



Speech of the Speaker of the Somali Senate for 140th meeting IPU Assembly

Bismillaahi rahmaani rahiim,

Ms. President, Mr. Speaker, Honorable members of the Parliaments, Excellencies, Distinguish Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Thank you and good evening/morning. I am honored and appreciate to receive the invitation of H.E Ahmad Bin Abdulla bin Zaid Al Mahmoud the Speaker of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar to join the 140th IPU assembly at Doha – Qatar. It is a great honor also for me specifically, as this marks the first time to participate an IPU Assembly. I would like also to thank all the parliamentarian from around the world who are participating in this assembly.

As we all aware of, IPU is a unique organization made up for national parliaments from around the world to protect and build global democracy through political dialogue.

We believe, building fair and inclusive societies, where different groups have their input in the democratic process and making real and positive change to people's lives by building strong national parliaments that can deliver tangible result on issues that matters like health, sustainable development, peace and security.

Federal Parliament of Somalia

The Republic of Somalia has taken its independence in 1960 where the 1st Parliament was formed, from that time the country was under a unified system of government and unicameral legislature until the end of the 9th Parliament of Somalia in 2016.

The state took the federal system in 2004, as we all know that the Federal system requires bicameral legislature and obligates the establishment of a second chamber (Upper House) which is to represent the Federal Member States and protects the federal system of the country.

On **28th December 2016**, the 10th parliament was formed, a parliament that contains of two separate chambers (The Upper House and the House of People). The Upper House contains 54 members in which 13 are women and 41 are men, where the House of People contains 276 members in which 69 are women and 207 are men.

The Upper House of the Somali Federal Parliament

On **5th January 2017**, the former Somali President H.E Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud has officially opened the first session of the Upper House. From that moment the Upper House of the Somali Federal Parliament was ready to perform his constitutional duties under the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Somalia.

The Upper House has immediately begun to create its basic pillars, making the Rule of Procedure of the House and then carefully selected its parliamentary committees, now there are 10 committees including women's caucus.

Despite the challenges, Upper House of the Somali Federal Parliament has undertaken its own obligations effectively and has taken part the legislation process, reviewing the Provisional Constitution of the Country, resolving disputes between the two executive administrations of the federal government, Overseeing the activities of the executive branch.

The role of education in promoting peace, Security and the rule of law: -

Education is a human right, the key that unlocks human potential to serve the public interests. The State has the responsibility to provide accessible education to all its citizens, there is overwhelming evidence that investing in education offers a strong return on investment for more peaceful, happier and prosperous societies.

In the regions where peace, security and the rule of law is elusive, we must teach our children love, and not to hate. There's no doubt that education leads to career enhancement, employment opportunities, and chances of higher earnings. But equally important is providing an environment conducive to learning, so advancement of peace, security and the rule of law is a prerequisite.

Education play a preventive role, and diminishes terrorism & militancy; uneducated individuals are more likely to support militancy and terrorism acts. Education fosters deference to opposing ideas. In the classroom students learn to respect their teachers and their peers. They are taught to let others speak and express their opinions, not to interrupt, and how to conduct themselves within a group setting. Perhaps this respect for other humans can be practiced on a global scale, where there's a respect for each and every life, not just those who share the same religious beliefs and backgrounds.

We believe that peaceful co-operation, protecting international law for human rights and avoiding of oppression and mobilizing between all nations makes an actual amalgamation among the states, this should lead us to peace, friendship, collaboration and respect between communities around the world. That is what we believe for the decent of this world could make progressive towards peaceful, prosperity and lack of poverty and peaceful co-existence.

What can we do?

As the role of parliamentarians, we should take a genuine interest in what our government is doing, raise the awareness in our community about the realities of violence and the importance of peaceful and security societies.

The Federal parliament of Somalia like any other parliament of the world plays an important role in the life of our nation, such functions include:

- a. Making new laws, change existing laws and repeal laws which are no longer needed.

- b.** Representing and articulating the views and wishes of the citizens in decision making processes.
- c.** Overseeing the activities of the executive so that the government is accountable to the people. Achieving good governance requires the existence of a strong, effective and efficient parliament.

Making laws that places the basics of education standards, engages equalities both boys and girls in education, prevents terror ideology in young ages, overseeing the activities of the executive about the fundamentals of education are most effective roles that we can play or achieve to settle peace and security in our nation. The furthestmost actual work that can stop extremist rational in the world is a valuable education which leads all of us to peace, security and development.

As a final remark, I wish to thank to the State of Qatar for hosting this excellent and successful conference. I personally cannot find the words to express my gratitude to say thank you for your warm welcome and hospitality we have received during our stay. I also thankful to the leadership, president and secretariat of IPU for your commitment to move IPU agendas forward. I look forward to continuing our work together in support of strong parliamentary action in the implementation of the Peace, Security and the rule of law.

Thank you very much.