

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

**TALKING POINTS**

**Madam President/Mr. President,**  
**Dear colleagues,**

**The focus of this IPU session on peace and security is most timely,** given the multiple crises and the many conflicts around the globe, which require enhanced parliamentary input to facilitate cooperation and long-lasting solutions.

**The Parliament of Romania has always been a strong supporter of inter-parliamentary cooperation,** at bilateral, regional, and multilateral levels.

**Our 100 parliamentary friendship groups** contribute to enhancing Romania's ties with countries from all around the world.

**We joined the IPU in 1891,** just two years after the creation of our Organization.

**We participate in the OSCE, NATO, the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assemblies, the Parliamentary Assembly of la Francophonie, and in various cooperation formats in our region.**

**And in a few months from now, Romania will host a major parliamentary diplomacy event - *the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly*,** gathering together hundreds of parliamentarians from more than 50 countries across three continents to address the most pressing issues facing the transatlantic community.

**Dear colleagues,**

**Through parliamentary diplomacy, parliaments can open or maintain channels of dialogue, support political dialogue and mediation, and foster mutual understanding among countries.**

**At the same time, parliamentary diplomacy is a unique capacity-building tool.**

**It provide parliaments with the means to scrutinize foreign policy and the implementation of international agreements effectively.**

**It helps parliaments to perform better, to be more transparent and open, and to give a stronger voice to the people they represent. And by doing so,**



**parliamentary diplomacy enhances the conflict-prevention function of parliaments.**

**Dear friends,**

**The best way for parliaments to promote peace and security is by averting threats of conflict before they occur.**

**This being said, we must recognize that today's multiple crises and conflicts continue to lead to parliamentary diplomacy initiatives and formats that are necessary, but that we didn't wish for, including the Task Force created by the IPU, following the Russian aggression against Ukraine.**

**Unfortunately, parliaments throughout the world continue to dedicate valuable time and resources to address conflicts, instead of harnessing parliamentary diplomacy to its full extent to advance sustainable development globally.**

**Finally, let me stress that parliamentary diplomacy is never conducted in isolation. Our actions in this field, no matter how innovative, refined or diversified, will benefit the people we represent only if based on good governance and the full respect of the principles and values underpinning democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.**

**The Parliament of Romania is committed to working together with parliaments around the world to uphold these principles and values, which are the building blocks for achieving lasting peace.**

**Thank you!**