY 2025.”**

Esteemed Colleagues, Distinguished Delegates,

I am delighted to address this **Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament** amid global upheavals, including geopolitical conflicts, climate disasters, and stark inequalities. Africa bears the heaviest impact of these challenges: conflicts in Sudan displace millions; coups in **Mali, Burkina Faso,** and **Niger** destabilise the **Sahel**; and climate change, despite Africa’s mere 4% of global emissions, causes widespread destruction. Nigeria, Africa’s democratic and economic powerhouse, struggles with banditry, economic hardships forcing half of its population into poverty, and climate-induced desertification and flooding. Nonetheless, Nigeria remains committed to peace, justice, and prosperity through its parliamentary leadership.

The **10th House of Representatives**, under my leadership, champions **multilateral cooperation**. We established numerous parliamentary friendship groups to achieve this objective. Through ECOWAS, we counter democratic disruptions by advocating for parliamentary oversight to restore constitutional order. Our leadership in the **Conference of Speakers and Presidents of African Legislatures (CoSPAL)**, hosted in Abuja, fosters continental collaboration on trade, security, and democratic norms, amplifying Africa’s voice.

Domestically, we align global commitments with local needs and priorities. Nigeria's review of the **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)** targets a 10% export boost by 2030. In the face of climate crises, we advocate for the implementation of the **Climate Change Act (2021)** amendments, demanding that the \$100 billion global climate finance pledge be fulfilled. We scrutinise loans, champion transparent tax regimes, and challenge an inequitable financial order.

**Inclusion is our cornerstone.** The **Reserved Seats for Women Bill** tackles Nigeria's 7% female parliamentary representation gap, fostering gender equity. The **Students' Loan Act (2024)** empowers 1.2 million youth annually with access to education, addressing social inequities exacerbated by global turmoil. Our digital governance laws, including the **Nigeria Data Protection Act (2023)** and **AI regulation bills**, harness Nigeria's \$5 billion tech ecosystem for equitable innovation, ensuring technology serves the public good.

Nigeria's parliamentary resolve extends to global advocacy. We call for urgent reform of the **UN Security Council** and **Bretton Woods** system to reflect Africa's 1.4 billion-strong demographic reality, moving the continent from the margins to the centre of global decision-making. In this turbulent era, the 10th House of Representatives and the Nigerian National Assembly align themselves with global parliaments to forge a future where cooperative multilateralism triumphs, delivering peace, justice, and inclusive prosperity for all.

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