

SPEECH

Hon. Speaker (Indonesia) Ms. Puan Maharani

President, Inter-Parliamentary Union

Secretary General Inter-Parliamentary Union

Honorable Speakers and Presiding Officers from across the globe

Honorable Parliamentarians,

Dignitaries, Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen!

1. On behalf of the entire Parliament and the people of Pakistan, I express my utmost gratitude to Honourable Ms. Puan Maharani, Speaker of the People's Representative Council, Indonesia for warm welcome and hospitality in this beautiful city of Bali.
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4. I would also like to thank Excellency, Mr. Duarte Pacheco, President and Mr. Martin Chungong Secretary General Inter-Parliamentary Union of the Inter Parliamentary Union for convening this Assembly.

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5. I am delighted to note that the parliamentary heads of respective nations gather for 144th Assembly of the IPU today to reaffirm their commitment to shared values and mutual commitment for empowering parliaments and parliamentarians to promote peace, democracy and sustainable development.

6. Climate Change is the most significant challenge to achieving sustainable development, and it threatens to drag millions of people into abject poverty. On one hand, climate change influences key natural and human living conditions and consequently the basis for social and economic development, while on the other hand, society's priorities on sustainable development influence both the carbon emissions that are causing climate change and the vulnerability.

7. Climate policies can be more effective when they consist of broader strategies designed to make national and regional development paths more sustainable. This occurs because the impact of climate variability and change, climate policy responses, and associated socio-economic development will affect the ability of countries to achieve sustainable development goals.

8. Here the role of special interest groups, advocacy groups, or pressure groups, and any association of individuals or organizations that, on the basis of one or more shared concerns, attempts to influence public policy in its favour as such interest groups share a desire to affect government policy to benefit themselves. Therefore there is need for constructive public debates and prior discussions and consultations with parliamentarians on policies (and lack of implementation) and international agreements negotiations and country positioning on various topical issues.

9. Overall, strengthening the parliamentary standing committees, provision of relevant capacity building, and technical assistance and increase cooperation with the multi-sectoral stakeholders is critical for parliaments to effectively engage in addressing the climate change related issues of national interest.

Ladies & Gentlemen!

10. Pakistan has been ranked as the fifth-most vulnerable country to climate change during the past 20 years, according to the Global Climate Risk Index by German watch and that Pakistan lost 9,989 lives, suffered economic losses worth \$3.8 billion and witnessed 152 extreme weather events from 1999 to 2018, which indicates an increase in climate-related vulnerabilities.¹
11. Government of Pakistan (GoP) as a Party to the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has performed its role to support the global efforts in combating climate change.

Dear friends

12. Prime Minister Imran Khan has recently approved the **National Climate Change Policy 2021** and **National Wildlife Policy 2021** to better deal with environmental issues. The Prime Minister also directed establishment of a think tank to coordinate efforts between various ministries and to devise out of box solutions for climate change mitigation. It is pertinent to note that the vision behind climate change strategies is to consult various organised groups to devise a sustainable policy.

Excellencies,

13. During COP 27, Pakistan was elected as a member of the Six Non-Annex 1 member's bureau, standing committee on finance, adaptation fund board, and consultative group of experts, Paris Agreement compliance committee, Warsaw international mechanism on Loss/damage, adaptation committee,

¹<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40055549>

and technology executive committee. Pakistan will be chairing the G77+China group and the Asia-Pacific Group next year (COP27).

14. Government of Pakistan (GOP) takes ownership and pride in submitting an updated and well appreciated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) which is inclusive and represents national consensus to accelerating the transition towards a climate-resilient economy. The current submission showcases GoP's progress in climate action that ranges from policy and programs on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) to technology-based interventions.

ladies & gentlemen

15. Pakistan, recognizing the role of nature in climate adaptation and mitigation, has developed robust natural capital restoration efforts including the **Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme (TBTTP)**, **Protected Areas Initiative (PAI)**, **Recharge Pakistan** for instance. These programs have also served as a way to enhance livelihood opportunities for the most vulnerable, including women and youth. In addition, Pakistan has introduced a number of policy actions focused on mitigating greenhouse gas emissions from high emission sectors like energy and industry.

16. Pakistan intends to set a cumulative ambitious conditional target of overall 50% reduction of its projected emissions by 2030, with 15% from the country's own resources and 35% subject to provision of international grant finance that would require USD 101 billion just for energy transition. To reach the target, Pakistan aims to shift to 60% renewable energy and 30% electric vehicles by 2030 and completely ban imported coal.

17. Pakistan requires to strengthen its scientific and technical capacities to reach the set transition targets. Pakistan's financial needs still remain high, given

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the country's vulnerability to climate change and capital-intensive transition to decarbonize the economy. The country envisages enhancing the access to international climate finance to deliver the contributions, and also considers employing the instruments on enhanced ambition provided in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement with the help of people, their representatives and civil society.

I thank you all.