

Statement by
**The Right Honorable Ganesh Prasad Timilsina, Chairperson
National Assembly, Federal Parliament of Nepal**
on
**Parliamentary Leadership for More Effective Multilateralism
that Delivers Peace and Sustainable Development of the People
and Planet**

At
5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament
(Virtual Meeting 19-20 August 2020)

Your Excellency President of the 5th World Conference of the Speakers of Parliament

Excellencies Speakers of the Parliaments,

Excellency the President of the Inter Parliamentary Union,

Honorable Members of the Parliaments,

Distinguished Participants and Observers.

1. First of all, on behalf of the Federal Parliament of Nepal, I would like to extend sincere appreciations for organizing this virtual session of the 5th Conference of Speakers.
2. The theme chosen for the general debate, "Parliamentary Leadership for More Effective Multilateralism that Delivers Peace and Sustainable Development for the People and Planet", reflects the importance attached by the Parliaments of the world on a pertinent issue of our time. Despite the differences in languages, religions, cultures and the geopolitical situations, we all share the common earth and common humanity. It is therefore important that we stress on the need of cooperation and coordination among the nations towards realizing common aspiration of equality, peace and development,

3. The Agenda 2030 is our common goal for next decade. All the 17 goals of SDGs are directly or indirectly related to peace and sustainable development of the people and the planet. The Goal 17 that envisions to "Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development" represents key element of cooperation and collaboration among all stakeholders to achieve the goals. Localization of SDGs to fit local realities will ensure that the national development goals are realized at national and sub-national levels. At regional level, regional organizations need to support implementing the SDGs that have cross border implications such as trade, investment, tourism, capital flow, migrant workers and the bilateral and multilateral relations along with addressing of the common threats of terrorism, human and drug trafficking and other cross border crimes. Coordination and cooperation at regional and international levels becomes critical to build peaceful world.

4. COVID-19 has posed enormous challenge worldwide to meet the sustainable development goals. In this situation Parliament, as the legislative body of the State, has to play more proactive role in order to combat the effects of this pandemic and achieve the goals through formulation of policies, providing guidance and oversight to the Government and supporting the implementation process. Parliament and parliamentarians can play leading role by formulating the policies for social, economic, and environmental sustainability. Parliament's role in encouraging and cooperating with the government and non-governmental agencies and overseeing their functions would help accelerate the pace of national implementation of SDGs. Similarly, Parliaments can encourage multilateral organizations such as IPU, UN, WHO, World Bank to align their cooperation towards realization of SDGs and address the challenges posed by COVID-19. Promoting peace

and sustainable development represents a true progress of humanity.

5. As an active member of various international and regional organizations, Nepal has full commitment to multilateralism with the United Nations at its centre. We firmly believe that the challenges of global scale require global solution. Through cooperation and collaboration among the nations and international organizations, we can produce synergetic effects to address the common challenges. As a party to various international instruments, Nepal remains committed to fulfill the obligations arising from them. We have played our due role in strengthening of cooperation at regional and multilateral system.
6. In Nepal, having successfully concluded peace process, we have embarked into the journey of peace, stability and economic development with an overarching national aspiration of "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali" that goes well with the global agenda of SDGs. The transition from conflict to peace accompanied by a transformative change in the state structure was successfully completed after the promulgation of an all-inclusive constitution in 2015. We appreciate our partners for their good will and cooperation.

Excellencies,

7. The world has become a global village and it is changing at a fast pace. A political development in one corner affects the rest of the world. Therefore, it is upon every country to uphold the practices and principles of International Law and maintain mutual cooperation for global peace and security.

8. I consider that the efforts through this conference of presiding officers of the Parliaments will complement the work of political leadership towards promoting peace and security and ensuring just society in a sustainable way. We need to adapt with the political, social and economic changes taking place at the regional and international levels and promote peace, cooperation and understanding. At the same time, we need to be innovative in devising solutions to emerging challenges for the lasting peace in the world.

9. To conclude, Mr. President, I believe that this global Assembly of the presiding officers of the Parliaments will result in fruitful exchange of ideas and in the adoption of constructive resolution that will enable us work together for common good. I wish all success of the conference.

I thank you.