

Address by H.E. Mr. Mir Rahman Rahmani
Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga (House of People)
National Assembly of Afghanistan
At the 142nd IPU Assembly (Virtual)
May 24 – 28th, 2021

Your Excellency, Mr. President!

Respected Speakers and Honorable Members of Inter- Parliamentary Union

Dear participants! Ladies and gentlemen!

May Peace, God's mercy and blessings be upon you!

I am very glad talking with you. On behalf of all members of parliament and the people of Afghanistan, I extend my best compliments to all esteemed participants.

On behalf of Afghanistan, I extend my condolences and sympathy to all the friendly countries whose citizens have lost their lives due to COVID-19 virus.

Hon. Mr. President and distinguished participants!

We live in a situation where thousands of people have died as a result of this pandemic in the world and millions of members of human society have suffered serious physical and mental Disorder by experiencing COVID-19 disease. The world today is concerned about the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, rising poverty and unemployment, security crisis and the threat of international terrorism, along with the dangers of environmental degradation are worrisome. The emotional and psychological damage post COVID-19 has been high in cultural relations and moral ties and individual psychological alienation has been increased in the society.

The effects of this pandemic in the field of economy and world trade are irreversible and it has reduced the level of consumer demand at any time. This decline in demand has reduced supply and damaged the production cycle to the point where it has led to unemployment and recession. The world today must be prepared to face this pandemic, not only to take health measures in their countries, but also to accelerate each other in a joint global cooperation by providing humanitarian aid, and to save the nations of the world from this dangerous catastrophe.

On the other hand, the world needs to learn how to live with COVID-19 , in addition of getting vaccines and precautions, COVID-19 should be considered as a danger in the margins of our environment for a long time.

As the Speaker of the Afghan Parliament, I am ready for any cooperation in combating the spread of this pandemic, and I welcome the transfer of knowledge and experience of friendly parliaments. No method can save us from this dangerous threat except the comprehensive cooperation of parliaments in the international arena, together with the increase of public awareness and knowledge. I consider myself obliged to cooperate seriously with all the parliaments of the friendly countries in providing the necessary facilities and services to ensure political, cultural, economic and trade relations. Global terrorism has been present in Afghanistan for many years and is fighting against our people and our defense and security forces with the aim of destroying civilizations and killing people.

The Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) is working with extremist ideology to coordinate and support al-Qaeda and ISIS fighters in order to establish an Islamic state, using the opportunity to destroy the republican system with all its democratic achievements. The support and presence of international forces has been a strong support for the realization of the values of a free and democratic society with the guarantee of fundamental rights, civil liberties, gender equality, freedom of expression and elections so far. Withdrawal of US and NATO troops from Afghanistan at a time when the threat of terrorism is still high increases the risk of turning the current situation in Afghanistan into a complex crisis that will affect the world and the region.

The fact is that the Taliban and other terrorist groups, with the withdrawal of international troops from Afghanistan, consider themselves victorious in the war and have more moral and motivation to seize the power militarily. Although efforts by the United States and other countries in the region to resolve the crisis peacefully continues, and a peace agreement has been signed between the Taliban and the United States, but this agreement has had no effect on reducing violence and war in Afghanistan and there is no hope of an immediate end to the war.

On the other hand, the fate of the inter-Afghan peace talks is unclear and is more complicated than before due to the Taliban's indifference and pull out from the talks. The Afghan parliament calls on all member parliaments to do their utmost to put pressure on the Taliban and their regional supporters to begin the peace process and pave the way for a political solution to the current crisis.

As the Speaker of the Afghan Parliament, I believe that all IPU member parliaments are not indifferent to the crimes being committed in Afghanistan and cannot ignore all crimes against humanity. We call on all our international friends to fully support the government and people of Afghanistan in defending the republican system, civil liberties, and human rights, equality of women and men, and freedom of expression.

Thanks you!