

Ms. President, Dear colleagues, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank our hosts — the Republic of Türkiye — for the excellent organization of the 152nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and for your warm hospitality.

Today, when we speak about hope, peace, and justice — for Ukraine these are not abstract ideas. They are our daily reality, our daily fight.

Since 2022, Ukraine has been resisting a full-scale, unprovoked invasion by the Russian Federation. This war has brought immense suffering and destruction. But it is not only a war against Ukraine. It is a war against the principles we all claim to defend — sovereignty, territorial integrity, and international law.

And we must be honest: the multilateral system is under serious strain. It is not stopping wars as it should. It is losing trust. Because today, security is connected. Conflicts do not stay local. If aggression is not stopped — it spreads.

We already see how this works in practice. Russia's war against Ukraine has been strengthened by Iranian weapons — including drones used daily to attack our cities, our energy system, and our civilians. And we have also seen how the same technologies are used beyond Ukraine. Attacks against countries of the Gulf region showed something very important: even those who did nothing to provoke conflict can become targets. This is the reality we face today: aggressors cooperate, they test limits, and they expand their reach. If we do not stop them in one place — we will face them in another.

And yet, Ukraine continues to nurture hope. Hope lives in our people, who endure missile attacks and blackouts but do not surrender. It lives in our children, who study in shelters and still believe in the future. It lives in our defenders, who protect not only Ukraine, but the values we all share.

This winter, Russia again targeted our energy system. Millions of people were left without heat, electricity, or water. But Ukraine stood. We adapted. We survived. And we continue to move forward.

Ukraine is not only resisting — Ukraine is innovating. We develop modern defence technologies to save lives. We build a digital state that works even in wartime. Even under attack, we are building the future.

Peace is our goal. Ukraine wants peace more than anyone else. But peace cannot mean surrender. It cannot be built on occupation or impunity. A just and lasting peace must be based on full respect for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Anything less is not peace — it is only a pause before the next war.

And peace without justice is impossible. Every attack on civilians, every destroyed home, every deported child — these are crimes. Without accountability, there will be no lasting peace.

Dear colleagues,

As parliamentarians, we have a responsibility not only to speak, but to act. We must strengthen unity. We must support those who defend international law. We must ensure that aggression is not rewarded. Because the decisions we make today will define the future. If aggression goes unpunished — it will return. And next time, it may be closer to your home. But if we stand together — we can secure peace and restore trust.

Ukraine continues to fight — for its people, for its freedom, and for a world where international law truly matters. We invite you to stand with us.

Let us nurture hope through solidarity. Let us secure peace through unity. Let us ensure justice through accountability.

This is our shared responsibility.

Thank you.