

**Mr. A. Saidov (Uzbekistan)**  
**First Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Chamber**  
**of the Parliament of Uzbekistan**

**Your Excellencies,**  
**Dear esteemed members of the IPU,**

For the first time in the 130-year history of IPU, our session is being held in a completely new format - online communication due to the COVID-19.

The catastrophe highlighted the weaknesses of all humankind. The current dangerous and difficult situation has proved that all national parliaments of the world are interconnected, and that regular dialogue, trust and close cooperation between us are very important. **At present, the world more than ever needs a parliamentary dimension.**

Today, I would like to focus on expectation **to build mutual trust.**

This is a very important moment for Eurasian group. For the first time in history, Eurasian group has put nominated a candidate for the post of **President of the IPU.**

At the same time, representatives of the countries that are now members of the Twelve Plus group have held the post of IPU President 16 times in the entire history of the IPU, representatives of the Asia- Pacific, Arab, African and Latin American groups – 3 times each.

No other organization serves the interests of the people the way the IPU does. I can say with confidence that **“the IPU is the conscience of the democratic community”.**

I am committed to the global ideals of democracy, human rights, equality, liberty and aspiration of happiness. Under the new slogan **“United and Renewed: IPU's New Strategy for All”** I wish to drive forward the IPU in following **five directions**, which I believe **should move a mountain.**

***First direction – strengthening of parliamentary dimension of the UN.***

We will start with strengthening our ties with our biggest partner United Nations. We shall take the path of ensuring that **Resolution of the UN General Assembly on “Strengthening the role of national parliaments and IPU in implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and protecting human rights”** and **“Principles of Parliament and Human Rights”** is adopted as soon as possible.

Setback on implementation of SDGs globally can be recovered by activating the very bloodlines of the IPU – that is national parliaments. There are several results of pandemic that we want to deal with.

It is time the signing of the **Global Covenant of strategic partnership between the UN, national parliaments and the Inter- Parliamentary Union.**

***Second direction – preparing the IPU and National parliaments for times of post pandemic era.***

There is a hope that the world should not experience such a devastating setback ever again, but our duty as leaders is to be ready and **WE should be ready to lead the leaders.**

We should draw up recommendations and guidelines for parliaments around the world in order to avoid setback, confusion and concern experienced by parliaments during pandemic. At the same time, IPU shall continue to support the development of national parliaments in the least developed and island states.

**Third direction – adoption of the IPU Gender Strategy for all.**

Transformations in society must begin with attitudes towards women and girls. **IPU should lead the movement of fighting for gender equality.** We shall achieve this by creating and adopting **IPU Gender strategy for all.**

Activating women parliamentarians and exemplifying them to young aspiring females should be our priority. I intend to move forward by organizing **Global Forum of Women Parliamentarians in Samarkand**, which should create a platform to publicize gender strategy of IPU and help parliaments around the world to adopt **national gender strategies.**

**Fourth direction – creating the IPU Youth Strategy.**

Young parliamentarians also need to be assisted and supported for our future depends on them. IPU needs to create a strategy that allows youth to engage with parliaments. I have set a goal of activating forum of young parliamentarians. This should require creation of **Youth Strategy specific for IPU - IPU Youth Strategy.**

The **fifth direction** in my agenda addresses several pressing issues.

- we will strengthen inter-parliamentary coherence.
- we will expand cooperation with regional parliamentary organizations.
- we will hold joint regional meetings, seminars, conferences, etc.
- we will increase number of seats in governing bodies of IPU.

In this way, we aim to increase the visibility of IPU in global stage.

Prominent IPU contributor **Frederik Bajer** believed that the time would come when there would be particular individuals designated to assume responsibility for and leadership of this movement. The time is NOW.

Those particular individuals are YOU and I. It is time to assume the responsibility not for the past and for what has happened in the past, year or three years, but assume the responsibility for the future and lead. **Let us LEAD!**

Concluding my speech in **English** I would like to quote **Nelson Mandela: “Many things seem impossible until you do them” or a popular saying that “A journey of thousand miles begins with one step”.**

Allow me summarize my remarks in French.

*[the following paragraphs were originally in French]*

**Dear colleagues,**

The role of parliaments in solving the new challenges that humanity faces due to COVID-19 places new obligations on candidates to strengthen the IPU.

As you know, the IPU encourages the principle of regularly rotating its leadership among the geopolitical groups. Throughout the IPU's 130-year history, delegates from the Eurasia Group have never been represented within the Organization's leadership.

I would take up this position with the intention of leading the IPU through the beginning of a post-pandemic revival in the political, legal, social and economic life of the planet.

With your support, I would aim to take proactive measures to promote democratic governance, responsibility and cooperation among legislatures throughout the world, gender parity in parliaments, stronger youth participation in politics, and sustainable development.

We are faced with huge and challenging tasks, where finding a solution sometimes feels like the search for utopia. On that subject, I would like to quote one of the IPU's founders, **Frédéric Passy**:  
**“The world is made of achieved utopias. Today's utopia is tomorrow's reality.”**

I hope I will be able to count on your support with this challenging goal.

**Thank you for your attention.**