

IPU Sixth World conference of Speakers of Parliaments

“A world in turmoil: Parliamentary cooperation and multilateralism for peace, justice and prosperity for all”

General Debate

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Honorable President,
Honorable Speakers, colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

In 1979, Simone Veil became the first woman to ascend to the top of the European Parliament. Having experienced the turmoil of Second World War, having survived the Nazi concentration camps, she became the historic President of the European Parliament.

Veil believed that “the basic idea uniting us, namely that without an ever greater solidarity, none of our countries will be capable of holding on to their power, their independence and maybe even their existence, was firmly anchored in the democratic creed between voters and those they elect”.

The truth articulated by President Veil on a continent that had emerged from war became the moral compass of the European Union, this unique model that inspires freedom, equality, justice, cooperation and integration in and beyond our continent.

Similarly, we as elected representatives, have the mission and the duty to uphold such principles, through continuous interaction between our parliaments in face of global challenges.

As parliamentarians, we must lead the way in confronting any form of danger, deformation or challenge that threaten our societies.

In Albania we are proud to have stood alongside Ukraine and in defense of international law, unequivocally condemning Russia’s aggression and supporting every initiative aimed at accountability, humanitarian aid and reconstruction.

The Albanian Parliament was one of the first Parliaments to approve the draft resolution "On supporting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and protecting the principles of international law and European security".

Furthermore, we played an active role in international bodies such as the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member to denounce Russian military aggression in Ukraine as an act that violates the international law and stomps on our rule-s based order and causes tremendous human sufferings.

It is difficult to identify another period in which inter-parliamentary cooperation for peace, justice and prosperity has been as indispensable and critical as it is at present.

From EU-s eastern border, to the middle-east, to Africa and elsewhere, the world is facing severe crisis and great turmoil. The forces of division, violent conflict and inequality are testing our common values: peace, stability, justice. Addressing global challenges, ranging from violations of state sovereignty, to climate change and social inequalities, require a steadfast commitment to multilateralism and inter-parliamentary cooperation.

Now more than ever, we must create and explore new opportunities for cooperation and progress.

Albania is fully committed to democratic values, as we understand from our past that peace and justice are not gifted, they are the outcome of collective efforts, hard learned lessons in state-building and consolidation of institutions.

My country, which just over three decades ago was one of the most isolated countries in the world, is today a frontrunner for EU membership and regional leader in the Western Balkans.

Albania's Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2020, as well as its contribution as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, demonstrated the cooperative peace-oriented approach to global developments.

At present, Albania serves as a member of the Human Rights Council, firmly committed to the protection of fundamental human rights worldwide, consistently advocating against all forms of injustice and abuse.

We are open to bilateral and multilateral cooperations, engaging with the governments of allied and neighboring countries, as well as with international organizations.

In fact, international agreements accounted for approximately 37 percent of the legal acts adopted during the recently concluded Parliament.

Meanwhile, Albania has adopted several national strategies aligned with global strategies, among which the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on "Women, peace and security."

Dear Colleagues,

Diplomacy and cooperation must serve as pathways to resolving conflicts and hostilities between countries, in the Middle East and across the globe.

The Parliament of Albania regards parliamentary diplomacy as a soft power to safeguarding security, advancing peace and ensuring the prosperity of our nations and peoples.

This conference is a call to action to ensure that our legislative frameworks and public policies really contribute to the establishment of a more equitable and peaceful international order. Without committed parliamentarians, multilateralism remains a theoretical concept. Through joint and coordinated action, it becomes a powerful instrument for change.

Thank you for the attention!