

General Debate: *Parliamentary diplomacy: Building bridges for peace and understanding*

Dear President, Dear Members of Parliaments, Participants of the IPU Assembly, Dear Friends,

We gathered in this beautiful city of Geneva – headquarter of many international organisations, place where human rights and international humanitarian law has been implemented and has been put into action. Nevertheless we are here not to talk about history. **We are here to talk about future.**

As an international community our priorities are clear. Democratic values, the rule of law, solidarity. These are not just empty slogans.

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In The Charter of the United Nations we have declared: „WE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war [...]

We – the people, we – the parliamentarians.

As Members of Parliaments, as politicians – we bear a special responsibility for words. Words can build bridges between states and between nations, but on the other hand they can increase divisions. If our efforts will be missing, if we will use violence in political discourse, if we will set nation against nation – the hatred in people will be growing.

In a world full of challenges and tensions we have to remember how important parliamentary dimension is, how important is the dialogue between us.

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In all these cases when international law is being broken and human dignity is violated we must react! Too weak words can have dangerous implications – they can be heard as a support of those who bring destruction to the world.

And this is what is actually happening now, what I hear every day about the war in Ukraine. To negotiate, to ceasefire, to preserve peace. A brutal attack of Russian Federation on Ukraine is a violation of international law and it is time we admit it.

Poland is a **country at the frontier of war**. Having a realistic view of the situation on our eastern border. **We cannot idly watch as the world of values is being destroyed.**

It is not only Ukraine, it is Middle East, it is Africa... how can we talk about peace when people are being murdered, tortured, raped and kidnaped?! How can we talk about negotiations when human rights are violated?! It has to stop!

Words without actions mean nothing. That is why – as a part of international community, as a members of IPU, we should concentrate on actions. We have to inform, educate, testify. Be witnesses, spokespersons for those who suffer. We have to be auditors of our governments and our colleagues politicians. We have to encourage to engage in preventing conflicts and to end conflicts. We, who were chosen by the people, we have to be guardians of peace.

INTERVENTION BY MS GABRIELA MORAWSKA-STANECKA
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In this context, it is very disappointing that yesterday our community failed to unite and speak unanimously for a ceasefire and peace. This should be a lesson.

Let's not be indifferent!

It is our duty!

Thank you!