

Statement by the Right Honorable Ganesh Prasad Timilsina, the Chairperson of the National Assembly of the Federal Parliament, Nepal, to the 43rd General Assembly of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

Honorable President of the Assembly,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Greetings to all the dignitaries in attendance from Nepal, the birthplace of Lord Buddha and the home to the world's highest peak Mt. Everest. For inviting the Federal Parliament of Nepal to this assembly of the parliaments of Nepal's friendly countries in the South East Asia, I extend my thanks to Honorable President of the National Assembly of Cambodia.

Nepal is not much distant geographically to the countries in the South East Asia, and is really close in relationship too. We have been enjoying relations of historical cultural significance. ASEAN's achievement in its objectives of economic growth, social progress and cultural development through regional peace, stability and cooperation has been commendable. As a member of regional organizations such as SAARC and BIMSTEC, we have a first-hand experience of how important the role of such organizations is in promoting partnership and cooperation. I wish AIPA success in its function of promoting communication and collaboration among parliaments of ASEAN members.

Mr. President,

Modern information technology and rapid transportation has created a global village, where all the countries are increasingly interdependent. Embracing the values of cooperation alongside diversity, AIPA has been engaging with parliaments outside the ASEAN region as observers. Nepal's Federal Parliament has proposed to be an observer of this organization which has parliaments of our friendly nations and development partners as members and observers. I have understood the invitation to us to participate in this assembly as an indication of AIPA's favorable assessment of the proposal. I call upon all the members to kindly support our proposal. I commit that if Federal Parliament of Nepal is granted an observer status, it shall act for mutual benefits with the members and other observers.

Mr. President,

After numerous political movements and changes in Nepal, an elected Constituent Assembly promulgated the new constitution in 2015. The constitution that has institutionalized Federal Democratic Republic system is a unique achievement in conflict resolution and state restructuring. The first election under new state structure was held in 2017. Last May, we had the election for the second term of local bodies after successful completion of the first term. Just recently, on 20th November, we had elections for the House of Representatives at the Federal level and Provincial Assemblies and the Province level. It is now established that politically, we have completed the transitional phase and entered the phase of stability. Now it is the time to focus on rapid economic growth and sustainable development. We expect the cooperation and solidarity of the international community in this regard.

We currently are in the 5-year preparatory period granted on 2021 November for graduation from LDC status, and we have a national objective of economic prosperity. Considering these, I want to draw the attention of the representatives of members, observers and guests to the fact that Nepal bears adequate investment opportunity as well as to the fact that the end of political instability has created an investment friendly environment. Nepal welcomes with open heart the investments in manufacturing, hydroelectricity, tourism and infrastructures.

Mr. President,

The productions of our industrial friends have obviously made our lifestyles comfortable, and we are grateful for it. However, its ecological implications are also significant. The effect of global warming caused by carbon emissions impact mountainous countries like Nepal more. Increasing temperature melts the snowcaps which affects the island countries and the countries at the lower riparian zone too. Thus, the excessive carbon emitting industrial countries should increase their investment and commitment towards the climate risk reduction. They must compensate the low carbon emitting countries in the form of development cooperation and poverty alleviation programs.

Mr. President,

It is possible to face the prevalent global challenges only through mutual cooperation and combined efforts. We are eager to open avenues for cooperation with AIPA.

I wish for the success of this General Assembly. I thank the National Assembly of Cambodia for the warm hospitality to me and my delegation. Before leaving, I would like to add one last thing. Nepal, the birthplace of the messenger of peace Lord Buddha, is a country everyone must visit no matter where they are from. I invite all the dignitaries here to visit the country of Mt. Everest.

Thank You.