

**Nurturing Hope, Securing Peace and Ensuring Justice for Future Generations**  
*Inputs for the Speech for the Honorable Speaker of National Assembly*  
(152nd IPU Assembly, April 15 - 19, 2026, Istanbul – Türkiye)

**Bismillah Irr Rahman Irr Raheem,  
Honorable President,  
Honorable IPU Secretary General,  
Distinguished Speakers and Parliamentarians,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is an honour for me to address the 152<sup>nd</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Istanbul. I thank the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye for its warm hospitality.

The theme of our today’s debate, “Nurturing hope, securing peace and ensuring justice for future generations,” is a test of our role as parliamentarians.

The global order, established eighty years ago by humanity’s collective will and wisdom, is at a point of inflection.

The international community presently faces a deeply troubling landscape of unresolved conflicts, festering disputes, and new and escalating crises.

Around the world, unresolved disputes have morphed into prolonged conflicts. The flames of war rage in several regions across the globe. These crises have inflicted untold human suffering, displaced millions, and undermined our collective faith in the international system’s ability to deliver justice and peace.

Pakistan remains a firm believer in the promise and power of parliamentary diplomacy as an instrument of hope for trust-building and cooperation essential to conflict prevention and resolution.

**Excellencies,**

Respect and adherence to the fundamental principles of the UN Charter – the non-use or threat of use of force, right of self-determination, respect for sovereign equality and territorial integrity of States, non-interference in their internal affairs, pacific settlement of disputes – remain critical for the maintenance of international peace and security.

We, the parliamentarians, must collectively acknowledge that durable peace cannot be forged through power projection, but through dialogue, mutual respect and inclusive diplomacy.

Despite the Charter of the United Nations providing comprehensive tools for the pacific settlement of disputes – including negotiation, inquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, and judicial settlement – these mechanisms remain underutilized or selectively applied.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**India’s continued suppression and denial the right to self-determination to Kashmiris in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK), remains the primary source of instability in South Asia**

**Jammu & Kashmir remains an internationally recognized disputed territory, the final disposition of which is to be made in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions and as per the aspirations of the Kashmiris. India must also reverse its unilateral and illegal measures it has taken since 5 August 2019 in IIOJK.**

**However, instead of peaceful resolution of outstanding disputes, India has adopted a threatening rhetoric and aggressive posturing by India is also a matter of concern.**

**India's illegal move to hold the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in abeyance is highly irresponsible, and constitutes a blatant violation of international law, the Treaty itself, and the established norms of inter-state relations. This weaponization of water has become an ever-present trigger for conflict in South Asia with far-reaching implications. Pakistan is fully entitled to take all appropriate steps to safeguard its due share of water as guaranteed under the Treaty.**

### **Distinguished Colleagues,**

The Palestinian people unfortunately continue to endure illegal occupation, dispossession, systemic violence, and the denial of their inalienable rights, including their inalienable right to self-determination.

Over the past two years, their suffering has reached unprecedented levels, particularly in Gaza - where more than 71,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been martyred. Violence has also intensified sharply in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

Despite these grim realities, the international community has pursued a path toward hope and peace.

The United Nation High-Level Conference in July and the UN General Assembly's endorsement of the New York Declaration last year established a multilateral pathway to a Palestinian statehood. Efforts by the United States, led by President Trump and supported by Arab-Islamic countries including Pakistan, advanced the Gaza Peace Plan.

Pakistan believes that a time-bound and irreversible political process, anchored in relevant UN resolutions must lead to the establishment of a sovereign, independent and contiguous State of Palestine on the basis of pre-1967 borders, with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

That is the best guarantee for durable peace and stability in the region.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Pakistan seeks an immediate end to the ongoing conflict in the region, and has been carrying our intensive diplomatic efforts to facilitate dialogue and diplomacy.**

**I would like to reiterate Pakistan's gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States of America for responding to the call made by the Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif for an immediate ceasefire in the region as well as for engaging in Islamabad talks on 11-12 April.**

**Islamabad Talks represent a significant and historic breakthrough.**

**With the active mediation of Pakistan, the two sides held several rounds of constructive negotiations. The overall approach by the two sides remained very constructive and promising.**

**We hope that the two sides continue with the positive spirit to achieve durable peace and prosperity for the entire region and beyond.**

**It is imperative that the parties continue to uphold their commitment to ceasefire.**

**Pakistan has been and will continue to play its role to facilitate engagement and dialogue between the parties.**

**Excellencies,**

The worsening situation in Afghanistan continues to pose a serious threat to regional peace and security.

Today, Afghanistan is a sanctuary for terrorist groups and proxies – a reality acknowledged by global assessments.

This has destabilized the region with dire consequences and security challenges for its immediate neighbours, particularly Pakistan.

As immediate neighbours bound by geography, with deep rooted ties, cultural linkages and fraternal bonds, no country desires peace and stability in Afghanistan more than Pakistan.

This is why Pakistan has always prioritized dialogue with Afghanistan.

Terrorism emanating from Afghan soil poses a grave threat not only to its immediate neighbours, but also to the broader region and beyond.

For the protection of its citizens, territory and sovereignty, Pakistan will take all necessary defensive measures.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Climate Change is among the most pressing global challenges, with forecasts confirming unprecedented negative worldwide impacts.

These negative implications are unevenly distributed. For countries like Pakistan, that are extremely climate vulnerable, the issue of climate change is an existential issue.

While Pakistan's contribution to total global Greenhouse Gas emissions remains less than one percent, according to German Watch's Climate Risk Index 2022, Pakistan ranks first among the top ten most affected countries.

Pakistan has accordingly prioritized domestic climate action. It has recently undertaken a number of efforts in this regard.

The launch of Recharge Pakistan Project aims to implement ecosystem-based flood management, strengthen flood resilience and promote sustainable water resource management.

The first-ever national carbon markets policy intends to accelerate clean technology deployment and attract investment across economic sectors.

Pakistan has also introduced climate sensitive government budgeting by introducing Climate Budget Tagging.

Last but not the least, Pakistan has issued its first Green Sukuk worth 30 billion Pak Rupees.

We are hopeful that the effort by Pakistan will enable the country to swiftly transition to green economy and building national resilience to deal with the negative impacts of climate crisis.

**Distinguished Colleagues,**

Let us reaffirm our collective resolve into concrete collective actions that nurtures hope, secures peace, and ensures justice for generations yet unborn.

The Parliament of Pakistan remains committed to working with all members to strengthen cooperation and advance a world where peace is sustained by justice and guided by hope for our people and for generations to come.

**Thank you very much.**

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