

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY MS. FATMA ÖNCÜ, MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION OF
TÜRKİYE TO THE IPU**

147TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**“PARLIAMENTARY ACTION FOR PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS (SDG 16)”**

Distinguished participants,

In my capacity as a disabled mother and a parliamentarian, I would like to draw attention to the 1 billion disabled individuals, devastating effects of war on those individuals and our responsibility towards those who become disabled as a result of the war.

It is widely acknowledged that the impacts of wars are destructive on a global scale, bringing with them numerous problems such as loss of life, waves of displacement, economic devastation and humanitarian crises.

The most effective way to prevent wars is through diplomacy, negotiations and the promotion of solutions through international cooperation.

The destructive impact of war is not limited to casualties and environmental damage in world history.

It is also the source of situations that can also undermine the mental and physical health of societies and individuals, ultimately leading to various disabilities and a decrease in the quality of life.

Wars deeply affect the lives of societies and individuals.

In wars, soldiers who are often involved in the war can be injured and become disabled, and sometimes civilians residing in the field may also become victims of war and become disabled.

Presently, the number of individuals who have become disabled due to various factors and of course the reason related the wars has exceeded more than 1 million, which accounts for more than 15% of the world's population, making them the "largest minority" in the world.

These individuals who have become disabled due to war are undoubtedly one of the most vulnerable groups who will experience the destructive effects of war throughout their lives.

The disabilities and traumas caused by war are often overlooked during the post-war reconstruction of society.

To address this, it is possible to create more inclusive, equal and fair societies by creating social awareness and establishing a legal framework that safeguards the rights of people with disabilities through policies and programs sensitive to the needs of individuals with disabilities.

Indeed an inclusive approach within the framework of IPU should involve a higher representation of disabled members of parliaments in the national parliamentary delegations to the IPU.

Such an approach is both commendable and valuable, aligning with the principles of inclusivity and diversity.

If reflects a commitment to ensuring that all segments of society, including disabled individuals have a voice and representation in the decision-making process of national and international parliamentary forums.

I strongly believe that we should introduce quotas for disabled MPs within the IPU as is the case for women and young.