Speech by Langhoff, Rasmus Horn (Denmark)

Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

This is my first IPU-session and I am grateful to have an opportunity to address this distinguished Assembly.

I have been member of the Danish Parliament since 2011 representing the Social Democratic Party, the governing party since 2019. Since the election in 2019 I have been our Party’s spokesperson on Health, focusing most of my work on the handling of the pandemic.

It has been a challenging period of time, not least due to the pandemic.

The pandemic was a set back for several of the Sustainable Development Goals: Lockdowns hit the poor and vulnerable group hardest. Particularly concerning, poorer children are most likely to have missed schooling, intensifying educational inequality.

But what I like to emphasize is that the time of the pandemic made it clear that political decision-makers actually managed to take decisive steps and resolute action to deal with the severe consequences of the pandemic. Politics made a difference.

In many ways covid-19 has been a wake up call for the global collaboration required to tackle other threats, such as climate change.

While the corona virus came without a warning we already have a lot of facts and evidence about the climate crises.

There are no excuses not to react now - globally and locally.
In January 2020 the WHO declared the coronavirus as a global health emergency. It helped increase national and international attention.

Maybe we also need an emergency call for the climate to make it clear for everyone that action is urgently needed. For the sake of our children and our grandchildren.

Before finishing my brief presentation I must express my deepest solidarity and support to the Ukrainian population fighting for fundamental rights like freedom, democracy and national self-determination.

I strongly appeal to Mr. Putin: Stop this war! This has to stop! The fact is that if Russia stops the fighting there will be no more war. If Ukraine stops the fighting there will be no Ukraine.

Thank you Mr. Putin, this message is for you: Stop this war.

- Stop your aggression.
- Pull back the Russian troops from Ukraine.

Stop this brutal war, now!

Thank you!