

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

**THE CHEF DE CABINET**

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**REMARKS FOR THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE WORLD  
CONFERENCE OF  
SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT  
Geneva, 29 July 2025**

**Excellencies,  
Distinguished Speakers of Parliament,  
Dear friends,**

**It is a pleasure to join you today on behalf of Secretary-General António Guterres at this Sixth World Conference of Speakers.**

**Geneva, as host of various United Nations entities has long embodied the spirit of multilateral cooperation at its very core.**

**I thank our generous host, the Swiss authorities and the President of Parliament, for their warm welcome.**

**I am especially pleased to be here at the *renewed* historical building which is a timely venue to start this General Debate aimed to *renew* our commitment to multilateralism.**

**The Secretary-General believes that it is essential to reflect the realities of our interconnected world and the voices of all**

**its people.**

**And it is especially critical now, at this time of profound global turbulence.**

**From the climate crisis to conflict from pandemics to the disruptive power of artificial intelligence the challenges we face are complex, cascading, and borderless.**

**And they are testing the limits of our current systems of governance.**

**Our future depends on global cooperation to address global risks.**

**The recently published UN Global Risk Report sends a clear and urgent message: no country, company, or institution can confront these global vulnerabilities alone.**

**The survey results demonstrated that across all regions, environmental risks emerged as the highest priority, with climate change inaction and large-scale pollution ranking at the top.**

**Societal and political risks also featured prominently among the top concerns, reflecting widespread unease.**

**Mis- and disinformation, rise in inequalities, geopolitical tensions, mass movement of people and large-scale wars ranked among the top ten risks.**

**These challenges are testing the limits of our current systems**

**of governance.**

**But they are also revealing something deeper: a crisis of trust.**

**Trust in institutions.**

**Trust in international cooperation.**

**And, in some places, even trust in democracy itself.**

**That is why the Secretary-General has called for a fundamental renewal of multilateralism.**

**This vision is at the heart of *Our Common Agenda*, and it is now enshrined in the Pact for the Future, adopted by Member States in September 2024.**

**However, it requires action to bring those commitments to life, and all of you are critical.**

**As Action 55 of the Pact puts it: we must strengthen partnerships across the whole of society.**

**That includes Parliaments, civil society, local authorities, Indigenous Peoples, youth, the private sector, and more.**

**Because the challenges we face cannot be solved by any one entity alone.**

**And the legitimacy of our responses depends on the breadth**

**of voices shaping them.**

**In this regard, parliaments have a unique and indispensable role in this landscape.**

**Indeed, UN country teams around the world are honoured to work with Parliaments across many areas, including advancing the Sustainable Development Goals.**

**The Pact for the Future is intended to accelerate these efforts.**

**In that journey, your role is pivotal - you are the bridge between the global and the local.**

**You translate international commitments into national law.**

**You hold governments accountable.**

**You bring the voice of people into the heart of global decision-making.**

**And you are essential to help ensure that legislation and national budgets advance the Pact for the Future at the country level.**

**As Secretary-General Guterres has said, “Parliaments are the beating heart of democracy.”**

**But in today’s world, that lifeblood also flows beyond borders.**

**That means strengthening parliamentary diplomacy.**

**It means ensuring that national debates reflect global realities.**

**And it means building what the Inter-Parliamentary Union calls “parliamentary ecosystems” -- networks of actors and institutions that support democratic governance at every level.**

**This is the essence of networked multilateralism.**

**It is not about replacing the intergovernmental system.**

**It is about reinforcing it -- by connecting it more deeply to the people it serves.**

**That is why this conversation matters.**

**But if we are to renew multilateralism, we must root it in the lived realities of people.**

**We must make it more democratic, more accountable, and more connected.**

**And we must recognize that parliaments are not just national institutions.**

**They are global actors -- with a vital role to play in shaping the future we share.**

**Let us also be clear: this is not about idealism.**

**It is about realism.**

**The complexity of today's challenges demands a multilateralism that is agile, inclusive, and grounded in the everyday concerns of people.**

**And, once again, Parliaments are uniquely positioned to bridge that gap -- between global ambition and local action, between international norms and national implementation.**

**In this spirit, let us work together to build a multilateralism that is not only networked -- but trusted, transparent, and transformative.**

**Thank you.**