



Statement by H.E. Dr. Nejad Hosseinian
Secretary-General of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA)
At
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26 March 2013
Quito Ecuador

Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary-General
Distinguished Delegates,

I am privileged to speak in this august assembly. On behalf of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, I wish to register appreciation to the people, parliament and government of Ecuador for hosting this meeting and for the open arm with which we have been received in this beautiful country by such friendly people. Thank you Speaker Cordero Cueva, and thank you National Assembly of Ecuador for the excellent arrangements. I also wish to thank President Rafael Correa for his inspiring and unreservedly frank statement setting out his vision for an international development scheme that focuses on human welfare; “Buen Vivre.”

It is vitally important that IPU is facilitating the effective and meaningful engagement of parliaments around the world in the global consultation on helping define the parameters of a holistic sustainable development (SDG) to be adopted in 2015, when the current MDGs will expire. As spokesman of people and communities with little voice, parliamentarians should be determined not to be left in the cold this time in 2015. A parliamentary perspective on the process of definition and adoption of a new development framework, including SDGs in 2015 ensures greater degree of success in their implementation.

I am pleasantly encouraged by the IPU background documents and by the general debates in the 128th Assembly in Quito on the complex relations between economic growth and purposeful development. Many developing countries have long held that an exclusive focus on economic growth fails the kind of development human being at this stage of civilization deserve.

It is heartening to learn that it is increasingly becoming clear to all -- across developing and developed countries -- that neo-liberalism and free-market economy has failed to ensure the kind of development that entails human well-being and happiness. Sustainable and purposeful development goals cannot be reduced to economic growth. They must also address, in addition to economic growth, issues like social and economic inequalities, poverty and hunger, justice, conflict and instability, environmental sustainability and water, energy and food security at a level that truly regards our world as interdependent.

This is surely a long and difficult path. Sustainable and purposeful development goals will have a higher likelihood of implementation if fairness and democratic principles underpin the goals. It is functional to regard fairness and democracy as both an end in themselves – a goal – and as a cross cutting principle for all goals.

Parliaments have a crucial role in defining a new development framework and new goals. They also have a crucial role in monitoring their implementation. In order to fulfill their obligations of representation, transparency, accountability and oversight, parliaments require support to enhance their capacity.

Asian Parliamentary Assembly has been dealing with such issues for the last six years and as APA Secretary-General, I intend to bring greater focus on them in the two years ahead of us until 2015.

Thank you, Mr. President.