

Honourable chair and colleagues it is a privilege to be here, among so many fellow parliamentarians from over 115 parliaments around the world.

We are at this conference to discuss solutions to the issues which threaten the safety and security of those people we are elected to represent.

For example, the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, discussed legislative methods of combatting online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

Similarly, the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development discussed the grave threat that the climate emergency poses, especially through increased instances of famine and crop failure.

In my own city of Coventry in the UK we care deeply about combatting climate change and have communicated our desire to take radical action now.

As young parliamentarians, It is clear that many of the problems we have discussed are both existential and inherited from the decisions made – or not made – by previous generations.

While they have certainly grown in our lifetimes, they did not originate with us and our generation.

However, the beauty and benefit of the parliamentary system, is that although our institutions may be historic, and the issues we discussed, long-standing, our system of government is grounded in the here and now, as new decision makers are always being elected to forge new paths and new ideas.

The work that we do is not only defined by the past, but is constantly shaped by its current office holders, their ideals, and their relationship with those they represent.

As young members of parliament, in a position to make positive change, let us continue to shape our democracies with optimism, energy, and innovation. Creating a better world and legacy for the next generation that will come after us in areas such as climate change, diversity and gender equality.

I would like to end by saying that it has been a privilege to attend my first IPU conference, to speak to many of you over this conference and play my part in these invaluable discussions. Thank you.