

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

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***“Parliaments as platforms to enhance education
for peace, security and the rule of law”***

Honorable President of the IPU,

Distinguished delegates,

First of all, on behalf of the Viet Nam National Assembly delegation, I would like to extend to you the warmest greetings. I would like to sincerely thank our host-the Consultative Assembly of the State of Qatar for their excellent hospitality upon the Vietnamese delegation's arrival in Doha, a beautiful city, well-known for her advanced buildings. We are convinced that with our host's rich experience, the 140th Inter-Parliamentary Union General Assembly will be such a great success to mark the 130th birthday of the IPU.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The world in this 21st century, embedded with the achievements of the fourth Industrial Revolution, is growing faster and stronger, bringing about fundamental changes for humankind. Yet, we are now faced with difficulties and challenges due to geopolitical factors, economic issues, terrorism, extreme nationalism, divisions in the population community, all resulting in severe consequences for the quality of life of every citizen. Peace, security and sustainable development stand the ultimate goals that require greater joint efforts of all nations in building basic platforms, of which the rule-of-law is a prerequisite. That is also why Agenda 2030 for sustainable development integrated education in its particular goals, upholding the critical role of education to peace, security and the rule-of-law.

In such today's world, education is a great contributor to enhancing dialogue, mutual understanding, countering xenophobia, and preventing extremism- the root cause of violent thoughts. As such, education should be made comprehensive and inclusive in all areas and provided for everyone, every social class, with particular assurance of fairness and equality.

In this regards, parliamentarians should play a critical role in enhancement of the legal framework, allocation of state budget, supervision of the Government's work on implementing their plans of action in education sector. Simultaneously, parliamentarians should also communicate to help raising the people's awareness and understanding on the significance of education for peace, security and sustainable development.

With that in mind, I welcome the IPU's efforts in making education one of the priorities in the agenda of each member Parliament, which was enshrined in the Resolutions of 1993, 2001 and 2017. I highly value the theme of this General Assembly that highlights the significance of education and the critical role of parliamentarians in enhancing education for peace, security and the rule-of-law. This is a testament to the IPU's long-term and humane vision in charting a way forward for a more sustainable future of multilateral cooperation among nations in general, and multilateral parliamentary diplomacy in particular.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In our process of development and international integration, Viet Nam has always given priority to simultaneously enhancing growth and sustainability, and making education the top national policy, so as to uplift literacy and produce high-qualified man power to meet the challenges of the 4th Industrial Revolution. The World Bank's 2018 Report showed that East Asia and the Pacific hosts seven of the top 10 performing education systems in the world. Among those, Viet Nam is recognized as one of the most impressively growing education systems. In addition, vocational training is another area of priority in Viet Nam, along with secondary and tertiary education to help produce additional pools of basic science and technological engineering experts. As a part of those encouraging achievements, the National Assembly has adopted and revised key instruments such as the Constitution, the Law on Tertiary Education, the Law on Vocational Training, and the Labor Code. Simultaneously, the National Assembly enhanced its supervision role to improve the education reform process in Viet Nam. The Law on Education is under revision now.

With a view to raising the Parliament's role in enhancing education for peace, security and the rule-of-law, I would like to make these following proposals:

First, the international community should consolidate the environment of peace and stability for sustainable development and enhance inclusive education for everyone, with a view to preventing the potential of conflict, promoting international legal frameworks for education cooperation, and fostering vocational training to produce better performance and achieve economic growth.

Second, bring into full play the role of Parliaments and parliamentarians in enhancement of the domestic legal frameworks, development of a rule-of-law State, supervision of legal enforcement and budget ratification in line with sustainable education reform programs. Simultaneously, ensure fair and equal opportunity of education for every social class, without discrimination or prejudice so as to grant access to education services to the entire population.

Third, continue supervisory role upon the national plan of action to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The IPU, the United Nations and other multilateral and regional organizations should join hands in this process, and assist member Parliaments once implementation stage is in place.

Fourth, the IPU should continue the reform process to produce effective performance and bring into full play her role among member Parliaments, as well as enhance the member Parliaments' implementation of recommendations as of Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly.

Fifth, enhance dialogue, international cooperation and partnership among nations, regional and global organizations, optimize resources to assist countries with difficulties in the implementation of comprehensive and inclusive education programs for sustainable development.

Sixth, enhance legal education programs at schools and promote cooperation and experience sharing among Parliaments in this regard.

Thank you very much, Honorable President and distinguished delegates for your kind attention.