

Speech of
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Speaker of the Shura Council
of the State of Qatar

at

The 193th, General Assembly of the
IPU and the Related Meetings

Geneva-Swiss Confederation

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His Excellency the President of the IPU,

His Excellency the Secretary General of IPU,

Your Excellencies chairmen of parliaments and heads of delegations

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am glad to greet you and to speak in my name and in the name of members of the delegation of the Qatari Shura Council participating in the proceedings of this General Assembly of the IPU, and to express our gratitude to the Presidency and the Secretariat of IPU for their efforts in organizing these events and meetings of the Assembly.

Brothers and sisters,

This meeting brings together representatives of the wills of nations and their deputies from around the world to discuss common issues, most notably the Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change and to strengthen inter-parliamentary cooperation. Besides, the meetings will deliberate on the progress made on issues contained in the reports of the specialized committees of the IPU. In the era of information revolution and the expansion of knowledge and communication spheres, parliaments should assume the task of promoting international peace and development through adoption of modern methods of communication and should utilize science and technology in the works of the parliaments and the parliamentary committees.

Brothers and sisters,

We, in the State of Qatar believe that peace and development are two interrelated and inseparable concepts. Hence, the United Nations agencies and the regional and international organizations, including IPU should work closely to address them together. We also believe that the scourges of conflicts, wars, displacement and migration that man faces are due to failure to achieve economic development, absence of stability and, justice. Therefore, the State Qatar has always been calling for addressing the roots and not the features of the global problems,

Our region faces many issues which we are still suffering from their repercussions, in the forefront of these problems, namely the Palestinian question. We, and particularly the Palestinians are still suffering from the aggression and occupation by Israel, which rejects all the international resolutions and the peace solution based on two states, leading to establishment of a Palestinian independent state with borders

of 1967, with its capital in the Eastern Jerusalem. The condition led to instability in the region and to launching of wars, and lack of security. There are no solutions for the problems except by the restoration of justice and respect of human dignity and rights, which the Palestinians lack, who now face attempts to deprive them the mere living after being deprived from their rights in their homeland. Therefore, an agenda item in the agenda of this Assembly, was proposed for providing assistance and support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). My country, the State of Qatar had recently supported UNRWA with fifty million US Dollars.

Brothers and sisters:

Though the efforts made to attain sustainable economic development led to accelerated steps of modernization of science and technology and hastened the progress of human society, they also produced negative effects, including non-conventional cyber security threats which are interrelated with the conventional security threats, posing great challenges to international peace and security. Some quarters have been relentlessly scheming plots and intrigues against human gains by way of exploitation of modern technology for intrusion on the sovereignty of States and for destabilization and disrupting their economies spreading and fabricating lies, spying on other States and destabilizing their economies and currencies. The State of Qatar and other countries too had suffered from misuse and spying based on use of cyber techniques and modern science by some States. Based on this standpoint and in order to hold accountable those who abuse or misuse cyber technology at anywhere, His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar proposed at the Seventy-third Session of the United Nations General Assembly last September, to organize the freedom to use cyber and digital technology and to govern its use in accordance with an international law regulating this issue. H. H. the Emir expressed readiness of the State of Qatar to work with United Nations organizations to regulate the legal use of cyber and digital technology. H.H. also suggested holding and hosting an international conference to discuss and explore ways to regulate the freedom of using digital technology and informatics in the international law. Hence, I call upon parliaments assembled here today to link their call to adopt technology in performing their functions and as means to promote peace and development, with the condition that such use should not jeopardize international peace and security. Therefore, it becomes imperative to criminalize exploitation of cyber technology, to inflicted harm on

sovereignty of States and to threaten their security and stability. Due to high importance of the issue the Third Meeting of the Speakers of Parliaments of Eurasia, which took place in Antalya, Republic of Turkey during the past week, welcomed the call and the readiness to host such conference expressed by His Highness the Emir of the State of Qatar to regularize the use of digital technology and Informatics and for convening an international conference on this issue.

Brothers and sisters,

We, in the State of Qatar under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, consider that human development is the national non-depleted wealth, and that the education of young people and their participation is the first line of defense for our collective security system. Hence, we attach great importance to education, research and technology innovation. To achieve these goals, the Shura Council of State of Qatar continued throughout its successive sessions deliberating on draft bills of legislations on sustainable development based on knowledge in all areas linking them to peace and stability and to protection of the human rights and dignity. Qatar also launched many initiatives to support education and promotion of scientific excellence and applications and to adopt innovations, such as the initiative Qatar Society for Innovation and “Education Above All”, and Protection of Education in Conflict and Insecurity Regions. Moreover, Qatar pledged to provide quality education to a million other girls by the year 2021, as announced by H.H. the Emir of Qatar last month at the UN Headquarters, in addition to undertaking to educate 10 million children, to provide economic empowerment, build capacity and programs to combat terrorisms for half a million of young people in our region. Added also the initiative on Teach a Child Qatar Society Initiative for Innovation, and sponsoring of projects of UNESCO and other humanitarian agencies of the United Nations.

To conclude I hope this Assembly succeeds in passing resolutions affirming the need for joint benefit from use of science and technology, and for holding accountable those acting against international peace and development through misuse of new technologies, that the IPU plays a leading role in advocacy for UN reform, and to work together for the welfare and happiness of mankind, and protection of his dignity and rights.

May Allah's peace and mercy be upon you,