

Ladies and gentlemen, this is Shin Hyun-young, Member of the national Assembly of the Republic of Korea. I joined the National Assembly as a medical doctor and a young member to address issues regarding the COVID-19 when the pandemic broke out. I feel the gravity of my responsibility as I was elected to bring a new light to our politics and perform “operations” on areas that do not work well.

The objective of politics is to adjust diverse interests and pursue social integration. But it is evident that the world continues to see violence and war, and we have to reflect on ourselves to make sure that we are doing the right job. Unfortunately, politics these days can be described as a confrontation between fanatics from the far right and far left. In Korea, resentment and hatred still linger in our society which were born out of the ideological confrontation between North and South, and rapid development of democracy. This can still be found in the National Assembly with abusive language and hindrance of parliamentary proceedings. In the reality of the media era, politicians focusing on social cohesion and arbitration tend to get less attention as opposed to those giving hard-line, dehumanizing remarks.

With the emergence of the mass media, politics is growing increasingly violent as witnessed in fake news, cyber attacks and abusive deep fake technology. We are in desperate need of non-violence and peace, and the legal institution and policy to support the role of democracy in conciliation and compromise which go beyond what fanatical politics asks for. I hope our meeting at the IPU serves as an opportunity to propose our own vision, share ideas and learn from each other to overcome the political violence. Thank you.