

Honourable Chair,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Esteemed colleagues,

Allow me to address a subject which I consider to be of fundamental importance to humanity.

Let me remind you that the first session of the United Nations General Assembly was held just four months after the end of the Second World War, in London, on 10 January 1946. In his address, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Clement Attlee, declared: “I hope and believe that every delegate who is here today has come not only in a spirit of determination, but in a spirit of hope.” Delegates from a total of 51 nations gathered on that day to discuss collective peace and security, after millions of men, women and children across the world had perished in one of the most devastating conflicts humanity has ever faced. They came also with the intention of sending a clear message of unity in the pursuit of peace for all future generations. Those future generations stand here today—you and I—once again to deliberate on the same subject, not as some unattainable ideal, but as a tangible legacy for all those who are yet to come.

When Frédéric Passy and William Randal Cremer prepared, in 1889, the Conference that would in the years ahead be regarded as the founding act of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, only eleven representatives from other parliaments joined the French and British delegates: five from Italy, and one each from

Belgium, Spain, Denmark, Hungary, the United States and Liberia. And yet, look at us today! The Inter-Parliamentary Union now counts 183 member states.

It has not been my intention to deliver a historical lecture, nor to remind you of moments with which, I am certain, you are already well acquainted. Nevertheless, allow me to reiterate once more the words of one of the founders of the IPU, Frédéric Passy: **“The world is made of achieved utopias. Today’s utopia is tomorrow’s reality.”**

It is precisely in that spirit that I wish us to approach the subject before us: the nurturing of hope, and the building of peace and justice for all future generations.

Honourable Colleagues,

It may indeed seem like a utopia. One need only spend a single hour on social media, or a single hour flicking through television channels, to grasp the extent of hunger, war, fear and sorrow present in every corner of our planet. One need only observe to understand that people suffer from disease or from the absence of medicine; from hunger, but also from excess; from droughts and from tsunamis; from floods, but also from the scarcity of drinking water; from wars, bombs and drones; but also from vanity, and from our own failings.

Honourable Colleagues,

In times of complex global challenges, our shared responsibility transcends the borders of individual states and

interests. Peace is not merely the absence of conflict; it is the implementation of lasting and just solutions, grounded in mutual respect, trust and cooperation. Its sustainability depends on our capacity to recognise common interests and to act in a spirit of solidarity.

It is the duty of us all to leave a world to future generations in which dialogue prevails over confrontation, and cooperation over division. Let us not forget: peace is not a given. It is the result of continuous engagement and the responsible actions of all actors within the international community.

Humanity is in urgent need of peace and hope. Individuals, societies and organisations have always, almost instinctively, moved in that direction—seeking the mechanisms, the proper measure of dialogue and understanding that will lead us away from fear and conflict towards peace and mutual acceptance. I spoke of this previously when addressing you in Geneva, and I repeat it today: Diplomacy is an act of responsibility towards humanity. Only through joint efforts, united in the conviction that peace is both possible and attainable—and that future generations deserve a world free from bombs and destruction—can we fulfil what Passy bequeathed to us: to ensure that peace, from being today's utopia, becomes tomorrow's reality.