

Greece

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**Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Colleagues,**

our world faces one of its most severe humanitarian challenges; over **120 armed conflicts** are active worldwide, displacing more than **122 million people** and leaving **310 million** in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. Yet, the world's attention is often limited to only a few—two, three, or perhaps five—conflicts that dominate the headlines of the media. Our people ignore the drama that the rest of the world faces. The silent suffering of millions elsewhere remains unseen. In some countries, people live in prosperity; in others, they simply strive to ~~survive~~. live.

In the face of this unjust and fragile reality, **we parliamentarians, members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union—the organization of peace and democracy—must act.**

The **Geneva Conventions**, its **Additional Protocols** and the **Convention of the Rights of the Child** are not just aspirational texts; they are **binding treaties** and most of them are ius cogens, reflecting universally binding principles of international law. **UN Security Council resolutions** that condemn unlawful attacks, grave breaches of international humanitarian law, and war crimes are equally binding. Moreover, numerous **UN General Assembly** and **IPU resolutions** guide us toward the collective action we must take in response to such violations of the **UN Charter**, the **IPU Statutes**, and our global laws.

Greece, my country, as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, stands firmly for the implementation of Public International and Humanitarian Law and for the pursuit of a just society. *Greece is also ready to actively participate in the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip. and*

But it is not only the UN or other inter-governmental organizations that can take action. It is also us, our Assembly under the IPU, representing the entire political spectrum of our countries, not only the majority, but the whole of our populations. Our voice, when united, carries immense power. If we all call together for an end to atrocities and violations of humanitarian law, **we will be heard**.

We must employ the means of preventive diplomacy, deploy fact-finding missions and use our **national parliamentary platforms** to call for ceasefire and dialogue. By joint action, we could have results. We are the guardians of our nations' legal orders and the guarantors of their alignment with **international obligations**.

Let's ratify the humanitarian agreements, if some of us have not ratify them yet; let's exercise parliamentary oversight to ensure that our governments respect these instruments in practice; let's advocate for accountability mechanisms, peace and nation building; and the protection of humanitarian access.

In the **21st century**, we have the political means and the collective intelligence to end atrocities, to stop conflicts, and to restore **peace, democracy, and prosperity** for our people.

At the same time, we must **bridge the humanitarian and environmental agendas**. Let us also promote **innovative financing mechanisms**, such as climate-humanitarian bonds, resilience funds, and private-public partnerships. The humanitarian funding gap remains vast: **over 56 billion USD** is required annually, yet **less than half** is currently secured.

The **climate finance gap** exceeds **6 billion USD per year** if we are to reach net zero by 2030.

We must also mobilize **at least 15 billion USD annually** for ocean action to restore our seas. Let's save our people from the humanitarian, environmental and climate crises that can be equally fierce, due to droughts, wildfires, and floods, and other extreme weather events that intensify displacement and conflict, testing the limits of humanitarian response *and food security.*

Our legislative frameworks must therefore integrate environmental protection, disaster risk reduction, and human security goals, (reflecting the link between the **Geneva Conventions**, the **Paris Agreement**, the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, and the **SDGs**.)

Dear colleagues, we are part of the **Inter-Parliamentary Union**, the world's most inclusive multilateral forum, uniting more than **46,000 parliamentarians**, from **182 national parliaments**, representing more than **8 billion people**. We are the global political community that can shape the course of history. Let's do ^{it} together!

Thank you.