

**Press Release**  
**President of the National Assembly attended the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly  
and related meetings**

On Monday 14 October 2019, the second day of the meeting at Sava Centre, Belgrade, Republic of Serbia, the Thai Parliamentary Delegation led by H.E. Mr. Chuan Leekpai, President of the National Assembly, attended the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly and related meetings. In the morning, the delegates attended the meeting of the 205<sup>th</sup> Governing Council which H.E. Ms. Gabriela Cuevas Barron, President of IPU and Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of IPU presided over the meeting as chairperson and secretary respectively. The meeting considered the report on financial statement, the draft budget plan of IPU in 2020 by Sub-committee on Finance, and report on President's work during the past 6 months. In addition, the IPU Secretary General reported the implementation of the IPU 5-year strategy and the coordination between IPU and the United Nations from April 2019.

At 11.00 hrs., the meeting of the 141<sup>st</sup> IPU Assembly started from the general debate on the theme "the role and mechanisms of parliaments in strengthening international law and the contribution of regional cooperation" which was provided for delivering statement by Presidents of the Parliaments. On this occasion, H.E. Mr. Chuan Leekpai, President of the National Assembly, delivered statement on behalf of the Thai delegation at 16.30 hrs., the substantial statement referred to the year 2019 is significant as the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IPU and particularly, Thailand turned back to democratic way by holding the first general election during the past 8 years. Furthermore, Thailand focuses on the roles of implementing domestic laws to conform with international agreements that Thailand associates with as a membership, and believes that international laws shall be a core principle to protect all countries. Therefore, Thailand has continuously contributed to implement agendas of the international communities under UN such as Human Rights Protection, Promoting Human Security, Environmental Preservation and supporting the UN peacekeeping operations. Above of all, Thailand has adopted a Sufficiency Economy Philosophy of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej the Great as a core to move forward to achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

H.E. Mr. Chuan mentioned the roles of Thailand as chairmanship of ASEAN this year and Thai Parliament also assumed the chairmanship of AIPA (ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly) with the goals to support the parliamentarian roles to build ASEAN as a rule-based community and a people-centred development, especially, legal harmonization among member states. Although parliament more understand the need and problems of people than other parts, the attempt will reach a concrete achievement by cooperation between government and parliament as partnership. H.E. Mr. Chuan also summarized the fair and equal enforcement of laws without discrimination is the best way to narrow the gaps of society and economy, and to prevent exploitation of vulnerable groups. Due to the fact that democracy can be

strengthen with strong parliaments and being truly representative of people, and parliament shall respect the rule of laws. Even though we could not make everyone become rich equally but all must be equal under the law.

At the last session the meeting decided to put only one of the four issues into Emergency Item by a roll call vote on each country. The four issues proposed by member states as follows; Security, Terrorist in Syria, Climate Change, and Distortion of Democracy in Peru. Thai Delegation voted for the Climate Change proposed by India, which was selected with 809 votes.

During the meeting on 14 October 2019, H.E. Mr. Chuan attended a working lunch hosted by IPU President and Secretary General in honour to all Heads of Delegation who are Presidents of parliaments at Crowne Plaza Hotel and then joined dinner hosted by H.E. Ms. Maja Gojkovic, Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia.

Translated by English Division  
Bureau of Foreign Languages  
The Secretariat of the House of Representatives