

YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE IPU;
YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENTS;
YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE IPU;
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES;
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

It is with a deep sense of responsibility and hope that I participate in this important Parliamentary Conference, under the theme **“Building trust and embracing hope for our common future”**.

We live in a time marked by cross-cutting challenges: social inequalities, forced displacement, climate change, ideological polarizations and a worrying weakening of trust in democratic institutions. In such a context, interreligious dialogue emerges not only as a necessity, but as a moral and political urgency.

As parliamentarians, we are entrusted with the mission of representing our people, legislating fairly and exercising careful oversight of the institutions. But we are also guardians of social peace, promoters of cohesion and mediators of hope. That is why we must work side by side with religious representatives and faith-based organizations, recognizing that the values of human dignity, equality and mutual respect are transversal to the different traditions of faith and belief.

We must reaffirm with conviction that freedom of religion or belief — including the right not to believe — is a universal human right. Where this right is denied, exclusion, fear and violence flourish. Where it is promoted, dialogue, cooperation and peace flourish. It is therefore our responsibility to ensure that our legislative systems combat intolerance, embrace diversity and protect the most vulnerable — be they religious minorities, women, young people or displaced persons.

The Marrakesh conference in 2023 marked a turning point. Today, here in Rome, we have the opportunity to consolidate this path, anchoring our parliamentary commitment in the values of fraternity, sisterhood and universal solidarity.

Let me conclude by stressing that our joint work must not be limited to reflection, but must translate into concrete action. Education for peace, combating hate speech, promoting ethical leadership and strengthening inter-institutional partnerships are paths that we must follow with determination.

Let us therefore unite as true "pilgrims of hope", placing human dignity at the center of our political decisions, and building, together, a more just, more inclusive and more humane future.

Thank you very much.