

**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE KEBBA JALLOW  
MEMBER OF THE IPU DELEGATION FROM THE  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
THE GAMBIA  
AT THE 152<sup>ND</sup> ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-  
PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

**@**

**ISTANBUL, TURKIYE**

**17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2026**

**ON THE THEME:**

***“Nurturing Hope, Securing Peace and Ensuring  
Justice for Future Generations”***

**Madam President,  
Right Honourable Speakers,  
Honourable Members of Parliament,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is both an honour and a privilege for me to address this august Assembly on behalf of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia on a theme that resonates profoundly with the aspirations of our peoples and the responsibilities entrusted to us as legislators—*nurturing hope, securing peace, and ensuring justice for future generations.*

Allow me at the outset to commend the Inter-Parliamentary Union for its unwavering commitment to strengthening parliamentary diplomacy and promoting democratic governance across the globe. At a time when the world is confronted with complex and interrelated challenges—ranging from conflicts and inequalities to climate change and democratic backsliding—this Assembly provides a vital platform for collective reflection and decisive action.

Madam President,

Cultivating Hope is the cornerstone upon which resilient societies are built and the foundation for sustainable development. It is what inspires citizens to believe in the promise of a better future and motivates governments to pursue inclusive and sustainable development.

In The Gambia, we have made significant strides in consolidating democracy and restoring public confidence in state institutions. Through constitutional reforms, strengthened oversight mechanisms, and enhanced citizen engagement, our Parliament continues to play a pivotal role in fostering transparency and accountability.

However, nurturing hope requires more than institutional reforms. It demands deliberate investments in education, youth empowerment, and economic opportunities. Our young people, who constitute the majority of our population, must be equipped with the skills, knowledge, and opportunities to thrive in an increasingly competitive and interconnected world.

As parliamentarians, we must therefore enact forward-looking policies that prioritize human capital development, bridge inequalities, and

promote social inclusion. By doing so, we not only nurture hope but also lay the foundation for sustainable peace and prosperity.

Madam President,

Peace is not merely the absence of conflict; it is the presence of justice, equity, and respect for human dignity. Today across the globe, persistent conflicts and emerging threats continue to undermine stability and development.

In our sub-region of West Africa, we are witnessing evolving security challenges, including terrorism, political instability, and transnational crime. These threats require coordinated and sustained responses rooted in dialogue, cooperation, and respect for the rule of law.

The Gambia remains steadfast in its commitment to peacebuilding and conflict prevention. Our experience demonstrates that inclusive governance, respect for human rights, and strong democratic institutions are essential pillars for lasting peace.

Parliaments have a critical role to play in this regard. Through legislative action, budgetary oversight, and representation, we must ensure that national policies address the root causes of conflict, including poverty, marginalization, and injustice.

Furthermore, parliamentary diplomacy—championed by the Inter-Parliamentary Union—offers a unique avenue for fostering mutual understanding and resolving disputes through dialogue rather than confrontation. We must continue to strengthen this platform to promote peace and stability across regions.

Madam President,

Justice is the bedrock of any democratic society. Ensuring justice is both a moral and legal imperative and without justice, peace cannot endure, and hope cannot flourish.

In The Gambia, the pursuit of justice has been central to our democratic transition. Through transitional justice mechanisms, including truth-seeking and accountability processes, we have sought to address past injustices and lay the groundwork for national reconciliation.

Our Parliament has been instrumental in supporting these efforts by enacting legislation, providing oversight, and amplifying the voices of victims. This commitment reflects our belief that justice must not only be done but must be seen to be done.

At the global level, we must reaffirm our commitment to upholding international law, protecting human rights, and ensuring access to justice

for all—especially the most vulnerable, including women, children, and marginalized communities.

Justice must also extend to emerging challenges such as climate change. The disproportionate impact of climate-related disasters on developing countries raises fundamental questions of equity and fairness. As parliamentarians, we must advocate for climate justice and ensure that global responses are inclusive and equitable.

Madam President,

Our responsibility to future generations; the theme of this Assembly calls upon us to look beyond immediate concerns and consider the legacy we leave for future generations.

Our decisions today—whether in relation to governance, security, or environmental stewardship—will shape the world that our children and grandchildren inherit. This places a profound responsibility on us to act with foresight, integrity, and courage.

We must therefore promote policies that safeguard the environment, strengthen democratic institutions, and uphold the rule of law. We must also foster a culture of peace, tolerance, and mutual respect—values that are essential for building cohesive and resilient societies.

In The Gambia, we remain committed to aligning our national development priorities with global frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals, recognizing that sustainable development is integral to nurturing hope, securing peace, and ensuring justice.

In conclusion Madam President,

The challenges we face are formidable, but they are not insurmountable. By working together—through dialogue, cooperation, and shared commitment—we can build a world where hope thrives, peace prevails, and justice is guaranteed for all.

Let us seize the opportunity presented by this Assembly to renew our collective resolve and translate our commitments into tangible actions that will benefit present and future generations.

On behalf of the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia, I reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the principles and ideals of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and to the pursuit of a more just, peaceful, and hopeful world.

**I thank you for your kind attention.**