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**Speech by Mirco Tomassoni, President of the San Marino
Parliamentary Delegation to the IPU**

***"Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith and
inter-ethnic dialogue"***

Mr. President,
Honourable Colleagues,

on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of San Marino, I wish first of all to express my deep gratitude to the authorities of the Russian Federation for their hospitality and for the impeccable organisation of the 137th IPU Assembly.

The time in which we live daily presents us, especially we Parliamentarians, with challenges we must seriously reflect on. We must question our own ability to predict and handle the social, cultural and even political transformation occurring in the world of globalisation. Day after day, it becomes increasingly evident that globalisation is causing imbalances in the global economy, which are politically unsustainable and ethically unacceptable (for instance, social inequality and ecological injustices).

If we fail to develop a new culture able to reduce or erase disparities and oppression, we will soon witness a true carnage involving individuals and peoples, which will damage nature and provide the breeding ground for terrorism.

There needs to be a serious and consistent political, social and economic rethinking that takes into account the various cultures and identities and needs for sustainability, which have been ignored until a few years ago.



Today, information travels quickly and the economy is based on communications and productions made highly efficient by new technologies, which favour a global movement of money by virtue of unbridled competition.

Such a situation calls for new forms of government and legislation arising from the dialogue among people with different identities and cultures. The political and social management of migration, determined by globalization, is already a challenge.

For structural reasons, our societies are increasingly characterised by emigration and immigration. Politicians must therefore be able to adjust the relationship between cultural diversity and individual identity, while identifying a strategy for an integration process through which people with different cultural backgrounds can peacefully live together in the same territory and in the same country. The uniformity sought by globalisation is not the solution, but rather the imposition of a cultural model above all others.

This is why it is crucial to safeguard multiculturalism and preserve it in accordance with the principles of democracy and human rights, but also in accordance with the rules of respect, non-discrimination, peace and justice.

The main issue is the international political crisis: we must not be afraid to say that a large part of the international community does not agree on a common, firm point, i.e. human rights and the respect for diversity. Instead, they tend to build a world that, on the one hand, spreads slogans in the defence of human rights, and on the other, feeds dynamics that safeguard anything but rights. The greatest challenge we are facing today is to build a world of justice, peace and freedom. Facing this challenge is a responsibility of a fragile international political action, characterised by too many uncertainties, selfishness and apparent



contradictions, while continued violations of human rights are still emerging in all their tragedy.

Cultural diversity is beneficial to our very existence, and the coexistence of various beliefs is a source of ideas and values. Thanks to cultural diversity, people with different opinions can exchange views on an equal footing, without attributing natural superiority of one opinion over the others. It is only by recognising these differences that we can build a dialogue, patiently establishing points of reference and common values.

So, what are we to do?

Two answers are absolutely necessary: respect for international law and intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

The promotion of intercultural and interreligious dialogue is the most effective way to uphold the values of peace, justice and democracy, as unique conditions to ensure the civil progress of peoples. This is the roadmap for establishing an integration process which, on the one hand, protects peoples' right to maintain their cultural identity, and on the other, prevents the plurality of identities from causing conflicts, either violent or not.

How shall we fill this gap? That is, how can match economic and cultural citizenship?

In our role as parliamentarians, we must promote respect for fundamental rights and democracy, and learn from each other in order to meet the needs of our citizens. Looking outwards, we must invest in international cooperation and cultural diplomacy (soft power). At the same time, our national efforts must be directed towards inclusion,



policies on citizenship and rights of participation, social cohesion, rights of minorities, immigration, foreign affairs, languages, relations between the state and religions, development of civil society, gender equality and education which, in all its forms, undoubtedly plays the most important role.

San Marino has always proudly supported this in all the international fora it is part of, by promoting many initiatives at a European and international level. We also firmly believe in the promotion of our small country as a privileged place for meeting and dialogue among different peoples, cultures and religions.

Thank you.