

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed parliamentarians, and honored guests,
Today, I stand before you to discuss a topic of utmost importance: parliamentary diplomacy for peace. In a world where conflicts persist, where borders are contested, and where human suffering knows no boundaries, parliamentary diplomacy emerges as a beacon of hope and common sense—a bridge that connects nations, transcends differences, and fosters understanding. Parliamentary diplomacy is not merely a bureaucratic exercise; it is a living force that builds bridges between countries and peoples. While diplomats navigate the intricate corridors of international relations, elected members of national parliaments—like us—play a crucial role from a human perspective. We are the voices representing our peoples. And I am sure that majority of our peoples wants and values peace above all else.

Assembled here in Geneva, we complement the efforts of the United Nations and other multilateral forums. Our mission is clear: to engage in dialogue, foster understanding, and seek pathways to peace with respect to the international law.

But unfortunately, there are many armed conflicts around the world where the diplomacy is often not enough. We, Czechs, are naturally very concerned with the unjust Russian aggression against Ukraine. Yesterday as well as today there were Russian rocket and drone attacks on Ukrainian civilians and infrastructure. Again. One of many. With huge humanitarian consequences. I think it is thus our obligation to apply diplomatic pressure on the Russian federation and remind them of the international law and order that we are all trying to build. And you all have the opportunity here to deliver this message to their delegation.

Also, the conflict in Gaza weighs heavily on our hearts. Such a suffering, such a loss of lives, such a history of violence and discord with a very little prospect of peaceful future. As difficult as this conflict is, and with no easy solution, we should at least support actions leading to necessary humanitarian relief. Immediate release of hostages, ceasefire, delivery of humanitarian aid and respect for international law.

Ladies and gentlemen, let us embrace parliamentary diplomacy as a force for good. Let us build bridges, heal wounds, strengthen international law and champion just peace. For in our collective efforts lies the promise of a brighter, more harmonious world—one where international rules are followed, human rights respected, dialogue triumphs over discord, and understanding prevails over hatred.

Thank you for your attention.