

Speech of **Ms Maris Lauri**, Head of the IPU Estonia group at the General Debate

“Nurturing hope, securing peace and ensuring justice for future generations”.

152nd IPU Assembly, Istanbul, Türkiye

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

We live in an era in which uncertainty is increasingly affecting everyday life of people. Most of this uncertainty is global, result of international relations gone wrong.

Reducing that uncertainty is one of the most important responsibilities we as parliamentarians share.

Stability between states comes from clear rules, open communication, and the willingness to resolve disagreements peacefully. Respecting agreements, honoring commitments, and engaging in negotiation are practical tools that make the international environment more predictable and safer for everyone.

Disagreements between states are inevitable. Different interests, histories, and perspectives will always exist. What matters is how those disagreements are handled. When states continue to speak to one another — even when discussions are difficult — tensions can be managed.

Meaningful dialogue depends on a fundamental principle: the equality of states. No country's size — whether measured in population, territory, economic strength, or historical influence — gives it greater rights than others. No state can legitimately claim special permission to ignore common rules. When this principle is undermined, diplomacy loses its foundation, and uncertainty replaces trust.

Building a more stable future requires restoring trust in dialogue as a continuous process, not a last resort. It means investing in diplomacy, supporting mediation efforts, and ensuring that disputes are addressed through negotiation rather than coercion.

The choice before us is clear. We can allow pressure, unilateral action, and force to define the global environment — or we can reaffirm dialogue, equality, and rules as the basis for cooperation.

We have to give future generations something practical and durable: a world where problems are addressed at the table, not on the battlefield.