



CONTRIBUTION BY
THE HONOURABLE PIA GLOVER-ROLLE,
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND
MINISTER OF LABOUR AND THE PUBLIC
SERVICE – THE BAHAMAS

148th IPU ASSEMBLY
GENERAL DEBATE ON PARLIAMENTARY
DIPLOMACY: BUILDING BRIDGES FOR
PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING

MONDAY, 25 MARCH, 2024

Madame President,

Secretary General,

Our GRULAC and CARICOM Colleagues,

Other Distinguished Colleagues,

We meet today with the knowledge that peace is paramount if we are to make meaningful global progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.

We have all seen how the effects of conflict spread like a plague, requiring all nations to come together in the name of world peace.

I applaud the IPU Taskforce on the Peaceful Resolution of the War in Ukraine for its effort to foster dialogue between parliamentarians in Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

I also note the shared concerns about the ongoing conflict in Israel and the Gaza Strip, as we condemn the acts of terrorism conducted by Hamas, as well as any actions on both sides that infringe upon basic human rights and violate international humanitarian law.

As we focus on these conflicts, I ask you to draw your eyes to the West where conflict is growing with direct repercussions for GRULAC states.

In South America, we have brewing tensions between Guyana and Venezuela over the declaration of the Essequibo state as Venezuelan territory. There is an urgent need for dialogue and mediation to prevent further escalation of this very critical situation.

I join the sentiments of my colleague from the Dominican Republic.

In the Caribbean, there are the ongoing atrocities happening in the Republic of Haiti – thousands of killings and sexual assaults, as well as widespread poverty and hunger.

What we are seeing unfold is a crisis of human suffering.

This humanitarian crisis has created an ensuing migrant crisis, which my small nation, as well as other surrounding nations, must now face with little to no support.

The Prime Minister of The Bahamas, the Honourable Philip Davis, has worked closely with the wider Caribbean community to explore potential solutions.

Our efforts have included the establishment of the Eminent Persons Group, comprised of three past Caribbean Heads of State, including former Prime Minister of The Bahamas, the Hon. Perry Christie, to hold meetings with stakeholders in an effort to develop a Haiti-led solution to this conflict.

There is also the Haiti Multi-National Security Support Mission, which The Bahamas has been one of a few Caribbean nations to publicly commit to supporting through training, capacity building, and joint planning exercises with the Haitian National Police.

However, the scale of the problem is far greater than The Bahamas or even a group of Caribbean nations can manage on our own as Small Island Developing States.

According to UN estimates, 5.5 million Haitian people are in need of assistance – that is over 10 times larger than my country's total population.

45% percent of Haiti's 11 million people lack access to clean water.

And there is an estimated \$674 million US dollars needed for immediate support but only six percent of that goal has been met. The lack of focused global efforts to address the plight of the Haitian people is a travesty.

So, today, I am inviting fellow Parliamentarians to support the advancement of global peace in all regions.

As Parliamentarians, I believe we are uniquely positioned to advocate for global action on the world stage and by mobilising resources within our home countries.

The IPU also has the ability to make a difference through its ability to influence discussions and inspire and coordinate action.

This organisation has never shied away from taking on the big issues like climate change, gender equality, and, of course, peace and security issues like we've seen with Russia and Ukraine.

I encourage this Assembly to continue to push for world peace in all member parliaments, including among the GRULAC States, with special consideration of the growing tensions between Guyana and Venezuela and the ongoing conflict and suffering in the Republic of Haiti.

Thank you.