

Dear Mr President,  
dear colleagues,

This is my first time being at an IPU meeting.

As a new delegate, it's not always easy to find your way around at international conferences and therefore I'm glad that the IPU implement the Forum for young parliamentarians.

It helps new and young people to build a network between young politicians all over the world and exchange ideas how politics should be shaped from a young perspective.

I'm glad to be here and having the opportunity to meet you all in person specially under the situation we have at the moment with the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Covid-19 pandemic changed a lot.

Taking measures to fight Covid-19 - for example, vaccines, the use of face mask, testing, rules for the workplace and so on, are all important decisions.

But taking these measures into action also increased polarization within our population.

How do we as politician enter into a dialogue when there is nobody listening or believing what you say, when your message is not heard because people are so angry and frustrated with the situation at the moment?

I personally think we have to try hard to show the people that we can make a difference.

That we as politicians can turn things around and that we care.

Every single day.

And let's not forget, that the Covid-19 pandemic is not the only crisis - we have going on at the moment.

Even if the pandemic pushed it a bit to the background we still face a massive climate crisis.

And that's a crisis that becomes harder to fight with every passing day and we do not have a simple cure - like a vaccine we can use.

There is no planet B!

We have to act now, because the consequences of the climate emergency start to show.

In Austria we start new innovative projects like to establishment an national climate assembly<sup>1</sup>, where 100 randomly but representative chosen people get the chance to help, to shape the Austrian climate politics.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.bmk.gv.at/themen/klima\\_umwelt/klimaschutz/nat\\_klimapolitik/klimarat.html](https://www.bmk.gv.at/themen/klima_umwelt/klimaschutz/nat_klimapolitik/klimarat.html)

I asked before how we can improve on dialogue and how does political discourse have to change to bring hope, not hate. I think projects like that can help us with that. Projects like that can include the population at a grass root level and can show that we can make a difference. Together.

Thank you!