

STATEMENT
by First Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of
the Oliy Majlis (Parliament) of Uzbekistan,
Vice-President of the IPU prof., Amb. Akmal Saidov
for Commemorating International Day of Parliamentarism
(2023, 30 June, Lisbon)

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Honorable President of the IPU,
Honorable Parliamentarians,
Distinguished Guests,

I represent here one of the biggest family of the IPU – Asian parliamentarians.

Today, we gather here to mark the celebration of the **International Day of Parliamentarism**, as well as the **134th Anniversary of the Inter-Parliamentary Union** (IPU). We commemorate these dual milestones not merely as dates on a calendar, but as symbolic torches that illuminate our journey towards democracy, good governance, peace, and prosperity.

When **Sir Randal Cremer and Frédéric Passy** founded the IPU, they had a vision of a world where nations communicate, cooperate, and coexist peacefully. They believed in the power of dialogue and the necessity for democracy. 134 years later, we stand here, carrying the torch that was lit by those pioneers.

Parliamentarism, with its foundations deeply rooted in the ideals of democratic representation and legislative power, has significantly evolved and matured. Today, it stands as the bulwark against tyranny, the cornerstone of our nations' checks and balances, and the heart of citizen representation.

Founded 134 years ago, the IPU was a pioneering effort to bridge the gaps between nations, to provide a platform for dialogue and cooperation, and to foster democratic governance around the world. Today, with **179 Member Parliaments and 14 Associate Members**, the IPU continues to lead the way in promoting peace, democracy, and sustainable development.

The IPU's motto is "**For democracy. For everyone**". It's a motto that

resonates deeply with us because it encapsulates the shared hopes and aspirations we all harbor for a world characterized by peace, justice, and equity.

Parliamentarians, you are the beating heart of democracy. You have the distinct privilege and responsibility to represent the hopes, dreams, and concerns of your constituents. The laws you pass, the questions you ask, and the debates you engage in are powerful tools that can shape the future of your nations.

Dear colleagues,

The slogan of this year – “Parliaments for the Planet”. Today marks a significant occasion as we commemorate our day in Portugal, a country famed for its remarkable maritime explorations during the Middle Ages. It is well known today for its environmental agenda, and it is no coincidence Portuguese beaches are the cleanest.

In the majestic São Bento Palace, continuing the traditions of the pioneering sailors, our parliaments will make their worthy contribution to the fight against climate change, the introduction of a culture of sustainable development, including implementing IPU’s 10 actions for greener parliaments.

So, as we celebrate the International Day of Parliamentarism, let us renew our commitment to these ideals. Let us strive to make our parliaments more open, inclusive, and responsive. Let us work tirelessly to uphold and promote human rights, justice, and democratic governance.

Remember, the power to shape the future is in our hands. Together, let us ensure that this future reflects the highest ideals of democracy, equality, and justice, so that our children and our children's children can inherit a world that is not just better than the one we found, but one that we can be truly proud of.

Thank you.