

*Inaugural Ceremony  
Minggu, 20 Maret 2022  
19:00 – 20:30  
Konsep 16 Maret 2022: 18.00*

**OPENING SPEECH  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
DR (HC.) PUAN MAHARANI**

**SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

**144<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY OF INTER PARLIAMENTARY UNION  
AND RELATED MEETINGS**

**NUSA DUA, 20-24 MARCH 2022**

Your Excellencies:

- President of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Joko Widodo;
- Speakers of IPU Member State's Parliaments;
- IPU President, H.E. Mr. Duarte Pachecho;

Honorable:

- Delegates from IPU Member States;
- Secretary-General of IPU, Mr. Martin Chungong;
- Ministers from the Advanced Indonesia Cabinet
- Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, allow me to welcome all delegates to the 144th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly.

Welcome to Indonesia!

I wish to thank the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Joko Widodo for graciously taking the time to be here and open the 144th IPU Assembly.

This Assembly is unique because it is being held in the middle of an ongoing pandemic.

This is our third year into the pandemic and the world continues to face uncertainties.

- Uncertainties because the virus has continued to mutate
- Uncertainties because of rising geopolitical tension
- Uncertainties because our global commitment is not enough to hold off global warming

They add to the strenuous problems that we world is facing.

The world that we live in today is increasingly complex and with even greater challenges.

Local problems can escalate and turn into regional, even global issues. Health issues have become social, economic and political problems, or the other way around.

Such complex situation demands parliaments to step up, contribute, and be part of solutions.

The root of the disharmony problem at the international level is influenced by domestic political views, including from parliamentarians.

For that reason, we need to bridge differences between countries by facilitating dialogue and building strong parliamentary partnerships.

Parliaments also need to raise the awareness of people in their societies that other than nurturing our love for our nations, at the same time we also need to nurture the spirit of global solidarity.

This spirit is aligned with a notion offered by President Soekarno in 1945, which remained relevant to this day. "Internationalism will not thrive without being rooted in nationalism. Nationalism will not thrive without the nurture of internationalism."

Those words underline the fundamental notion of international cooperation.

**Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen,**

Global issues require global solutions.

Global solutions need a solid platform with strong legitimacy within our countries.

Domestic legitimacy is needed to support our international commitments and multilateralism.

We know that, often times, foreign politics are the projection of national politics... foreign policy begins at home.

But without national support, we will be able to exercise robust foreign policy.

For any democratic country, the parliament plays an important role of garnering political support and legitimacy to promote international cooperation.

The parliament has a vital role in rejecting unilateralism, a notion that favors partial and short-term interests.

Additionally, the parliament holds a key role in supporting and implementing international commitments at national and subnational levels.

International commitments mean nothing if they are not translated into national implementation.

Pursuant to its mandate, parliaments formulate national legal instruments, appropriate budget, and carry out oversight of various international commitments.

This 144<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly is therefore an essential forum to build interparliamentary dialogue. A dialogue that serves as a bridge-building opportunity for countries with opposing views.

As articulated in IPU's goals, we want to make the most of this opportunity to strengthen democracy, peace, human rights, and sustainable development.

The efforts to solidify our democratic foundations are imperative since during the pandemic, democracy in many countries has been challenged in different ways.

At the international table, we need to fight for democratizing various international bodies to ensure better representation of voices from developing nations.

The 144<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly can be the momentum for parliaments to promote the culture of peace, a culture that always puts dialogue first and denies the exertion of violence.

This IPU Assembly provides us an avenue to urge for the war in Ukraine to be stopped.

We all want the war to end soon and for both sides to ceasefire. Respect to international law, the UN charter, and territorial integrity need to be enforced.

This Assembly can also urge for the full independence of Palestine. And for various other conflicts, in many parts of the world, to end.

With respect to Myanmar, we can encourage Myanmar to follow the path of democracy once again.

Moreover, the 144<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly is an opportunity to reinforce our commitment to gender equality and youth empowerment, and to fight for their participation in decision-making.

The theme of this 144<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly: *Getting to Zero: Mobilizing Parliaments to act on Climate Change* highlights a very pertinent issue.

Today, our planet's temperature has risen by 1.1 degree centigrade, which makes our target of keeping the temperature rise at 1.5 to 2 degrees centigrade even more difficult to achieve.

In those contexts, I recognize there are several things that we can do in this Assembly, which are...

*First*, to contribute to creating a peaceful, stable, and conducive geopolitical situation.

Parliaments can bridge differences and initiate trust building.

Parliaments also need to promote diplomacy aimed at prevent more conflicts and war from happening.

*Second*, to accelerate the equitable global availability of vaccines, so that we can achieve the target of 70% global inoculation by mid 2022.

Parliaments need to contribute to strengthening the Global Health Architecture to prevent and be responsive to pandemic threats in the future.

*Third*, to mobilize the commitment and actions to save the world from climate change impacts.

In line with the Assembly's theme, parliaments need to mobilize emission reduction, strengthen adaptation efforts, and realize financing pledges for developing nations.

Clean energy transition in developing countries needs technology and investment support.

Fourth, to accelerate the global economic recovery process to mitigate the social impacts of the pandemic.

Parliaments need to help narrowing the gap of economic recovery speed between developed and developing countries. Vaccination rollout is the key to faster economic recovery.

In addition, parliaments need to mobilize international community's support in responding to the pandemic's social impacts, such as rising poverty and inequality.

**Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen,**

I started this address talking about a world that is fraught with challenges and uncertainties.

They can only be overcome if we are united, if we work together, and if we can make international cooperation stronger.

Joining international commitments and agreements is not enough. We need to translate that commitment within our countries into tangible actions.

Parliaments are the key to that effort.

Therefore, Parliaments need to demonstrate its leadership in mobilizing concrete actions to overcome various global challenges.

Let us now bring out commitment so that Parliaments can be the driver of creating "a world where all nations live in peace and fraternity."

Let us realize Parliaments that contribute to strengthening multilateralism, solidarity, and global collaboration.

Together, we build a new world... a healthy, peaceful, and prosperous world.

Together we can!

Thank you.

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