

GENERAL DEBATE
Nurturing hope, securing peace and ensuring justice for future generations

Madam Chair,

Dear Colleagues,

It is a pleasure to be here with you today. I am glad to be able to address this very important and relevant topic. Peace and justice are the only way to foster hope and secure a future for coming generations. Today, Lithuania is deeply concerned about ongoing armed conflicts, violations of international law, and the erosion of democracy.

Geopolitical fragmentation is increasing. It is important to defend multilateralism and uphold rules-based international order with the United Nations Charter at its core. Lithuania is fully committed to a multilateral system based on international law and to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, namely, to ensure peace and security, respect for human rights, and sustainable development for all.

Last year we marked the 10th anniversary of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We must recognize that we are not on track. The accelerating planetary crisis continues to reverse progress and deepen inequalities worldwide. War and sustainable development are incompatible. Russia's war against Ukraine illustrates this clearly. More than four years on, Russia's unjust and illegal all-out war against Ukraine continues to cause immense destruction. The Ukrainian people suffer the most, but the effects are felt across the region and even worldwide. We condemn Russia's action aimed at destabilizing the architecture developed for maintaining international peace and security, including United Nations Security Council instruments.

Today, all eyes are on the Middle East. The uncontrolled escalation of the conflict would have devastating consequences for the security of the entire region. The international community must do everything in its power to prevent a large-scale conflict. We urge restraint and call for the return to a path of diplomacy to prevent any further regional escalation. Stability in the region is essential for global security.

In the face of armed conflicts, violations of international law, and human rights abuses, we must also learn to live in a new reality dominated by artificial intelligence. Digital sovereignty and national interests are becoming an integral part of the development of AI. For Lithuania, as a small but

ambitious nation, AI goes beyond economic modernization – it is essential for the future of the Lithuanian language, our cultural identity, democratic resilience, and national security. Therefore, Lithuania is purposefully strengthening its critical capabilities in data management, language technologies, infrastructure development, and cyber and information security.

Dear Colleagues, when making decisions today, we must consider what kind of future they will create for future generations. We, as Members of Parliament, must take responsibility not only for the decisions we make, but also for the failure to make necessary decisions. We must use all the tools of parliamentary diplomacy to ensure that hope is preserved for future generations.

Thank you.