

Remarks of His Excellency Mr. Ouch Borith, First-Vice President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Cambodia

During the General Debate of the 152nd Assembly
of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Under the theme:

“Nurturing hope, securing peace, and ensuring justice for future generations”

Istanbul, 17 April 2026

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

- 1- I am deeply honored to address this Distinguished Assembly. In a global environment marked by rapid, uneven, and increasingly perilous change, our theme is not only timely; it is a solemn reminder of the responsibility we bear as parliaments to uphold truth, safeguard peace, and defend the rule of law when these values are most at risk.
- 2- For Cambodia, these aspirations are not abstract concepts, but hard-earned lessons forged in the crucible of conflict, tragedy, and national rebirth. From these experiences, we have drawn an unshakable conviction that durable peace can only flourish through an unwavering commitment to truth, justice, and the impartial rule of law.
- 3- The historical lessons and experiences forged through our collective efforts to address regional and extra-regional challenges underscore a vital truth: “hope” without responsibility is merely an illusion, a fleeting dream that dissolves under the weight of reality.
- 4- “Hope” can endure only when “truth” is steadfastly upheld – and “truth” cannot prevail when history is deliberately distorted into falsehoods to advance narrow political interests, thereby sowing the seeds of hatred and conflict among nations that are bound to live side by side.
- 5- Likewise, the foundations of “justice” cannot endure where the rule of law is invoked selectively or set aside for convenience – whether within nations or in relations among sovereign states. Such practices inevitably erode the mutual trust upon which lasting peace depends. We must remain resolute in the consistent application of international

law, without fear or favor; it is the impartial arbiter that safeguards the rights and dignity of all nations, regardless of size.

- 6- This commitment to consistency must also govern the implementation of bilateral and international agreements. Indeed, regional stability depends on unwavering respect for established treaties and boundary arrangements. Peace cannot be sustained when such frameworks are subject to divergent interpretations or inconsistent application. Ceasefires, likewise, must be upheld in both letter and spirit—as meaningful pledges of peace rather than mere tactical pauses.
- 7- When actions on the ground diverge from the understandings reached through dialogue, they inevitably diminish confidence. In this context, activities in sensitive areas following ceasefire arrangements must be approached with the utmost caution and restraint, so as not to prejudice the path toward a mutually acceptable settlement.
- 8- Beyond the technicalities of law and diplomacy, we must never lose sight of the human and cultural dimensions of conflict. These consequences are felt most acutely by the communities we serve. For those whose homes are damaged and whose lives are upended, these are not abstract concerns but harsh realities that undermine the very prospects of reconciliation. Moreover, the desecration of cultural heritage is an affront to our shared responsibility to preserve the legacy of humanity—treasures of universal value that transcend national borders.
- 9- The path ahead is arduous, but our mandate is clear. If we are to bequeath a world of hope and justice to future generations, we must act with resolve and determination. Let us summon the collective wisdom and courage to address the root causes of discord, to honor our commitments, and to uphold the principles that bind us as an international community.
- 10- Only then can we fulfill our duty to those who will inherit the world we leave behind—a world where the promise of peace is not a distant aspiration, but a lived reality that defines our shared humanity.

Thank you.