

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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MESSAGE FOR THE 136TH ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION
Dhaka, 1 April 2017

Delivered by Mr. Miroslav Jenča, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs

Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh
Excellency Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of Parliament
Excellency Saber Chowdhury, President of the Inter-
Parliamentary Union
Excellency Martin Chungong, Secretary-General of the Inter-
Parliamentary Union
Distinguished delegates,
Friends,

I would like to convey the below message of the Secretary General to this Assembly.

“It is my pleasure to greet the Inter-Parliamentary Union and all those from around the world who have come together for this timely and important gathering. I thank the people and Government of Bangladesh for hosting.

I attach great importance to close ties between the United Nations and the IPU. After all, I was once one of you – a parliamentarian in Portugal. So I have seen, first hand, the key role you play as representatives of the people, as standard-bearers of democracy, as legislators who turn aspiration to action, and as individuals who serve as crucial links between the local and the global. That rewarding experience from an earlier part of my career in public service makes me especially

enthusiastic about what we can accomplish together today across the world, across our agenda.

In taking up my duties as Secretary-General, I have called for a surge in diplomacy for peace – and for a new emphasis on preventing conflicts and crises in the first place. We are working to improve living conditions everywhere through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and pressing ahead with implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change – not only to meet this grave threat but to seize the great opportunities of a low-carbon, clean-energy future. We are also pursuing a series of major reforms – of the UN peace and security architecture, development system and management – in order to better serve the world's people.

One key to progress will be addressing global inequalities, and so I welcome your focus on this challenge as the theme of your Assembly. Inequalities feed exclusion, hardship and despair, thereby causing or perpetuating cycles of insecurity and violence. At this time of divisiveness and economic uncertainty, I look forward to your support for investments in solidarity and social cohesion. Together, let us create a more compassionate, inclusive and peaceful world.”

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