

2 Minute IPU - Geneva

[Greeting] I'm Stuart Smith, and I'm the Member of Parliament for Kaikoura, which is in the top of the South Island of New Zealand.

Parliamentarians, across the world have the power to make a real impact. By strengthening regional security, raising awareness of international obligations, scrutinizing legislation, and condemning violations of international law.

New Zealand holds a distinctive position as a significant regional influencer in the Pacific with a robust democracy. Our commitment to building bridges for peace, is further underscored by our active participation in multilateral treaties aimed at promoting peaceful **conflict** resolution.

Our dedication to nuclear disarmament is, exemplified by our membership of various disarmament treaties and agreements. The passing of the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament Act of 1987, reflects our stance against nuclear proliferation.

Our parliamentary system provides a platform for cross-party collaboration, enabling us to actively engage in international security efforts. As a dialogue partner with regional organisations like ASEAN and the Pacific Islands Forum, we have an opportunity to foster cooperation and stability in the Pacific region, tackling emerging challenges with innovation and integrity.

New Zealand's reputation as "the honest broker" in regional security and peacekeeping and our contributions to over 40 UN peacekeeping operations signify our enduring commitment to global peace and security.

Furthermore, our Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Groups strengthen diplomatic ties and promote parliamentary democracy. These groups enhance mutual understanding and collaboration on regional and global challenges.

In today's world, cooperation among parliaments and international bodies like the United Nations, is paramount.

Let us embrace collaboration, exchange experiences, and work towards a safer and more peaceful world.

Thank you.

