

Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament
(Geneva, 29-31 July 2025)

*General debate theme: A world in turmoil:
Parliamentary cooperation and multilateralism for
peace, justice and prosperity for all*

Mr. President of the General Assembly,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Madam President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,
Fellow Speakers of Parliament,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

dear friends,

Allow me to start my address with a reference to the speech of my colleague from North Macedonia who chose to name his country using the term "Macedonia."

He did so in violation of the Prespa Agreement and of his own country's Constitution, which foresees that the name of the country is North Macedonia, to be used erga omnes.

Greece reaffirms the importance of adherence to international law and international treaties, which is the foundation of good neighborly relations. I am therefore compelled to strongly condemn this act on the part of the esteemed colleague from North Macedonia.

Furthermore, I call upon the Presidency to delete from the record of this meeting any statements or references that violate the established rules, principles and language of the UN framework and to ensure that all parties fully respect this framework and refrain from any act or statement, which undermines the spirit of consensus necessary for the conduct of our work.

It is a great honour for me to represent the Hellenic Parliament at this pivotal juncture for international parliamentary dialogue.

We meet here in a world marked by turmoil, division, and rapid transformation.

And yet, this is also a moment filled with potential. A moment that demands not despair, but determination. Not isolation, but cooperation. Not rhetoric, but responsibility.

At the heart of this responsibility lies multilateralism — not as a slogan, but as a daily practice. In a world where no single nation can tackle transnational challenges alone — from climate change to cyber threats, from pandemics to forced migration — multilateral cooperation remains our only credible path forward.

But let us be clear: multilateralism cannot survive without democracy - and democracy cannot thrive without parliaments.

If multilateralism is to remain effective, it must become more inclusive, more responsive, and more connected to the realities of our peoples. This means strengthening parliamentary diplomacy.

Greece understands this deeply. As a country at the crossroads of continents, we have ~~lived~~ experienced the consequences of global challenges at our doorstep.

We have seen waves of refugees arriving on our shores and we have also experienced the climate crisis firsthand — through devastating wildfires, prolonged droughts, and

extreme weather that reshape our ecosystems and local economies.

And as the birthplace of democracy, we know that democratic values need always to be preserved at all cost.

Dear colleagues,

What it needs — urgently — is political courage, collective commitment, and a renewed belief in shared destiny.

This conference must be more than symbolic. It must be a signal — to our citizens and to the world — that we are united, determined, and ready to lead in the name of peace, justice, and prosperity for all, through stronger, more democratic multilateralism.

Thank you.