

147th IPU Assembly and Related Meetings
Luanda, Angola, 23-27 October 2023

General Debate

Parliamentary action for peace, justice and strong institutions
25/26 October 2022, Plenary Hall, ground floor

**Address by Mr. ZAKARIAS Zoltán, MP
On behalf of the Romanian IPU Group
Head of the delegation**

***Dear Mr. (Vice) President,
Distinguished colleagues, Ladies and gentlemen,***

First of all I would like to thank the IPU and the Angolan hosts for the good organization of this event.

Our subject of today is extremely important, given the fact that all the crises we are facing underscore the need for effective parliaments and institutions that work for all people, leaving no one behind, emphasizing their capacity to meet the needs of all people equitably and sustainably.

Romania reaffirming its strong commitment to pursuing SDGs established the Department of Sustainable Development in 2017, placed under the Prime Minister's authority, which serves as an entity for coordinating the national implementation of the 17 SDGs.

Romania presented for the 2nd time the Voluntary National Report at the High-Level Political Forum, in New York, on 17 July 2023.

In 2022, Romania developed the National Action Plan to implement the National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2030, providing a 2030 roadmap, addressing all 17 SDGs.

I would therefore like to mention that Romanian Parliament hosted, over the years several events with national and international multistakeholders participation to promote the implementation of the 17 SDGs.

In addition, for interlinkage and policy coherence, Romania has established 22 sustainable development hubs in all ministries, composed of 90 specialists, which are the same regardless of the electoral cycles.

Dear colleagues,

Regarding SDG16, Romania is working to develop efficient and transparent institutions at all levels, to provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

In the same time Romania is a multicultural society in which the rights of the members of the national minorities, their language and culture are partly recognized. National minorities take part, through their representatives, in the decision making processes, each one who can't satisfy the 5% threshold, having an elected member in the Parliament.

I am a deputy representative for the hungarian minority and we have gained our representation through elections, being the only political organization of national minorities satisfying the threshold, which is anyway a high one for a perfectly democratic representativity.

In the last 33 years some important steps were made in the matter of rights of national minorities, the situation not being perfect yet. According to the law, national minorities are entitled to use in some conditions their maternal language in the public administration, the judicial system, in education, mass-media, etc. But implementation process even of these provisions is hardly perfect and causes in many cases displeasure within our community.

Starting from the comunist-democratic transition in 1989 we always were supporting democratic solutions based on dialog. We would like to have a fair dialog with the majority about all our demands, including also self-determination issues, which is hardly possible now. Therefore I have a strong message from this microphone to all majority nations and all parliaments: take your time for a fair dialog with the national minorities from your countries, and I assure you, many conflicts will be prevented and avoided. And I think one of the most important goals of IPU is to support and achieve this kind of dialog, using all its instruments, trying also to convince governments to do the same.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I will conclude by saying that the war of aggression against Ukraine, and its consequences, is causing major damages and put in danger the achieving of the 2030 Agenda, due to its worldwide effects.

Romania strongly supports the international rule of law and respect for the independence, sovereignty and integrity of states, within internationally recognized borders.

The Romanian Parliament has condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks in Israel, reaffirming its solidarity and determination in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and wherever it occurs.

Parliaments must remain united in the fight against terrorism.

Parliament of Romania will continue to take part in the global effort to fight extreme poverty and to support the development of sustainable democratic institutions in developing countries by sharing even its own experience.

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