

Remarks of the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia on:

The Launch of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Book

in Celebration of IPU's 130th Anniversary

Jakarta, 08 October 2020

Assalamu'alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

Peaceful Greetings,

Om Swastyastu,

Namo Buddhaya,

Greetings of virtue,

Excellencies,

- President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron;
- Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ibu Retno Marsudi;

- Chairperson, vice chairpersons and members of inter-parliamentary cooperation committee;
- Distinguished panelists:
- Distinguished community leaders, cultural actors, academicians;
- Distinguished ladies and gentlemen in the audience.

We extend our praises and gratitude to Allah the Most Exalted for bestowing us with His blessings and grace and allowing us to attend today's book launch on the Inter-Parliamentary Union, or IPU, to celebrate IPU's 130th anniversary.

Even though today's event has to be held virtually, indeed it is part of our responsibility to humanity to break the COVID-19 transmission.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year, the IPU celebrates its 131st anniversary. It is an impressive age for any organization, let alone a multilateral organization. In the span of 131 years, the world has witnessed two world wars. Various political conflicts, regional and global security conflicts have also taken place. A series of regional and global economic, environmental, and health crisis have occurred.

The most recent one as we know is the COVID-19 pandemic, a non-natural, or a health disaster, that affects more than 200 countries around the world. COVID-19 has certainly affected the health sector and paralyzed our citizens. Their social, economic, cultural, and even their religious activities.

But even before COVID-19, as a global community we were already surrounded by other challenges. These included the climate change, the world's natural

resource depletion, trade or economic war, and many others.

The plethora of global challenges have truly been a test to the bond and friendship between our countries.

We need to realize that there is not one country in the world that is able to overcome those challenges in isolation. This is because the issues that are affecting the world over are not the problem or responsibility of just one or two countries. Instead, as their consequences travel across borders, they also need to be addressed by the global community - together.

As an example, even though Indonesia is working hard to handle the COVID-19 pandemic within its territory, but as long as there are other countries that are struggling to do so, Indonesia can never be genuinely safe from the coronavirus.

Another example is the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs, which since launched has been established “for the people and for the planet”. SDGs is not intended to merely serve a few countries, but for all, carrying the spirit of “leave no one behind”.

That spirit is in line with a Javanese philosophy in Indonesia, *Mukti Siji, Mukti Kabeh*, which roughly translates to “the welfare of one is the welfare of all”.

And that is why **I view the IPU as a pioneering organization, a visionary**. Because even as early as 1889, the founding fathers of IPU, William Randal Cremer and Frederic Passy, were keenly aware of the value of dialogue and collaboration between countries.

Imagine that, at that point in time, the world had no idea that one day it would have the League of Nations and the United Nations. But there was the IPU as one of the trailblazers of its time. The IPU opened the eyes of the world that a multilateral organization could and had to be established if humanity were to achieve its common goals globally.

And all endeavors have been carried out based on the principle of “For Democracy, For Everyone”, as written by Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron in her foreword for IPU’s book that chronicles 130 years of its journey.

Distinguished Audience,

Indonesia understands that international cooperation is needed if we are to overcome the various global challenges.

Indonesia's constitution, the 1945 constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, mandates Indonesia to contribute to create a world order based on independence, perpetual peace, and social justice.

Indonesia's first president Soekarno even said, in 1945, that: "Not only we need to establish an independent Indonesia, **but we also need to take steps towards creating fraternity among nations.**"

The Indonesian Parliament is therefore committed to always be actively involved in various diplomacy activities and in international cooperation such as the IPU.

Through the various strategic positions it held in IPU, the Indonesian Parliament has played a role in setting the agenda of the international work carried out by parliaments from around the world.

The Indonesian Parliament has served the following positions in IPU: President of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law; President of the Committee for Women Parliamentarians; Chairpersons/Member of the Executive Committee; Chairpersons/Member of the Committee on Peace and International Security; Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians; Member of the Committee for the Middle East Questions; Member of Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians; Member of the Committee for the United Nations Affairs.

In each capacity, in every IPU meeting attended by the Indonesian Parliament, Indonesian MPs contributed their energy, thoughts, and endeavor to resolve global issues.

This included, in various IPU forums, Indonesia's consistent promotion of the rights of Palestine.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I was intrigued by a title of a chapter in the IPU book, which reads, "Our First 130 Years". The title suggests the vision of the second 130 years, the third, and so on for IPU.

We certainly need to be aware that, going forward, IPU's tasks will only be more demanding. Amid the waves of global challenges that come one after another, the international community is watching,

observing, and waiting to see how a multilateral organization like the IPU can deliver its real contribution to resolving global issues.

IPU and its members need to show that this organization can stay relevant and responsive to whatever challenge ushered in by an era.

Furthermore, IPU needs to substantially exhibit to the world that democracy will not end in disarray and impasse. IPU must be able to show that democracy can give rise to solutions.

And, indeed, IPU needs to be part of the frontline in safeguarding democracy, as the member parliaments of IPU are true examples of how democracy works.

Members of a parliament are born out of the people, chosen by the people, and carry the mandate of the people with them every day.

The people have entrusted their voice, their aspirations, to the Parliament to address their issues and problems, and to realize a better life for them.

For that reason, I believe that there is one value from Indonesia that can be a crucial part in the next chapter of IPU's journey.

That value is *gotong royong*, collaboration.

In this forum, as the Speaker of the Indonesian Parliament, I affirm the commitment of the Indonesian Parliament to imbue the spirit of *gotong royong* into the IPU and other multilateral organizations so that, God Willing, we will witness ***gotong royong* materialized in a global scale.**

By exercising *gotong royong* globally we can amass the great energy we need to address COVID-19 pandemic. With a global *gotong royong*, we can accelerate our attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs. With a global *gotong royong* we can withstand any challenge the world may be facing in the future.

In this opportune moment, I would also like to convey my thanks to Ms. Gabriela Cuevas for her hard work and dedication as the President of Inter-Parliamentary Union. Thank you, Ms. Gabriela, for all that you have done and our best wishes for you for the future.

I also thank everyone for participating in today's event. And I extend my warm congratulation for the launch of the Inter-Parliamentary Union book.

The IPU book launch will be accompanied with a discussion session and I hope that our conversation today can inspire great ideas that the Indonesian Parliament can promote in IPU and in other international platforms.

May Allah the Most Exalted, the One and Only God, grants us His blessings and grace to all of us.

Thank you,

*Wassalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,
Om Shanti Shanti Shanti Om, Namo Buddhaya.*

Jakarta, 08 October 2020

**SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REPUBLIC OF
INDONESIA,**

Dr. (H.C.) PUAN MAHARANI