

SPEECH

152 ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

CROATIAN PARLIAMENT - Mr Ivan Malenica,

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GENERAL DEBATE – *“Nurturing hope, securing peace and ensuring justice for future generations”*

Distinguished guests,

today we stand at a crossroads in time—between a past that has shaped us and a future that depends on our choices. The world we live in is marked by progress, but also by challenges that test our responsibility, our solidarity, and our vision. That is why the topic we address today—nurturing hope, securing peace, and ensuring justice for future generations—is not just an idea, but a necessity.

Hope is the foundation of every change. It is not a weakness, but a strength that drives us forward in times of uncertainty. Nurturing hope means investing in people—in education, in youth, in communities.

It means giving every child the opportunity to dream and to believe that their dreams are within reach. Hope does not arise on its own; it is built through support, understanding, and unity. When we nurture hope, we lay the foundation for a stable and prosperous society.

Yet hope cannot survive without peace. Peace is not merely the absence of conflict; it is a state in which people live without fear, where differences are not seen as threats but as a source of richness. Securing peace requires active engagement—dialogue instead of conflict, cooperation instead of division.

In a world where differences often lead to misunderstanding, it is our duty to listen, to understand, and to accept. Peace is not achieved by force, but through trust, patience, and a willingness to compromise.

Justice, in turn, is the pillar upon which every healthy society stands. Ensuring justice means guaranteeing that every individual has equal rights and equal opportunities, regardless of their background, beliefs, or social status. Justice means accountability—for our actions, but also for the systems we build. A society without justice loses the trust of its people, and without trust there can be no stability or progress. It is up to us to create a world where the law applies equally to all and where injustice is not ignored, but addressed.

When we unite hope, peace, and justice, we create a vision of a future that is not only sustainable, but also dignified. It is a future in which young people do not abandon their dreams, where differences are respected rather than judged, and where everyone has the opportunity to live a life worthy of dignity.

However, it is important to emphasize—this future will not build itself. It is created today, through our decisions, our words, and our actions. Every small step toward understanding, every decision made in the name of justice, and every helping hand extended contributes to a greater whole. We must not wait for others to take responsibility. Change begins with each of us.

Future generations will not remember us for what we said, but for what we did. They will ask whether we had the courage to stand for what is right, whether we built bridges or walls, whether we spread hope or fear.

So today, let us choose wisely. Let us choose hope over indifference. Let us choose peace over conflict. Let us choose justice over injustice.

Because the world we leave behind is not only our legacy—it is the foundation upon which future generations will build their lives.

The responsibility is ours. The time is now. The future is theirs.

Thank you.