

**Address by the Rt. Hon. Speaker of the House of Representatives
of Nepal
153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**

Mr. President of the 153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Distinguished delegates and esteemed participants,

Namaskar.

It is a great honour for me to address the 153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union on behalf of Nepal. The theme for this Assembly, *“Enhancing good governance and empowering communities through inclusivity, trust and opportunities for all”* is highly significant and highly relevant to our times.

In this context, allow me to highlight the inclusiveness of Nepal’s Federal Parliament, which I have the honour to represent.

The House of Representatives comprises **35** per cent women parliamentarians, **51** per cent representation from various inclusion groups, **(five)** persons with disabilities, and **37** per cent members are youths. The Parliament likewise includes representation from gender and sexual minority communities.

These achievements further demonstrate the significant progress Nepal’s Federal Parliament has made in advancing inclusion.

Proportional, meaningful and effective representation of diverse communities, classes and groups strengthens citizens’ sense of

ownership towards State institutions and reinforces public confidence in democratic governance. **Yet representation alone is not sufficient.**

Laws, policies and decisions, that directly affect the daily lives of citizens, must be formulated in a manner that responds to their actual circumstances, needs and priorities.

It is, therefore, essential to ensure citizens' voices and meaningful participation at every stage of policymaking, to ensure State's decision-making process more inclusive, accountable, people-centred and transparent.

The historic *movement led by the younger generation* has brought about political transformation and clearly articulated the aspirations of young people and civil society for **good governance, transparency, accountability, corruption control, economic recovery, social advancement and meaningful participation in decision-making.**

Against this backdrop, and in response to changing national needs and public expectations, to make the parliament result-oriented, we have designated this year as the **Year of Legislative Reform and Lawmaking**, with a target of enacting **166 laws**

Parliament has accorded due importance to **thorough deliberation on Bills, effective parliamentary oversight, meaningful consultation with stakeholders, and the incorporation of citizens' suggestions.**

We have also initiated to modernise Nepal's Parliament through digital systems and transform it into a cornerstone of **digital governance**. In line with the objectives of a Digital Parliament, arrangements have

been made to enable every citizen to access parliamentary proceedings, matters raised in Parliament, the legislative process and other parliamentary activities with greater ease.

With the full implementation of the Digital Parliament, we aim to progressively transform Nepal's Parliament into a **paperless Parliament**. We believe this will further strengthen parliamentary openness and transparency. We have also initiated the practice of **live broadcasting of parliamentary proceedings, including interpretation into sign language**.

Mr President,

Allow me to draw the attention of this distinguished Assembly to the issue repeatedly raised in Nepal's Parliament: **climate change, its impacts, climate-induced disasters, the unimaginable human and economic losses Nepal continues to suffer, the crisis facing the Himalayas, and Nepal's extremely limited access to climate finance**.

Nepal's message is clear: **only by safeguarding the Himalayas can we safeguard human civilisations, water resources, biodiversity and our future**.

Nepal contributes **less than 0.1 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions**, we have conserved forests across nearly half of Nepal's total area yet we are experiencing the impacts of global climate change disproportionately.

The question Nepal has consistently raised in international forums is simple yet profound:

Why should those who have contributed the least to creating the climate crisis bear its greatest costs?

Mr President,

Even as we continue to raise the issue of climate change on international platforms, Nepal has been once again confronted with an unprecedented climate-induced disaster recently.

The catastrophic flash flood on **26 August 2026**, described as a **“Himalayan tsunami”**, resulted in a devastating calamity leads to extensive loss of people’s lives and infrastructure.

The disaster caused by this Himalayan tsunami is not merely the story of a single river or a single country. **It is a challenge and a warning to the entire world.**

The IPU must play a leading role in strengthening **parliamentary solidarity with countries vulnerable to climate change and affected by disasters**. We must build strong parliamentary networks for climate action, disaster risk reduction, Himalayan resilience and climate finance.

Through this Assembly, I urge the parliaments of the world:

Let us initiate climate parliamentary diplomacy. And let us launch all these initiatives from this august Assembly.

Mr President,

In conclusion, to the theme of this Debate, Nepal remains committed to strengthening **inclusive, accountable and people-centred democratic governance** through parliamentary cooperation with the parliaments of the world.

The message of **peace, compassion and coexistence** espoused by **Gautama Buddha**.

With the spirit of “*Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah*”, *may all beings be happy*, let us resolve, together, to build a **peaceful, equitable and prosperous world**.

Thank you.

NAMASKAR!!

ARUSHA!!!!