

Historic 2025 Inauguration of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC)

Song Yong cheon

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The Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) Was Officially Launched in the Republic of Korea after Holding Its Inaugural Assembly on April 11. Here, Parliamentary Speakers and Official Parliamentary Delegations from 40 Nations of the World Take a Commemorative Photograph with Holy Mother Han, True Mother, during the Cheon Won Gung Museum Grand Opening Ceremony.

Representatives of parliaments and national assemblies around the world have officially launched the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC). Inaugurated during the commemorations for the 80th anniversary of the United Nations, ISC's primary goal is to help build lasting peace through conflict resolution based on international law and norms. At its recent Inaugural Assembly, the 2025 Seoul Declaration was also adopted.

Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) Inaugural Assembly

The ISC Inaugural Assembly was held at the Lotte Hotel World in Jamsil, Seoul, on April 11, convening some 150 participants including parliamentary delegations from 40 nations as well as diplomatic envoys to Korea. ISC was established as a coalition committed to promoting understanding, cooperation, and peace between nations through inter-parliamentary diplomacy, based on principles of transnational, inter-religious, and multiracial multilateralism, with the objectives of promoting peace and tolerance, addressing the climate crisis and issues of sustainable development.

Present at the Inaugural Assembly in addition to the parliamentary delegations and diplomatic envoys were 8th UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Deputy Speaker of the Republic of Korea National Assembly Lee Hak-young, Chair of the Forum of Presidents of Legislative Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean (FOPREL) and Speaker of the Honduran Congress Luis Redondo, and ISC Organizing Committee Co-Chairs Yusuf Raza Gilani (Chair of the Pakistani Senate) and Johari bin Abdul (Speaker of the Malaysian House of Representatives).

Pakistani Senate Chair Yusuf Raza Gilani was elected as the inaugural Chairman. Former minister and Member of Parliament Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal from Nepal was appointed as Secretary-General, and a secretariat was established in Korea to implement resolutions and promote cooperation between member nations. At the ISC Inaugural Assembly, Founding Chair Yusuf Raza Gilani encouraged participating countries to take a leading role in promoting peace and tolerance, a response to the climate crisis and sustainable development.

Participants emphasized that humanity faces problems that cannot be solved by a single nation and that solutions must be sought through cooperation. And in convening leaders of legislative bodies from around the world, ISC accepted to become a forum for inter-parliamentary diplomacy promoting peace and tolerance, responding to the climate crisis, and fostering sustainable development based on the spirit of multilateralism.

Global Parliamentary Leaders Want to See Permanent Peace on the Korean Peninsula

In his welcoming address, former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon voiced his support for ISC's mission and vision, and spoke in earnest: "The most urgent task we are facing now is the collective response to the climate crisis. It is the most pressing issue of our time. It is a serious challenge affecting the entire global community, one that cannot be contained at the national level." Emphasizing the need for international cooperation, he concluded by saying, "Your Excellencies, let us work together, joining our hands together, to realize a sustainable and peaceful world."

In his video message, UN General Assembly President Philémon Yang said, "Hunger, disease, violence and fear render difficult our human condition," and reaffirmed his "unshakable commitment to the

principles that unite us: peace, sustainable development and human dignity for everyone, everywhere."

Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Martin Chungong also delivered a special address via video. In their congratulatory speeches, the Chair of the Forum of Presidents of Legislative Bodies of Central America and the Caribbean (FOPREL) Luis Redondo, and the Chair of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Haja Memunatu Ibrahima, expressed their full support for the launch of ISC.

Deputy Speaker of the Korean National Assembly Lee Hak-young said, "The world is under serious threat from conflicts, refugees, massacres, and humanitarian disasters," and expressed the hope that "practical international cooperation measures plus a hopeful vision will be shared through this meeting." Busan city Mayor Park Hyung-jun expressed the expectation that "ISC, launched at this historically difficult time, will contribute to breaking down barriers internationally between religions and races by promoting international solidarity and cooperation."

In particular, parliamentary leaders attending the ISC Inaugural Assembly expressed great interest on the subject of peace on the Korean Peninsula. They expressed concern about the increasingly unstable security situation on the Korean Peninsula and expressed their hopes for a permanent peace.



ISC Inauguration: International Solidarity for Peace Solutions

The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, having walked a steadfast path toward the realization of global peace, now stands at the heart of a pivotal transition. It is presenting a bold new vision and guiding world leaders toward a new future - one grounded in sustainable, true peace, mature leadership, and universal values. Holy Mother Han, True Mother has formed a global coalition for the realization of permanent peace and has been leading the way to peaceful solutions based on cooperative efforts.

In 2025 especially, leaders from legislative bodies around the world have decided to actively support the will and vision of Holy Mother Han, True Mother, and came to an agreement to establish the largest parliamentary diplomatic consultative body - unprecedented in world history - in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Launched in keeping with the 80th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations and amid the growing importance and influence of inter-parliamentary diplomacy, ISC plans to hold multilateral talks between parliamentary leaders of each country with the goal of strengthening international solidarity and realizing peace. The news of ISC's founding was reported as a major event not only at the UN but also throughout the political world, not least in all 40 member nations. It has drawn much attention and garnered much expectation on the international diplomatic stage.

ISC Parliamentary Delegations from 40 Countries Announce the "Seoul Declaration"

Six Action Items Adopted: "Upholding an International Order that Respects Human Rights and the Rule of Law"

The launch of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) creates a consultative body through which leaders of national assemblies throughout the world discuss issues of peace and prosperity, thus to share a clear vision and goal to provide solutions to the fundamental crises facing humanity, including

climate change crisis, war, and poverty.

On April 12, the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference announced the "2025 Seoul Declaration" at the National Assembly Members' Office Building Grand Conference Hall in Seoul, with parliamentary delegations from 40 countries in attendance.



① The first president of ISC, Yusuf Raza Gilani, President of the Senate of Pakistan, Reading the Declaration ② Representatives of Founding Member Countries of ISC Signing the Seoul Declaration ③ Commemorative Photo after the Joint Signing of the Seoul Declaration

The speakers of the national assemblies from 40 countries actively agreed with the ISC founding vision of "Building Global Unity: Strengthening Peace and Shared Prosperity through Inter-Parliamentary Dialogue" and adopted the "2025 Seoul Declaration." The declaration includes six areas of action:

1. Strengthening Cooperation among Parliamentary Leaders and Institutions
2. Promoting Peace Efforts
3. Realizing Shared Prosperity
4. Advancing Inclusive Development
5. Addressing Global Challenges
6. Establishing Peace on the Korean Peninsula;

and it declares that each national parliament will participate.

Reading from the text of the Seoul Declaration, inaugural ISC President and Chair of the Pakistani Senate Yusuf Raza Gilani said, "Peace is not merely the absence of war, but the creation of an environment where all humanity can coexist and achieve sustainable development," and that "international cooperation and individual changes in perception have become increasingly important." He concluded with the Declaration's final words: "We pledge to continue discussions and actions for a better future, strengthen international solidarity, and work with parliamentary speakers worldwide to build a peaceful and prosperous world together."

Chairman Gilani particularly emphasized that the conference will "acknowledge that peace on the Korean Peninsula is an urgent task for global peace, and actively participate in international solidarity efforts supporting improved inter-Korean relations" and stressed the need for multilateral cooperation to achieve the ISC's core role of humanity's coexistence and achievement of sustainable development.

Following Chairman Gilani's reading of the declaration, member nation representatives co-signed it. Paula White-Cain, Chair of the U.S. Faith Advisory Board and Senior Advisor to the White House Office of Faith, former Speaker Newt Gingrich, and members of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) attended the ceremony.

Before the declaration announcement, the Chair of the National Assembly's Culture, Sports and Tourism Committee Jeon Jae-soo welcomed everyone to the event, saying, "It is historic that ISC, seeking inter-religious, transnational, and multiracial solidarity and cooperation amid our unprecedented and multilayered crises of climate change, hegemonic competition, and power struggles, is being held in the Republic of Korea," and expressed the hope that "through ISC a vision for world peace and practical methods for its implementation will be shared."

The Inaugural Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference (ISC) was held at the Lotte Hotel in Eastern Seoul on April 11 with 150 domestic and foreign guests in attendance. In 2025, the 80th anniversary of both the UN's founding and Korea's liberation from colonial rule and division into North and South, this worldwide speakers' consultative body was launched in the Republic of Korea, declaring a peace initiative for the Korean Peninsula.

ISC Secretariat Established at Cheon Won Gung

ISC member nation signatories of the Seoul Declaration affirmed that "Peace is not merely the absence of war, but the creation of an environment where all humanity can coexist and achieve sustainable development. To this end, international cooperation and individual changes in perception have become increasingly important," and approved establishing the ISC Secretariat at the Cheon Won Gung Museum in Gapyeong, Gyeonggi Province.

They resolved to actively participate in activities for international solidarity centered on Cheon Won Gung.

With this resolution, on April 13, speakers and official parliamentary delegations from 40 countries attended the Cheon Won Gung Cheonil Sanctum Entrance Ceremony where the ISC Secretariat will be located.

Cheon Won Gung has established itself as a global hall of peace beyond religious values, a site of international cooperation for world peace and venue for international conferences and discussion of current issues. Accordingly, the legislative delegation had a special audience with ISC Founder Holy Mother Han, True Mother, at which she was presented with a special plaque of appreciation expressing gratitude for her vision and the role she plays for world peace, and received special diplomatic status as the founder of the ISC.

Messages from key leaders on the launch of the ISC



Ban Ki-moon, 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations

The theme of this inaugural ISC assembly is "Building Global Unity: Strengthening Peace and Shared Prosperity through Inter-Parliamentary Dialogue." As is evident from this theme, ISC aims to promote peace and shared prosperity to unite the world as one global family. Promoting multilateral cooperation in the international community will be critical to achieving this.



Lee Hak-young, Deputy Speaker of the Republic of Korea National Assembly

Preparing wisdom and policies for sustainability is a historical responsibility and mission given to all of us living today. In that sense, it is very symbolic and meaningful that the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference, seeking a new world order and opening a new era of peace and prosperity, is being held in the Republic of Korea. I sincerely hope that practical international cooperation measures for world peace and common prosperity will be widely shared through this ISC Founding Assembly.



Martin Chungong, Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

I would like to offer my warmest congratulations on the occasion of this very important meeting, and in particular on the launch of an Interparliamentary Speakers' Conference. This new initiative comes at the time when the world is in urgent need of renewed dialogue, trust and cooperation among nations. These high-level meetings provide regular and structured opportunities for parliamentary leaders to exchange views and help shape a more peaceful and cooperative world. I commend the Universal Peace Federation and all the partners involved for convening this valuable conference, and I look forward to working together in pursuit of a more peaceful, secure and inclusive world.



Johari bin Abdul, Speaker of the Malaysian House of Representatives (plus Co-Chair, ISC Organizing Committee)

The establishment of the ISC is a testament to the power of collaboration, shared vision and mutual respect. Today we bring together parliamentary leaders from across the world to engage in meaningful dialogue, tackle pressing global challenges, and foster solutions transcending national borders.

At its core, ISC embodies a clear and compelling vision to create a dynamic platform whereon parliamentary leaders can engage openly, build understanding, and work together toward a more just and stable world. Its mission is to bridge divides, strengthen diplomatic ties and champion solutions driven by shared values.