

“Parliamentary diplomacy – building bridges for peace and understanding”

Honorable Madam President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,
Your Excellency Secretary General,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I begin my speech, I will first extend my greetings to every woman who upholds her role in contemporary society and fights against violence and wars **as well as** stereotypes that pertain to the female class.

As a woman parliamentarian I can not hide my deep concern of the polarizing world that we live in. And the suffering of civilians, women and children in conflict zones and ongoing wars.

Bulgaria is concerned with the current crisis of the rules-based international order and its negative effect on the functioning of multilateralism. Current international system is seriously challenged by the blatant violation of the International law.

Bulgarian Parliamentarians are firmly standing for taking the dialogue back to our priorities which are Peace and security and reaching the Sustainable Development Goals. **Any attempt to reformulate or selectively apply the core principles embedded in the UN charter should be strongly opposed.**

As parliamentarians we carry an enormous responsibility since we have been empowered to take decisions and to take care of those who have chosen us **and further more** to those **who do not have** the power to stand for their rights, ideas and concerns. No one here doubts the importance of our decisions, the power of our abilities to achieve understanding and good neighborliness,

empathy for war-stricken regions, piece for the people in war conflicts, care for the vulnerable social groups, future for the children of our countries.

Parliamentarians must be united in the quest for decisive steps and policies that might achieve lasting peace in a world fragmented by growing inequalities. This global fragmentation has caused not only anxiety and concern but has also posed at **the real threat to the principles of** equal dignity and rights of all people and their ability to coexist peacefully.

It is a duty to all parliamentarians to think strategically for decades to come and at the same time to provide answers adequate to the challenges of today.

Peace-building efforts need continuous dialogue, and this is where parliamentary diplomacy comes to an act.

Any conflict or open problem in the dynamics of the modern world might be solved through diplomatic efforts. Parliamentary diplomacy can and should answer the enormous expectations that it evokes.

As it was previously stated by a colleague parliamentarian : **Parliamentary diplomacy is a beacon of hope** and I would add, **it is a powerful weapon that can easily bring us on the table of negotiations by friendships created by us, the parliamentarians, by all those personal relations that we form as members of Parliaments.**

Using parliamentary diplomacy, we must feel the pulse of events and find the intersection between national interests and common goals. One of the important advantages of parliamentary diplomacy is that it can rely on the exchange of experience and good legislative practices at the international level.

We, parliamentarians, can use the tools of preventive diplomacy and build cooperation with various platforms for peace, strengthen partnerships with international, regional and subregional organizations, because we know that democracy, freedom and peace are not a gift. To have them all, we should and must uphold the values that build their fabric every day and whose achievement we owe to the present and future generations.

As we are here, legislators representing different political systems and political views in the world, we have a unique platform for dialogue and parliamentary diplomacy. The meetings of our organization should serve as a place to coordinate new ideas and initiatives in the search for peace and progress in international cooperation.

So, let us talk, let us argue, let us fight on the way to finding solutions. Here. Not on the battlefield.

And here we should not fail to find solutions as this will result in a prolonged suffering in the zones of war conflicts.

Ours is the obligation and the great privilege and, above all, the responsibility to participate in the processes of discussing ideas, creating visions, and making global decisions to prevent and when needed to resolve conflicts.

We have the power to make any difference in this world and it is up to us **how and for what cause** we use it for.

Building bridges between people, institutions, parliaments and various human rights organizations should be based on continuous dialogue, **which excludes division and which is only the first step towards achieving the rule of law, protecting human rights and values and making sure that the long lasting peace is not only a word in the vocabulary.**

Or in a Resolution!

That it is an act.

And a guarantee for our children and our peoples.

Thanks for your attention!