

**Draft Speech**

**By**

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**Speaker of the House of Federation of the FDRE**

**At**

**The 147th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)**

**Under the theme of, “Parliamentary action for peace, justice and strong  
institutions (SDG 16).”**

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Luanda, Angola

**Honorable President**

**Distinguished Speakers and Deputy Speakers**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Delegates and Fellow Parliamentarians,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the very outset, allow me to express my appreciation and gratitude to Angola for organizing this crucial assembly. I am particularly pleased to address you on the occasion of the 147th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

This unique assembly is taking place at a time the world continues to face a critical choice between the scourge of war and the blessing of peace; between change and dogma; between fragility and resilience; between cynicism and optimism. It is in this complex and interconnected world that the role of parliamentarians becomes highly decisive in leading changes through their roles in building strong institutions, supporting peace building and ensuring justice.

The overall theme of the General Debate of the 147<sup>th</sup> Assembly which is "Parliamentary action for peace, justice and strong institutions" is a fitting description of the important role of parliaments in the implementation of the SDGs and explore opportunities to accelerate SDG action on the second half of the era. A year ago, Ethiopia was grappling with an armed rebellion that brought enormous devastation, colossal suffering and a massive humanitarian crisis.



However, on 2 November, 2022, Ethiopia chose peace over war. We chose political dialogue over devastating violence. We concluded the chapter of war peace agreement facilitated by the African Union and hosted by the republic of South Africa.

As I address this global assembly today, let me convey the rapid progress that we have made over the past year from the deadliest tragedy of war to the emerging positive landscape of peace. We continue to earnestly call for political solutions for Ethiopia's political problems. The peaceful alternative is not an option in Ethiopia; it is the only way forward. Ethiopia has succeeded in bringing an end to the war thanks to the strong political will of the government and a commitment that peace is the indispensable condition for both progress and prosperity.

The signing of a permanent Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA) in November 2022 was beyond a simple peace agreement. It has already saved countless lives and effectively silenced the guns with the rapid implementation of the agreement. The successful implementation of the peace deal is a clear example of the political commitment of the government to resolve any political differences through diplomacy and political discussion.



## **Excellencies,**

Ethiopia is advancing holistic prosperity, peace and stability. In this regard, parliamentarians have a unique role to play, and a constitutional responsibility, in supporting and advancing peace. Given the importance of addressing the root causes of conflict as a necessity for sustaining peace, finding solutions to longstanding grievances, polarization and social divisions becomes critical.

Parliaments have a historic responsibility as partners in supporting the value of the full and active participation of women and young people in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Every policy, legislation and program should take into consideration the importance of women's role as an important pillar for peace.

In the backdrop of increasing armed rebellions and militant movements in the world that endanger peace and security, I would like to emphasize the important role of parliamentarians in preventing Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)- related to large scale violence and destruction. This is highly critical to effectively promote a more just, more peaceful and advanced societies.

## **Excellencies,**

As the planet and the people of the world continue to grapple with the climate emergency, climate change is deeply interlinked with peace, security and development. The huge repercussions of climate change for peace, development and security are shaping the livelihoods of societies.



Despite the devastating and disproportional consequences of the climate crisis for the countries of the Horn of Africa region, Ethiopia has been playing a leading role in the fight against climate change through its Green Legacy Initiative. Following a successful first phase in which we planted 25 billion seedlings. Ethiopia has already started planting another 25 billion in the second phase.

Our flagship project, the Green Legacy Initiative is a living testimony of Ethiopia's long-term commitment to a comprehensive response to the climate crisis that encompasses agroforestry, forest development and a showcase of our commitment to develop a climate resilient green economy.

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In a more complex state of fragility in this 'age of crises', more rapid and focused investment in building strong institutions for effective implementation of the SDGs is not a matter of policy choice. It is an indispensable condition for building resilient societies. In this regard, Ethiopia has made a significant progress in the process institutional reform and development. A clear and practical demonstration has been in various parts of the law including the Electoral Law, such as the Political Parties Law, the Anti-Terrorism Law, the Charities and Societies Establishment law have been amended with participatory processes.

However, I would like to underline that that the process of improving and building the quality of our legal, political and bureaucratic domestic institutions is never complete. State building and reforming is always a work in progress.

In connection with the important role of building strong and resilient institutions, the transition from conflict to peace is only through a proper recognition of the rule of law. Considering the central role of effective parliament in promoting reconciliation, accountability and victim-centred approach, Ethiopia has embarked upon an inclusive transitional justice process. We are already in the final phase of adopting the Transitional Justice Policy based on a genuine, participatory and inclusive community consultation.

Finally, as I close my remark, I would like to emphasize the importance of renewed parliamentary solidarity with unwavering political commitment and reaffirm Ethiopia's readiness to work closely with our union to contribute to our collective endeavors to peace, justice and strong institutions.

I THANK YOU