



ADDRESS BY SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, HON Ms. Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, MP, ON THE OCCASION OF THE 144th IPU ASSEMBLY, BALI, INDONESIA, 21 MARCH 2022: *THEME: "Getting to Zero, Mobilizing Parliaments to act on Climate Change"*.

Honourable President of the IPU, Mr. Duarte Pacheco

Speaker of Parliament of the Republic of Indonesia, Our Host, Hon Puan Maharani,

Honourable Presiding Officers,

Honourable Members, and

Distinguished Guests,

Your Excellency Mr President, it is an honour and privilege for me and the people of the Republic of South Africa to be afforded this prestigious opportunity to contribute in the debate of such important theme of the 144th IPU Assembly, *"Getting to Zero, Mobilizing Parliaments to act on Climate Change"*.

On behalf of the delegation of South Africa, I wish to express our sincere appreciation for the kind and warm welcome we have received in this beautiful country since our arrival.

The 144th Plenary Session takes place against the backdrop of the COVID 19 pandemic and conflicts across the world that continue to claim the lives of innocent people. Tackling climate change has far-reaching implications for socio-economic development, for production and consumption patterns.

Your Excellency Mr. President, the theme of our debate enjoins us to reflect on the question of 'climate change' and the need to mobilise Parliaments to act swiftly in reducing its negative effects. We wish to confirm that the Republic of South Africa welcomes the outcome of the concluded 'Glasgow Climate Change Conference', which calls upon the international community to rally behind a shared objective to inject a greater sense of urgency, on the basis of international equity and the latest available science.

In South Africa, we support the government's view articulated by the President on the green recovery for our country.

It is our view, Mr. President, that the Rome COP 26 legislative prescripts can and must safeguard the planet's ecosystems, reduce

emissions of greenhouse gases, and limit global temperature increases. In this instance, we call on the high income countries to step up and take responsibility given the fact that they continue to benefit most from the use of fossil fuels.

- there is still a lack of clear commitment to phasing out fossil fuels by 2050 by some of the key developed countries; and
- there is a lack of clarity on outstanding financial commitments by developed countries on previous gatherings where we feel that they simply don't walk the talk.

It may be politically correct for world leaders to make certain statements, but ultimately it is about establishing trust.

Trust is important because as developing countries we come from a situation where we are still caught up in the devastation that has been caused to our national budgets by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As it has been with climate change, developed countries were saying a lot of things about assistance coming to the developing countries in Africa, yet there are mounting concerns about vaccine hoarding, which has a negative impact on relationships of trust. We expect developed countries, which built their economies on coal to assist us now to put fossil fuels aside justly so.

South Africa has revised its NDC's by committing ourselves to more emission ambitious green house gas emission targets by 2030. This includes the phasing out of between 8-10 coal fired power stations. It is in this regard that we appreciate the partnership on *Just Transition*, where international partners have committed funds for South Africa's *Just Energy Transition*.

We, as parliamentarians, have a keen interest in this and will play an active oversight role to see what the elements of this agreement are.

However, our position as a country is not to wait on the international community and developed countries to make commitments before we start with the implementation of what is in our National Development Plan and also in our Green Recovery Plan.

We have now started processing the national Climate Change Bill in Parliament, and parliamentarians will have to ensure sufficient and effective public participation for all voices to be heard.

The *just transition is crucial* in ensuring that "nobody is left behind".

CONCLUSION

Mr President,

South Africa's main priorities remain focused on securing an ambitious and progressive finance and adaptation package to support the African region and other developing countries to alleviate the negative impact of climate change.

Mr President,

It is worth mentioning that the manner in which climate change affects us depends on where we are located on the global map. As it could be expected, the hardest hit population groups are poor people.

These are, in the main, inhabitants of developing countries who are predominantly farmers who depend on rain-fed and basic mechanisms for tilling the land and earning a livelihood. The only way their conditions can change is through policy shifts.

Critical to this, is dedicated action on the part of policy-makers and the people who represent them, like legislators and Members of Parliament.

Great changes throughout history have been born out of crises – we should therefore not waste this moment.

I thank you.