



Mauritius National Assembly

COMMUNIQUE

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

Parliamentary delegation led by the Hon. Adrien Charles Duval, Speaker of the National Assembly to participate in the Commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the affiliation of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the 2024 Interregional Seminar on the achievement of the SDGs for Parliaments of Developing countries in Beijing, China

The Hon. Adrien Charles Duval, Speaker of the National Assembly, is currently leading a parliamentary delegation comprising Hon. Subhasnee Luchmun Roy, MP, PPS, Hon. Dhananjay Ramful, MP and Ms. Urmeelah Devi Ramchurn, Clerk of the National Assembly to Beijing, in the People's Republic of China on the invitation of H.E. Zhao Leji, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) to participate in the Commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the NPC's affiliation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the 2024 Interregional Seminar on the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Parliaments of Developing Countries organised jointly with the IPU.

As China commemorates the Anniversary with the Opening Ceremony of the Interregional Seminar on Monday, 19 August 2024, the event was featured with the official meeting between H.E. Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Zhao Leji, Chairman of the NPC, H.E. the Right Hon. Dr. Tuliya Ackson, President of the IPU and Speaker of the Parliament of Tanzania, Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU, and other esteemed Speakers and Deputy Speakers. The high level meeting highlighted China's continued commitment to the IPU's principles and its ongoing support for the SDGs aimed at fostering peace, development, and prosperity in developing countries.

On Tuesday, 20 August 2024, during a meeting with his Chinese counterpart at the Great Hall of the People, Mr Speaker thanked H.E. Zhao Leji for the warm hospitality extended to his goodself and members of his delegation. Mr Speaker congratulated the Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee on the occasion of the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the NPC's Affiliation to the IPU. Having served the IPU as Member of the African Geopolitical Group on the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law in 2016, Mr Speaker acknowledged the crucial role played by the IPU in fostering global parliamentary dialogue and cooperation as well as the active participation of Member parliaments in advancing the IPU's mission.

Mr Speaker also emphasized the importance of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in February 2018 between the NPC and the Mauritius National Assembly, which has been pivotal in enhancing parliamentary diplomacy and exchanges between the two parliaments.

The two-day Seminar held on 20 and 21, August, centered on the theme: “Stronger Inter-Parliamentary Exchanges for Better Achievement of the SDGs”.

Intervening during the panel discussion on the topic: “Developing Democracy Suited to National Conditions to Provide a Strong Underpinning for Modernization”, Mr Speaker highlighted the crucial role of digitalization in modernizing democracy and laid emphasis on the commitment of the Mauritius National Assembly to this transformation with the launch of the "Digital Transformation Strategy" on 2 August 2024. He added that this strategy aims to advance parliamentary processes through technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), enhancing efficiency, transparency, and public engagement through key initiatives. Mr Speaker underscored that the digital push is expected to strengthen democratic processes and improve interactions between Parliament and the public.

The discussions during the seminar accentuated on the significance of enhanced inter-parliamentary collaboration in achieving the SDGs through diverse and inclusive approaches.

On the sidelines of the Interregional Seminar, Mr Speaker had a meeting with the President and Secretary General of the IPU for enhanced collaboration between the Mauritius National Assembly and the IPU under its Global Digital Transformation Initiative.

**Office of the Speaker
Parliament House
Port Louis**

21 August 2024