

Statement by
Rt. Hon. Narayan Prasad Dahal, President of the National Assembly of Federal Parliament and
Leader of Nepali Delegation to the 151st Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
19-23 October 2025, Geneva

Translated from Nepali

**Honorable President,
Honorable Speakers and Chairpersons,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Namaskar and warm greetings!**

I feel honored to address the august 151st assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, on behalf of the Federal Parliament of Nepal.

I would like to extend sincere appreciation to the IPU and the Government, Parliament and people of Switzerland for the warm hospitality accorded to us and best wishes for the grand success of this Assembly.

Honorable President,

It is evident that this important discussion under the theme of *Upholding Humanitarian Norms and Supporting Humanitarian Action in Times of Crisis* has great importance in today's context. On the one hand, the impact of man-made and natural disasters is increasing in the world, along with armed conflict and climate change, while on the other instability and corruption have intensified the crisis of governance. The moral and legal norms set to safeguard human dignity are in crisis. We have been deeply shaken by the tragic loss of young Nepalis like Bipin Joshi: lives that could have been saved, had there been timely assistance and proper rescue efforts in conflict-torn regions such as the Middle East in the recent years.

In this situation, parliaments must play the role as guardians for the protection and promotion of humanitarian values; and we urge international community to strongly support humanitarian action in emergencies.

Nepal's commitments to international humanitarian law (IHL) and humanitarian standards have deep ties with peace, solidarity, goodwill and our national ethos. As a state party to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the additional protocols, Nepal has taken concrete steps to translate these obligations into our domestic laws. The National Committee on IHL has put forward the proposal for the

Geneva Conventions Implementation Bill incorporating all necessary provisions.

Even though Nepal is not a party to the International Criminal Court, Nepal's Penal Code, 2017, in line with the Rome Statute, addresses crimes against humanity and enforces accountability in line with international standards. These legislative provisions reaffirm Nepal's unwavering commitment to the rule of law and the protection of human values.

The National Human Rights Commission of Nepal has been recognized with A-level accreditation from international human rights institutions, which adheres to the Paris Principles of ensuring constitutional guarantees of freedom, capacity, pluralism, and adequate resources and authority to carry out human rights related works. The Federal Parliament of Nepal has launched a technology-based civil rights promotion system.

Honorable President,

Nepal has prioritized access to humanitarian assistance for marginalized communities, including women, children, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities. The lessons learned from the reconstruction after the devastating earthquake of 2015 and the lessons learned from the experience of severe floods and landslides caused by climate change, pre-disaster preparedness, the establishment of a disaster early warning and information system, and immediate community-based rescue and reconstruction after disasters have made our work reliable.

Nepal has set up a mechanism of contingency and catastrophe financing, a disaster resilience policy, Cat DDO which has arranged for a rapid fund distribution system, Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund, and local emergency budget mobilization.

Today, we feel that the global fraternity and goodwill are being challenged from multiple fronts. The problems arising from cyber crimes, automatic weapons, and misuse of AI can be controlled through parliamentary diplomacy. For this, it is imperative to monitor compliance with humanitarian laws, learn from the best practices, and strengthen international solidarity within the aegis of the IPU.

Nepal has a long experience of serving in the UN Peace-keeping Missions. In the past, the unprecedented experience of successfully transforming armed conflict

into peace through negotiations is also evident to the world. In addition, the Act related to Transitional Justice has been amended and implemented.

Honorable President,

We are moving towards resolving the situation arising from the recent remarkable Generation Z anti-corruption movement in Nepal, in the spirit of constitution and in line with democratic norms. The key demand of Gen-Z movement is for ending corruption and ensuring good governance with social justice and inclusive democracy. The Federal Parliament is the lynchpin to achieve these goals and we are effortful in capitalizing the opportunity brought about by the recent changes.

I offer my heartfelt tributes to the Gen-Z martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the cause of people and democracy with good governance.

In this context, the newly formed interim government headed by Right Honorable Prime Minister Sushila Karki has expressed its commitment to hold elections to the House of Representatives on 5 March 2026. I appeal to the international community to extend necessary support for the elections and reconstruction of infrastructures damaged during the protests.

We are currently suffering from the effects of devastating climate change. Nepal's contribution to global warming is virtually none. But climate change has created a crisis in the Himalayan ecosystem. This has caused serious climate-related problems for Nepal and other small, underdeveloped countries.

We all need to unite in the efforts to reduce the disasters caused by the climate change. I also call upon the Inter-Parliamentary Union to provide diplomatic, social and economic support in solving this problem.

Honorable President,

I would like to reiterate that Nepal stands firm in solidarity with the IPU for protecting the sovereignty of humanitarian law through coordinating legislative works, strengthening parliamentary diplomacy, and promoting the proper use of AI. We will stand together with IPU in every crisis. I am confident that goodwill and cooperation for humanitarian action will triumph over conflict and disregard to humanitarian laws.

In conclusion, I believe that the 151st General Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union would be successful in addressing the contemporary challenges facing the world.

I thank you!