

**STATEMENT BY H.E. NGUYEN SINH HUNG,  
PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM  
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> WORLD CONFERENCE OF  
SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT**

(New York, August 31<sup>st</sup> 2015)

*Honorable Saber Hossain Chowdhury, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,  
Honorable Speakers of Parliament,*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

At the outset, allow me, on behalf of the Viet Nam National Assembly delegation, to extend the warmest greetings and best wishes to Honorable President of the IPU and distinguished participants to the 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Speakers of Parliament.

All countries and nations in the world share the ardent aspiration for a peaceful world and the determination to build democracy. Today, globalization and the swift development of science and technology are creating numerous opportunities and also posing no less challenges to each country. In that context, peace and democracy must also evolve rapidly not only in terms of their definition but also in the ways in which they are preserved and promoted. To enhance democracy, we should spare no effort to build and consolidate mutual trust, and firmly safeguard peace through cooperation and dialogue. Only when peace and democracy are maintained can we secure the foundation for prosperity and sustainable development. Likewise, only when democracy and sustainable development are achieved can we have the ground for securing lasting peace.

Parliaments act as the embodiment of democracy. Given that, the IPU as well as its member parliaments have repeatedly affirmed the view that each country should promote the important role of its parliament, particularly in promulgating laws, adopting budget and overseeing the operation of the executive branch, as the foundation for democracy protection and promotion in the world. The 4<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Speakers of Parliament is an opportunity for us to reflect on the commitments we have made and reiterate them with new elements to accommodate the changing global landscape.

The international community is joining hands to develop a new sustainable development agenda aimed at ending poverty, narrowing inequality and protecting our planet for the future generations. With strong political will, the IPU member parliaments adopted the Hanoi Declaration themed “Sustainable Development Goals: Turning words into Actions” at the IPU’s 132<sup>nd</sup> Assembly in Hanoi, Viet Nam in March 2015. Member Parliaments have underscored a people-centred sustainable development vision aiming at promoting and protecting human rights, and empowering the people to fully tap their potential. Resting on three pillars, namely economic, social and environmental pillars, the vision underlined the preservation of international peace and security, respect for the United Nations Charter and international law. Member parliaments have pledged utmost efforts to transforming the Sustainable Development Goals into national goals, mainstreaming them into domestic laws as well as allocating budget to ensure their implementation in conformity with the specific conditions of each nation.

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

Having undergone decades of struggles for national independence, the Vietnamese people, like other peoples in the world, always have the burning desire to live in a world of peace and democracy. For that reason, building “a strong country with wealthy people and a democratic, just and advanced society” has always been the goal and the momentum for the development of Viet Nam.

As a member of the IPU and the United Nations, Viet Nam has made active and practical contributions to strengthening democracy. Viet Nam is always of the view that to ensure democracy in international relations, all countries should respect and uphold the role of international cooperation on the basis of international law in resolving outstanding issues among nations. At the national level, to ensure democracy, parliament must play a critical role in strengthening the rule of law, strictly enforcing laws, as well as completing the legal system, mechanisms and policies to ensure fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens.

With the desire to preserve peace, Viet Nam’s consistent policy is to settle disputes by peaceful means on the basis of respect for international law, non-use or threat of force, for the common interests and security of the region and the world. Viet Nam strongly condemns acts of violence and terrorism in the globe. Viet Nam commends the IPU’s efforts to call on its member Parliaments to step up cooperation, particularly in exchanging experience and information on measures to prevent and combat terrorism.

To realise the Sustainable Development Goals, Viet Nam has identified three major pillars for growth, namely the economy, the society and the environment. We attached importance to promoting people's ownership and consider sustainable development the cause of the entire people.

To live in a world of peace, democracy, prosperity and happiness is the legitimate desire of each and every people on this planet. To translate such aspiration into reality, we, members of parliaments, have to fulfil our responsibility as the highest representatives of our people. We are confident that the Conference Declaration will reflect the commitment of member parliaments and demonstrate parliaments' responsibility in building a better world through legislation and democratic policies that respond to the desire and aspiration of all the people.

Thank you for your attention./.

