

Speech by the Second Representative of the Republic of Suriname, Hon. Asiskumar Gajadien

Theme: Upholding Humanitarian Norms and Supporting Humanitarian Action in Times of Crisis

Madam President,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour to address this Assembly on behalf of the Parliament of the Republic of Suriname. We align ourselves with the statement delivered earlier by our delegation and reaffirm Suriname's deep commitment to upholding humanitarian norms and strengthening humanitarian action in all its forms.

Today, humanity faces multiple and overlapping crises - *armed conflicts, food insecurity, forced migration, public-health emergencies, and the accelerating impacts of climate change.*

These challenges test not only the capacity of our institutions, but also the strength of our compassion.

Suriname is a small developing state- *but with a large responsibility.*

As one of the world's few carbon-negative countries, we continue to protect over ninety-three percent of our forests - *a living shield for the planet and for future generations.*

Yet, despite this global contribution, our people face the humanitarian consequences of climate change every year - *flooding, coastal erosion, and the displacement of families in our interior regions.*

For us, climate change is not merely an environmental issue. *It is a humanitarian crisis, affecting homes, livelihoods, and entire communities.*

That is why Suriname calls for a stronger international commitment to climate finance.

Countries that protect the world's forests - *that keep the planet breathing* -should not be left to face these crises alone.

Humanitarian action must therefore include climate-adaptation funding, accessible to small states that often lack the capacity to navigate complex international mechanisms.

We urge our partners to simplify access to for example the Green Climate Fund and to prioritize grants over loans - *because no nation should go into debt for protecting the Earth.*

Parliaments, including ours, must ensure that such resources are used transparently and effectively - *to build resilience, protect livelihoods, and strengthen disaster preparedness for those most at risk, whether from natural, economic, or human-made crises.*

Madam President,

Humanitarian norms remind us that solidarity is not charity - *it is justice.*

Suriname stands ready to work with all IPU members to turn compassion into concrete action - *through stronger partnerships, fair financing, and sustained investment in humanitarian and climate resilience.*

Because when we protect humanity, we also protect the planet that sustains us all.

I thank you.