

Statement by the Honourable Speaker

153rd IPU Assembly, General Debate

Theme: "Enhancing good governance and empowering communities through inclusivity, trust and opportunities for all"

Arusha, Tanzania

Assalamu aailum warahmatillahi wabarakatahu

Mr. President
Distinguished Colleagues
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good day to you all.

It is a profound honour to address this distinguished Assembly. Please allow me to express my deep appreciation for the warm Tanzanian hospitality extended to my delegation in this safari capital, and to commend you, Madam President, your team, and the IPU Secretariat for the excellent organization.

Mr President,

The world today stands at a precarious crossroads. Democratic values are under strain, conflict is rampant, and trust in public institutions is eroding. Good governance cannot survive without robust democracy and an unwavering commitment to fundamental human rights. Institutions are only strong when citizens see themselves reflected within them—when every voice is heard, protected, and empowered.

Crucially, democracy cannot thrive while half of our population remains in the shadows. Women's empowerment is not an option; it is an absolute necessity. We must dismantle systemic barriers, guarantee equal participation, and ensure that women lead at every decision-making level.

Respected Delegates,

Regrettably, we meet amidst devastating global conflicts that claim innocent lives and shatter communities. We must end these wars and establish lasting peace. Peace, however, is not merely the absence of war; it is founded on justice, active dialogue, and adherence to international law. As parliamentarians, we carry the

moral duty to reject confrontation, champion diplomacy, and build a world where human dignity comes first.

Yet, conflict is not the only threat to our collective survival. Climate change poses an existential threat to humanity. Bangladesh, like many vulnerable nations, contributes negligibly to global emissions, yet our people bear the heaviest burden of extreme weather and displacement. Climate justice demands more than promises—it requires urgent financing, legal accountability, and bold legislative action to protect those on the frontlines.

Distinguished Colleagues,

As we confront these physical crises, we also face a digital revolution. Artificial Intelligence offers remarkable opportunities, but without ethical guardrails, it threatens to widen inequality, spread disinformation, and undermine democratic trust. We need human-centred, transparent legislation to ensure the proper, responsible use of AI—ensuring technology serves the whole of humanity, rather than enriching a privileged few.

None of these challenges respect borders, and no single nation can solve them alone. We must re-establish multilateralism. Strong, inclusive, and revitalized international cooperation is the only tool powerful enough to tackle systemic global crises. Parliamentary diplomacy gives life to multilateralism by bridging divides where official channels falter and turning global pledges into national action.

Mr President,

Bangladesh is a country of 180 million people. Democracy is deeply embedded in the hearts of our citizens. We have started voting to establish our own legislature for the last 123 years, since 1823.

Yet, sometimes, for short periods, the dictators have slipped in. But Bangladeshi youth have challenged the dictators, elected or unelected, for centuries, and sacrificed their lives in the struggle for the establishment of democracy and rule of law. This year, in February, we have had a fair and fruitful election after 17 years.

People were free to cast their votes to whomever they like, and we have re-established a democratic system in our country. We definitely respect the human values, human rights, the fundamental structure of our government policy, and

our Parliament is truly an elected Parliament trying to finalize the goals and aspirations of our people.

Mr President,

Let us leave this Assembly with renewed resolve: to defend democracy and human rights, to empower women, to end war and establish peace, to achieve climate justice, to govern AI responsibly, and to rebuild the multilateral order.

Thank you.