



141st IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

BELGRADE, 13-17 OCTOBER 2019

STATEMENT OF THE HEAD OF INDONESIAN DELEGATION

H.E. Dr. Aziz Syamsudin

Vice Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia

General Debate on strengthening international law: Parliamentary roles and mechanisms, and the contribution of regional cooperation

*Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,
Assalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.
May peace be upon us.*

*Madam President, Gabriella Cuevas-Barron,
Excellencies Speakers, Vice Speakers and Members of Parliaments,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,*

At the outset, allow me to express my heartfelt appreciation to the National Assembly, and the Government as well as people of the Republic of Serbia for hosting the 141st IPU General Assembly and related meetings. Also I would like to express my appreciation to the President of IPU and IPU Secretariat for convening this meeting.

Honorable delegates,

The theme of this Assembly is very crucial and timely. As we are living in an era of interconnectivity, we are bound to cooperate and work together. Nations are more integrated under structure of organizational cooperation with a vision to promote peace and build security. International law come into place to facilitate international cooperation, and as an instrument to raise special International political claims as



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well as agendas. As a body of rules, it aims to govern the idea of equality, balances, and the idea of the harmony of interstate interests by creating such commitment under the beef protocol of those interstate deals.

Building peace and adequate security amid the highly dynamic world of today requires multifaceted approaches and policies. It certainly involves diverse actors at national and international levels, including parliamentarian. To a certain extent, actions taking by those actors are having international law implications. As a system of normative conduct, international law govern the actions of states and individuals at global political arena. It is regarded by each actor, and by the group of actors as a whole, as being obligatory, and for which violation carries a price.

Honorable delegates,

Parliament is in strategic position in relation to strengthening of international law. It is our constitutional duty to mainstream international law into national legislation. Along with that, exercising the oversight role as cornerstone of democracy, on the implementation of legislation is definitely inevitable. In our national parliament, it has become a principle that MPs must consider Human Rights Standards, International Laws, Treaties, International Relation Rules, and Statutes in conjunction to our national interest in their law-making procedure.

In line with our foreign policy, Indonesia is keen to take active participation in pursuing comprehensive and holistic approach to rule of law in order to create global ecosystem of peace and security. Our active and longstanding role in UN Peacekeeping is one of the testaments. We are also constantly supports UN initiatives aimed at strengthening peacekeeping to be fit for purposes in resolving peace and security challenges. Our national parliament, in this context, is in the position to render parliamentary support to the effective implementation of Action for Peacekeeping. We are also in the position to maintain check and balance in accordance to international norms and rules. Therefore, the Government always be accountable in their role in UN Security Council and UN Peacekeeping.



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Honorable delegates,

Nowadays, politics goes beyond border and political activity transcend national boundaries. Through parliamentary associations, parliamentarians are forming not only friendship and network, but discussing on solutions to complex cross-border issues and international challenges, which could have consequences on their constituents. Some global trends underpinning the rise of inter-parliamentary cooperation are including the proliferation of international institutions, the rise of regional integration, globalization, democratization, and trans-governmentalism. These made organizations such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Parliamentary Union of OIC Member States, Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum, and other inter-parliamentary institutions are gaining more relevance.

In recent years, we have seen the rise of regionalism as different states with own interests and agendas are merge into an entity. Following the dynamics of global governance, regionalism will continue to flourish as it offers appropriate mechanism for inter-regional dialogue on elusive political issues. Within regional organization such as ASEAN, abiding by international law has been effective in addressing regional challenges. Compliance to the conditions laid down by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as well as full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea in its entirety, in so far has been effective in managing the regional maritime commons. At bilateral front, the Exclusive Economic Zone derived from the Law of the Sea has establishing rules of engagement on managing conflicting issues such as illegal fishing.

Honorable delegates,

In closing, I must emphasize that our inter-parliamentary cooperation has the opportunity to act as catalyst of peace and to contribute to global discourse on international law. As a conclusion, kindly allow me to highlight the role of inter-parliamentary institutions, particularly the IPU and its pivotal role in engaging parliaments and parliamentarians in turning international commitment into reality.



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IPU is in the best position to strengthen parliamentarians' collaboration that will indeed contribute to enhance national legislation framework to fully implement international commitment. Through exchanging of best practices, challenges and achievements, countries are better equipped with knowledge and built mutual understanding on the issues of our time. IPU is in the best position to empower dialogue among parliamentarians. Through, Parliamentary Conference on the WTO for instance, IPU could contribute to enhancing parliamentarians' role in safeguarding multilateral trading system and applying treaty-based international law governing trade. In the debates of the Committee on Middle-East Peace Process, as another example, we could continue the efforts to restore peace in the Middle East and continue to encourage implementation of international law and commitment on the Palestine issue.

I thank you.

Wassalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.