

Speech of the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic
Ms. Markéta Pekarová Adamová

Honorable Colleagues, Distinguished Guests,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on “A World in Turmoil: Parliamentary Cooperation and Multilateralism for Peace, Justice, and Prosperity for All.”

We face a moment of deep crisis. To build lasting peace, justice, and shared prosperity, we must address two urgent challenges.

First, we need to promote genuine democracy and freedom, both at home and around the world. True parliamentary democracy respects the rule of law, protects human rights, and gives every citizen a voice. Yet in too many places—some represented here today—people are denied basic political and civil rights. They face censorship, unjust imprisonment, and the fear of violence. We cannot call our world just or peaceful while millions live under oppression. Strengthening parliaments, safeguarding free elections, and ensuring independent judiciaries are the building blocks of stability. When citizens trust their institutions, they choose dialogue over violence, hope over despair, and cooperation over division.

Second, we must eliminate the use of violence in international relations. In February 2022, Russia launched its unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine. The United Nations General Assembly has condemned this attack again and again. Yet the violence continues, with civilians deliberately targeted and children ripped from their homes. This conflict—more than any other—threatens to destabilize our entire world. We see deep suffering in other regions, but the scale and reach of this war make it the most urgent crisis we face today. In this context, it is important to recall that countries supplying Russia with financial, economic, military, or political support must recognize that they are aiding an act of aggression. Neutrality, in this case, becomes complicity.

Parliaments and multilateral institutions have a special role. We can pass resolutions to uphold international law. We can allocate aid for refugees and rebuild homes. We can work together to impose and enforce meaningful sanctions. And we can offer a path for dialogue and eventual reconciliation.

Colleagues, the path is clear. Promote real democracy in every nation. Reject war as a tool of statecraft. Strengthen our parliaments. Uphold the United Nations Charter. Together, we can turn turmoil into trust and conflict into cooperation. These are the keys to creating a fairer and more secure world for all. Let us work together, through parliamentary cooperation and multilateral efforts, to make this vision a reality.

Thank you.