

Remarks at the 139th IPU Assembly

--By Mr. Baimachilin,

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National People's Congress of China

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Madam Guevas, President of the IPU,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the National People's Congress of China, I would like to extend congratulations on the successful convening of the 139th IPU Assembly. It is my great pleasure to share my views with you on innovation, technological transformation and peaceful development.

To review the history of human civilization, there is a close connection between human survival and development and social productivity. Technological innovation serves as a significant propeller for social productivity and the progress of human civilization. Every major breakthrough in innovation and technological transformation, including landmark inventions such as printing, the compass, the steam engine, the computer and the Internet, has a far-reaching impact on the development of human civilization. It has enabled our progress from ignorance to civilization and from impoverishment to prosperity.

Since the beginning of the 21st century, global technological innovation has entered a period of unprecedented frequency and vibrancy. This new round of technological revolution and

industrial transformation has seen flourishing clusters of breakthroughs in various areas with a booming growth trend. It is the first time for science and technology to influence world peace and development, as well as the well-being of people all over the world, in such a profound way. The theme of this Assembly, *Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change*, reflects the common aspiration of people around the world to pursue development and peace. Parliaments should join hands to build consensus on promoting scientific progress and technological innovation, so as to create a better environment for enduring peace and sustainable development. Hereby, I would like to make the following three proposals.

First, we should uphold multilateralism and fortify the political foundation for peaceful development. Based on rules, multilateralism serves as the cornerstone for safeguarding peace, promoting development, strengthening cooperation and sharing prosperity. The current international rules and system are suffering from a severe blow brought by unilateralism. Parliaments of all countries should be united to voice a strong position for multilateralism and against unilateralism. By doing so, parliaments will become a staunch force in maintaining international equality and justice, and rule of law. We must abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, the international agreements that are reached after arduous negotiations, and the value of mutual respect, mutual understanding and good faith.

Second, we should build an open world economy and create enabling conditions for peaceful development. Openness brings progress, while isolation results in backwardness. For some

problems occurring in the process of economic globalization, we should find solutions through achieving sustainable development and improving global governance. We, on the same boat, should strengthen coordination of macro-economic policies, oppose any form of protectionism, safeguard the rule-based multilateral trading system, build an open world economy, and work together to promote economic globalization towards a direction of more openness, inclusiveness, balance and win-win results.

We should join hands to seize the opportunities brought by the new industrial revolution. By stimulating economic growth and transformation through innovation, we will create new driving forces for economic development. We need to help emerging markets and developing countries in particular to tap new driving forces for their development and to create new technologies, industries, business forms and models, with a view to achieving leapfrog development. Parliaments should give full play to their own roles and functions, by providing potent legal guarantee for the building of a new type of global development partnership that is more equal and balanced and enhancing cooperation of shared benefits across the board.

Last July, leaders of the BRICS countries jointly endorsed a Partnership on New Industrial Revolution at the BRICS Johannesburg Summit. This is an open and inclusive partnership, which welcomes active participation of other emerging markets and developing countries, aiming at fully unleashing complementary advantages and synergies, and joining hands to facilitate the transformation and upgrading of drivers for economic growth.

Third, we should foster mutual learning and exchanges among different civilizations, to cultivate fertile ground for peaceful development. Oceans grow by admitting a considerable number of rivers. Various civilizations should learn from each other by seeking common grounds while shelving differences and achieve common development through interactions. We should promote diversity among different civilizations, cultures and countries. Countries ought to be encouraged and respected to choose the development path that suits their national conditions. It is imperative that different systems and paths should draw on each other's strengths and pursue common progress on the basis of mutual respect. Parliaments should strengthen experience exchanges on national governance, so as to play an active role in deepening cultural and people-to-people exchanges and enhancing friendship among peoples.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Though China's economic output has been significantly elevated after 40 years of reform and opening up, China is still a developing country with development as the crux to solve all problems in China. It is mandate to bring the role of science and technology as the primary productive force into full play in order to achieve development. Taking the innovation-driven development strategy as our major national strategy, China is pursuing innovation-driven, coordinated, green and open development for all and facilitating mass innovation and entrepreneurship. As an important step to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the Chinese government officially approved Guilin, Shenzhen and Taiyuan to build the first batch of national innovation demonstration zones on Sustainable Development

Agenda last February. Since then, important outcomes have been achieved at this stage. China will continue to adhere to the people-centered philosophy, follow the new development vision, enable scientific and technological innovation to play a more significant role in promoting economic and social development, and provide China's proposals and wisdom to the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

As ancient Chinese sayings go, "Even an established nation like Zhou still regards self-renewal as its mission." It is fair to say that innovation is the most distinctive character of the Chinese nation. China will redouble its efforts in building an innovation-driven country with firmer resolve, support international exchanges and cooperation on scientific and technological innovation with a broader mind, and bring more benefits to other countries and peoples with its own development. We stand ready to join hands with all other countries to create a brighter future for mankind.

Thank you.