

148th IPU Assembly - General Debate

Parliamentary diplomacy: Building bridges for peace and understanding

Statement by

Mr. Nikolaus Scherak, MP

Geneva, Switzerland

Check against delivery

Honourable President,

Honourable Secretary General,

Dear colleagues,

In our world shaken by multiple crises, especially wars and conflicts, I would like to emphasize the importance of multilateral organisations and multilateralism in general. We need a strong political discourse based on compromise in order to find solutions for diverse crises and risks in these trying times.

As a young parliamentarian I am worried about our political future and especially the stability of democracies in the upcoming years. While the world seems to be more and more divided, keeping multilateral dialogue is both a challenge but also crucial for finding solutions to our crises.

We achieve more stability by finding compromises with more actors involved. It may be more tedious and seem more complicated, but in the end more of us end up winning, rather than keeping out important points of views of our partners and having to renegotiate afterwards.

There are many examples that prove how beneficial multilateralism can be: Think about international law, which is a cornerstone of our modern world. Or how the Schengen area in Europe has led to more freedom for the individual European citizen in so many countries on our continent. Here multilateralism is palpable, it is politics of cooperation that is beneficial to so many and can be felt regularly in our daily lives.

Without multilateralism this world would be a different one – and not for the better. It is therefore important to strengthen the bonds among states with the same goals and aspirations in order to work towards a common goal. The best way to achieve this is via multilateralism.

It's always better to have multilateral compromises rather than bilateral consensus.

Thank you.