



**Speech by Maddalena Muccioli
Head of Delegation UIP – Republic of San Marino
General Debate – IFC Rome 2025**

Mr. President,

Dear colleagues,

Authorities,

Friends in faith and dialogue,

with deep respect and gratitude I extend heartfelt thanks to the Italian Parliament, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Religions for Peace for making this Second Parliamentary Conference on Interreligious Dialogue possible. It is a sign of the times – not those of surrender, but of moral resistance – that calls us here in Rome today to strengthen trust and embrace hope.

This conference opens under the high blessing of the sacred word and the spirit: that word that consoles, unites, heals. And that spirit that has also inspired the greatest witnesses of dialogue, such as Pope Leo XIV, whose voice – at the same time firm and merciful – reminds us that peace must be “disarming and disarmed, humble and persevering” and must be engraved in the souls of peoples and in the hearts of institutions.

The Republic of San Marino has always walked through this path. Since our origins, our history has not known religious wars, religious persecution or discriminatory laws in the name of faith.

Europe for centuries has seen millions of victims for religious reasons - just think that, according to the Pew Research Center, there are now over 30 conflicts in the world with a religious matrix or component - San Marino has distinguished itself as a neutral, open and protective land towards minorities.

Our commitment is not only theoretical, but has always translated into tangible and universal gestures.

A concrete example is represented by the Monument of the Three Monotheistic Religions "Dialogue", inaugurated in 2019 and placed on the roof of Sant'Anna's Chapel in the heart of our old town. A work of art and peace that places on the same level the Sacred Scriptures of the three Abrahamic faiths - Judaism, Christianity, Islam - kept



together, in perfect balance, as a sign of mutual respect and possible coexistence.

An installation that was born precisely on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe, after the Cave of Interreligious Prayer at Porta della Rupe, commissioned during the semester of the Sammarinese Presidency of the Council of Europe and the sculpture "Different/Equal", for the promotion of dialogue between people and cultures.

The monuments are not merely symbolic and isolated gestures: they are part of a coherent target that has involved and still involves institutions, bodies, associations and figures of great sensitivity and vision, who have become true promoters of cultural and diplomatic initiatives that have led San Marino to speak to the world of interreligious dialogue as a path to peace.

Faced with the atrocities we see today, the role of parliaments and believers is clear: raise your voice, open the way to dialogue, protect those who have no voice.

Precisely for this reason we are convinced that education for peace, freedom of belief and the promotion of ethical leadership are the three fundamental pillars on which to build a concrete hope. And we, as parliamentarians, have the duty to safeguard them.

Today, San Marino renews its commitment in this direction. It does so by sharing its history, its thousand-year-old freedom, its symbols, its example. And it does so, with humility, knowing that we are a small State, but with the firmness of those who believe that even the smallest voice, if it tells the truth, can change the destiny of many.

I close with the words of theologian Raimon Panikkar: "Dialogue is not a luxury of diplomacy, but an urgency of survival."

We choose dialogue. And with it, we choose peace.

Thank you.

Maddalena Muccioli