

Madame President

Thank you for giving the floor to Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament (PNND) to speak on this topic.

Peace and disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, are vital for achieving sustainable development. Weapons proliferation aggravates and inflames conflict and consumes financial resources and human capital required to achieve development.

If nuclear war breaks out, it would cause catastrophic consequences to humanity, the environment and development.

In addition, the \$100 billion spent annually on nuclear weapons is vital to funding the SDGs.

For these reasons, the diplomatic resolution of nuclear-weapons conflicts between nuclear-armed States, and the UN High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament being held from May 14-16 this year, are important not only for nuclear-risk reduction and disarmament, but also for sustainable development.

We encourage IPU member parliaments to support diplomatic initiatives such as the inter-Korean summit next month and the upcoming summit of USA and DPRK Presidents, and to support and participate in the UN High-Level Conference in May.

PNND has been honoured to cooperate with the Inter Parliamentary Union on development of the Parliamentary Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World, which was released at the 137th IPU Assembly in St Petersburg, and which includes a section on nuclear disarmament and sustainable development. We encourage member parliaments to make use of the Parliamentary Action Plan.

Thank you