

Speech Text

Hon. Mr. Adel Bin AbdulRahman ALASOOMI

President of the Arab Parliament

144th IPU Assembly

General Debate

"Getting to zero : Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change"

20-24 March 2022

Hon. Mr. Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Hon. Dr. Mrs. Puan Maharani, President of the 144th Assembly,

H.E. Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Dear colleagues Presidents of Parliaments and Heads of Parliamentary Delegations,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh

Firstly, I wish to express my pleasure at participating in the 144th IPU Assembly, and to convey sincere thanks and appreciation to the Parliament of the Republic of Indonesia for the well-organized proceedings of the meetings and the valuable efforts in this respect.

Climate change remains the ultimate challenge faced by our world today, with its challenging and grave implications that extend to all aspects of life and affect the future of present and future generations.

Undoubtedly addressing this crisis is not limited to the efforts of Governments, yet parliamentarians have an instrumental role to play in that regard, through their legislative and oversight powers that make them a key guarantee for the implementation of the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and to translate the international obligations contained in the UNFCCC into national legislation supportive of the green economy.

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished audience,

We all agree on the inevitable collective international action to address the climate crisis; in this connection, let me emphasize, on behalf of the Arab Parliament, that any constructive and fruitful climate cooperation must be based on two fundamental pillars:

The first pillar is the need for all States to fulfil their obligations based on the principles of equity and shared responsibilities. And we must be clear in this context and emphasize the commitment to the principle of international climate justice in the implementation of the obligations contained in the UNFCCC, and to ensure that the responsibilities that States must assume are proportional with the magnitude of the damage they cause to the environment.

At a time when more advanced States are producing the largest proportion of harmful emissions responsible for global warming, States with limited resources are the most affected by climate change and the most vulnerable to its consequences, there must therefore be equitable burden-sharing and the fulfilment of related commitments.

The second pillar is the necessity to assist developing countries in implementing their commitments in confronting climate change in accordance with the Paris Agreement, under which developed countries have pledged to jointly mobilize \$100 billion per year in support of climate action in developing countries, to date, however, that remains to be realized. This gap between available funding and the actual needs of developing countries must therefore be eliminated.

And I look forward that our Assembly will issue a global parliamentary appeal, calling on developed countries to act on their commitments to provide the necessary funding to developing countries thereon.

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished audience,

The Arab States have made strenuous efforts and launched pioneering initiatives to address the climate change crisis. In this context, I refer to the Middle East Green initiative launched by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which sets out an ambitious and unequivocal road map for mobilizing regional efforts to address the climate change crisis ; and I call on our Assembly to support and embrace this initiative, which serves as a role model for efforts to address the climate change crisis at the regional level.

In the same vein, we are proud that two Arab States will host respectively the COP Summit, to be held in the Arab Republic of Egypt in 2022 and the United Arab Emirates in 2023, which reflects the pioneering efforts of the Arab States in addressing this crisis.

And I call to take advantage of the preparatory parliamentary meetings for these Summits, to develop an «international parliamentary plan of action », to support the implementation of the commitments contained in the UNFCCC.

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished audience,

While this session of our Assembly is dedicated to the subject of climate change, we cannot ignore current developments and their impact on the security system and international justice.

The world has rose up over the past few period due to contemporary developments in the Russian-Ukrainian crisis. We certainly are not in favor of violating the sovereignty of any State in any way, or threatening the security and stability of any State; however, we would like to stress that there is a people that has been subjected to the most repugnant forms of occupation over the past seven decades which is the Palestinian people, and the world does nothing to end the suffering of that people and to establish its independent State.

International action with the question of the Palestinian people and with the developments in the Russian-Ukrainian crisis is a stark example of double standards, while humanitarian engagement should be the same in all times, places and with all peoples.

Our plea is that there be common global standards for achieving the international justice that we all seek.

Thank you for listening so well

Peace be upon you