

**Statement by the Leader of Myanmar Delegation,
Prof. Than Win,
Chairman of the IPU Committee of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw,
Chairman of International Relations Committee of the Amyotha Hluttaw
at the 141st IPU Assembly
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*General debate on “Strengthening international law: Parliamentary roles and
mechanisms, and the contribution of regional cooperation”***

Honorable Chairman, Madame President, Honorable Speakers
and Honorable Members of Parliaments. Ladies and gentlemen

I would like to thank Madame President and the Parliament of Serbia for their warm hospitality in Belgrade, IPU President and the Secretariat for the excellent management of this 141st IPU General Assembly.

International Law is principles, rules, and standards that govern nations and other participants in international affairs in their relations with one another. In other words, it is the law of the international community. International law provides the foundation for stable, peaceful and just relationships between states and their people. This has emerged from an effort to deal with conflict among states, as they provide order and help to mitigate destructive conflict. International law is one of the basic building blocks of the United Nations system. It provides the foundation for stable, peaceful and just relationships between States and their people. Many of the core principles of international law related to conflict prevention have been incorporated into the U.N. Charter. Examples are the prohibition of the use of force unless in self-defense, the primacy of national sovereignty and the advancement of human rights.

International law often lacks an enforcement mechanism. There is no government to enforce the law, as is in domestic situations. International laws can be translated into domestic laws where there is greater potential for enforcement. By adapting international law into domestic statutes, governments theoretically provide enforcement mechanisms. Also a number of formal courts have been established to enforce international laws.

Although International law focused primarily on regulating state behavior and defining states rights, it has increasingly been involved in identifying individual rights and holding individuals accountable.

Parliaments play an important role in ratification of treaties which are the main component of international laws. Myanmar parliament has ratified various international laws making these official in the country. Parliaments have the constitutional function of oversight on the executive branch. They can close the gap between a state's commitment in international law and the reality on the ground. Parliaments can prevent violations of the rule of law and human rights from arising, and can act to implement recommendations to prevent them from happening again. Parliaments can promote and protect human rights and strengthen the rule of law, by complementing and working alongside the courts and other institutions.

Upon approaching regional problems by international law, it is essential to collect a balanced, objective and unbiased evidences from both sides. Knowledge and understanding of historical and cultural background of the particular problem and the involving parties is also important. Opinion and involvement of regional parliamentary groups or assemblies should also be considered.

Thank you.