



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Federal Republic of Nigeria

A CALL TO CONSCIENCE: A COVENANT WITH POSTERITY

Speech by the President of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at the 152nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Related Meetings.

I bring you warm greetings from the Parliament and the resilient people of Nigeria—a nation whose history, diversity, and democratic journey have taught us that peace is not inherited; it is built, defended, and sustained.

I stand before you today not merely as a representative of my country, but as a voice shaped by experience—a voice from a nation that has endured the trials of civil war, grappled with the burdens of conflict and insecurity, and yet stands resolute in its commitment to unity, to peace, and to the enduring promise of democratic order.

Like I have often said in our deliberations, the judiciary may be the last hope of the common man, but the legislature is the first hope of the masses. In this regard, parliaments are not mere chambers of lawmaking; they are the conscience of the people—citadels where hope is shaped, where justice is defended, and where the future is forged.



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Distinguished colleagues, we meet at a moment when the foundations of global peace are under severe strain. Across continents, terrorism and violent conflicts are no longer distant threats; they are taking root, crossing borders, and testing the resilience of states and institutions alike. Therefore, Nurturing Hope, Securing Peace and Ensuring Justice for Future Generations is an apt theme for this 152nd Assembly.

This is not a moment for hesitation. It is a moment for resolve. It is a moment for parliaments to rise to their highest calling—to extend a lifeline to millions who are, in many parts of the world, drifting in a sea of despair and uncertainty, and to restore in them the hope that peace, justice, and order can still prevail.

From Gaza to Iran, from Lebanon to parts of Africa, and from Russia to Ukraine, one truth has become unmistakably clear: no nation is immune, and no continent stands in isolation.

It is time, therefore, to turn from destruction to construction—to fashion our spears into pruning hooks, and to redirect the instruments of war toward the work of development—harnessing our resources, our ingenuity, and our shared humanity to uplift the condition of the world.

Yet, beyond the violence lies a deeper concern—a troubling shift in our global moral equilibrium, where, increasingly, might appears to define right, and where the sovereignty of nations—especially the weaker

ones—is too often compromised. This is not merely a crisis of security. It is a crisis of leadership—and a test of global fairness.

Nigeria speaks on this not from abstraction, but from experience. In war, we all too often count only the dead, but we do not count the bereaved. We speak of numbers, yet behind every number lies a shattered circle of life—a wife widowed, children orphaned, families broken, and communities diminished. In claiming to eliminate a man, we forget that we have undone an entire human ecosystem he sustained.

Nigeria is not concerned with who is right and who is wrong. Nigeria is concerned that the chains of the brotherhood of mankind are being broken, and that we are losing our humanity. Though we are still battling insecurity in Nigeria, we hold fast to the truth proclaimed by Martin Luther King Jr.—that we are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. And because we are so bound, whatever diminishes one diminishes all, and whatever uplifts one ennobles the whole.

The global agencies are increasingly constrained, and the world is drifting toward disorder. The Inter-Parliamentary Union must step into this void and be the voice of the voiceless and the hope of the hopeless. IPU must help change the narrative. IPU must give renewed strength and purpose to the United Nations. All nations must be equal. Might

must not be mistaken for right. And weakness must never be made a warrant for injustice.

Let this moment mark a turning point. A moment when the Inter-Parliamentary Union rises to its highest calling. A moment when nations act not in isolation, but in solidarity. A moment when we renew our covenant—not just with our people, but with posterity.

Nigeria stands with you. Let us go forward together—to build a world where hope endures, peace prevails, and justice shines—steady and unwavering, like the northern star.

Thank you.