

Speech on the General Debate of the 136th IPU Assembly on Redressing Inequalities: Delivering on Dignity and Well-being for all

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Your Excellency Mr. President of the IPU,
Honorable Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad of Bangladesh,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the National People's Congress of China, I would like to extend congratulations on the successful convening of the 136th IPU Assembly, as well as our gratitude to the IPU and the Jatiya Sangsad of Bangladesh for their thoughtful preparations and arrangements.

As we speak, there are three significant challenges worldwide, namely the lack of driving force for world economic growth, the laggard economic governance and the imbalanced global development. Problems such as poverty, unemployment and widening income gap prevail. Inequalities have not only negatively impacted economic growth of countries, but also harmed social equality and justice, bringing severe challenges to global development and stability. The 136th IPU Assembly focuses on the topic of redressing inequalities, which is of great practical significance.

As an old saying goes in China, "the world should be equally shared by all." It is the common aspiration of people all over the world, as well as the urgent task faced by the international community, to redress inequalities and achieve common development. The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has confirmed eliminating inequalities as an important goal, and raised responsive measures on economic growth, global governance, development aid and so forth. Countries should implement the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development well, to ensure that no single person or country is left behind. Hereby, I would like to share my following views with you.

First, we should implement the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an all-round manner, to achieve common and shared development. Chinese people believe that etiquette and good morality come after the basic living standards being met. Only by economic growth, can we solve many problems caused by development. Countries should integrate the implementation of the Agenda into their national

development strategies, to boost domestic economic growth. Priorities should be given to problems concerning people's livelihood, such as eradicating poverty. Meanwhile, countries should strive to maintain social equality and justice. Gender equality should be promoted, by giving vulnerable groups including women more opportunities to be deeply involved into the cause of development and to share the development fruits more equally.

Second, we should build a new type of global development partnership, so as to achieve balanced and inclusive development. Imbalanced development is one of the root causes of inter-state inequalities. The international community should build a more equal and balanced international development partnership, forming a cooperation landscape with the United Nations as the core, South-North cooperation as the main channel and South-South collaboration as complementarities, to narrow development gaps between countries. Developed countries should fulfill their development aid commitments earnestly, when developing countries should intensify South-South cooperation to achieve self-improvement through unity. International organizations such as the IPU, the UN and the like, should continue to prioritize development in their global agendas.

Third, we should improve global economic governance, to realize equal and open development. An impartial, equal, reasonable and ordered global economic governance system is the institutional guarantee for a balanced, stable and healthy global economy. With equality as the basis, an impartial and effective global financial governance framework should be set up, within which the representation and voice of new emerging countries and developing countries can be enhanced. In order to be more openness-oriented, we should build an open and transparent global trade and investment governance framework, so that countries can share the benefits brought by globalization equally. Sharing is our goal in building an inclusive global development governance landscape, which everyone is encouraged to participate in and benefit from.

Fourth, we should strengthen the participation and interactions of parliaments, to achieve development by all and for all. Parliaments should participate in the development cause in a constructive manner, by improving legislation on sustainable development, eliminating legal barriers which result in inequalities and imbalanced development. Parliaments should fulfill their oversight and evaluation obligations in accordance with their national realities, and be an impetus for the implementation work. The IPU should actively listen to and respond to the aspiration of people from all countries especially developing countries, to build more conducive platforms for parliaments to boost exchanges and mutual learning.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The National People's Congress of China gives full play to its significant role in balancing and adjusting social interests as a legislative body. In recent years, we have

promulgated or revised a number of laws and regulations, including Employment Promotion Law, Compulsory Education Law, Law on the Protection of Women's Rights and Interests and so forth. Last year, the National People's Congress of China deliberated and adopted the 13th Five-Year Plan. We are working earnestly to integrate the implementation of the sustainable development agenda into our long-and-medium term national development strategies. During the "two sessions" this year, the National People's Congress advocated to promote development and good governance by sound legislation. At the same time, we are actively engaged in inter-parliamentary exchanges and cooperation. We held an Interregional Seminar on Parliamentary Capacity Building and the further implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals with the IPU, with the aim of helping parliaments in other developing countries with their capacity building.

As the largest developing country, China ensures 1.3 billion people to have their basic living standards met by forming a universal health care and social welfare system. Last year, we cut the number of impoverished people by 12.4 million and led the issuance of China's National Plan on the implementation of the sustainable development agenda, as well as by introducing comprehensive measures to combat inequalities. We facilitated the G20 Hangzhou Summit to adopt the G20 Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and, by supporting industrialization and developing inclusive finance in Africa and the least-developed countries, reduced imbalanced development worldwide.

This May and September, China will hold the "Belt and Road" Forum for International Cooperation and the BRICS Leaders' Summit in Xiamen. We are looking forward to discussing with relevant countries on connectivity and cooperation, in a bit to intensify global development cooperation and to propel the economic globalization towards a more inclusive "rebalance".

It is always said in China that when everybody adds fuel the flames rise high. Let us join hands with each other to build a community of shared future for mankind featuring win-win cooperation and common development, together with a beautiful world where everyone is equal and shares prosperity, with dignity and well-being being delivered on for all.