

**152. þing IPU 15.-19. apríl 2026**

**General Debate (AGB)**

Ræða: Hildur

Mr7Ms President, dear colleagues.

It is a great pleasure for me to say a few words about the political, economic and social situation in the world from the perspective of our very vital theme.

We meet at a time when the promises made in the Charter of the United Nations are being tested as never before. Around the world, instability is rising. Armed conflicts are increasing, often marked by serious violations of international law. Democratic institutions are under strain, and trust in governance is declining. Meanwhile, over 120 million people have been forcibly displaced globally, and more than a quarter of a billion people face acute hunger. These are not distant figures—they are a call to action.

We must be honest: the multilateral system does not always deliver as it should. But abandoning it is not the answer. It must be strengthened through accountability, realism, and renewed political will.

As legislators, we carry a particular responsibility. The decisions we make today shape the world future generations will inherit. That responsibility demands more than good intentions—it demands clarity, courage, and long-term thinking.

Peace cannot be sustained without strong institutions. Justice cannot be secured without respect for the rule of law. And hope cannot flourish where economic opportunity is absent.

We must therefore focus on what works.

First, we must defend democracy—not only in words, but in practice. That means protecting free institutions, ensuring transparency, and respecting the limits of power. Democracy is not self-sustaining; it requires constant care.

Second, we must promote economic resilience and opportunity. Open markets, responsible governance, and innovation remain the most effective tools we have to reduce poverty and build stable societies. Prosperity is not guaranteed—but without it, peace is unlikely.

Third, we must address the growing impact of new technologies, particularly artificial intelligence. Innovation must be encouraged—but it must also be guided. We need frameworks that protect human dignity, ensure accountability, and prevent misuse, especially in the context of conflict.

No country can face today's challenges alone. International cooperation remains essential. Yet cooperation must be built on trust—and trust must be earned. That requires transparency, fairness, and a willingness to deliver real results.

We must also recognize the growing uncertainty felt by young people. Many question whether the future will be more secure, more just, or more peaceful than the present. That doubt is dangerous. It risks weakening the very foundations of our societies.

Our task, therefore, is not only to manage crises—but to restore confidence in the future.

To nurture hope is not to ignore reality. It is to confront it with determination.

To secure peace is not to avoid conflict—but to address its root causes.

To ensure justice is not to make promises—but to uphold them.

Let us act with the seriousness this moment demands. Let us make decisions that stand the test of time. And let us ensure that future generations inherit not uncertainty and division—but stability, opportunity, and peace.

Thank you

*(510 words)*

