

Your excellency Mme. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues,

My name is Krisztian Kulcsar. I am a Member of the Hungarian National Assembly and President of the Hungarian Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

As a newly elected parliamentarian, this is my first time taking part in this community, of which Hungary is a founding member. It is therefore a particular honour to address you today.

I would like to speak about good governance and the restoration of democratic institutions, drawing on the experience of a country that has gone through a very difficult period in recent years.

One of the most important characteristics of good governance is a functioning system of checks and balances, and at its heart must be a parliament that reflects the diversity of society.

In Hungary, however, the rule-of-law institutions were gradually weakened over recent years. The role of Parliament was significantly reduced as the government increasingly ruled by decree.

But the problem went deeper: the conditions of political competition themselves became seriously distorted.

The electoral system was repeatedly shaped to favour one particular political force.

A significant part of the media market came under government-friendly ownership, while the space for independent media narrowed.

In many cases, public resources, public institutions and public positions were used according to political loyalty rather than professional merit.

The social consequences were serious.

The quality of education and public services declined, social inequalities increased, public trust weakened, and political communication increasingly served division rather than cooperation.

But democracy is not only about institutions. Democracy is, above all, about trust.

Trust that the rules apply equally to everyone.

Trust that public institutions serve every citizen.

And trust that citizens have a genuine say in the future of their communities and their country.

This is why this year's election in Hungary was of historic importance.

In April the TISZA Party received a two-thirds parliamentary majority, with a mandate to dismantle the elements of the previous system that had undermined democratic governance and to rebuild our institutions on democratic foundations.

But a two-thirds majority is not only an opportunity.

It is, above all, a responsibility.

It gives us the power to change what did not work. But it also carries the danger of making the same mistakes as those who came before us.

That is why we have placed particular emphasis on self-restraint from the very beginning:

We have limited the term of the Prime Minister to eight years and the total time a someone may serve as a Member of Parliament to twelve years.

We have also sought to make the new Parliament more representative of Hungarian society: Among the 141 MPs who had never previously held political office, women, young people, people with disabilities, and representatives of national and ethnic minorities are present in greater numbers.

This is not merely symbolic.

If people are not represented in decision-making, their interests can easily become invisible.

That is why we want public participation to become an integral part of political decision-making.

We want a more open Parliament.

More transparent decision-making.

And citizens who are not merely spectators, but participants in democracy.

Restoring independent media is an essential part of this process.

Democracy can function only when citizens have free access to diverse and credible information and can form their opinions on that basis.

And, of course, there can be no democratic renewal without an independent courts.

Fighting corruption requires a justice system that is genuinely independent and free from political influence.

Hungary therefore faces another historic task: to establish a new constitutional and electoral framework that guarantees fair political competition in the long term.

And these fundamental rules should not simply be decided by politicians.

Society itself must have a meaningful role in shaping them.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are still at the beginning of this four-year parliamentary term. It would therefore be premature to claim that we have solved all our problems.

That is not our claim, but we can already see signs of change:

Social tensions are easing.

Interest in Parliament and public life is growing.

Public trust is slowly being rebuilt.

And Hungary's international relations and reputation are improving.

This is only the beginning.

A real democratic transformation does not happen through one election. It happens when the culture of government changes.

When power is not an end in itself, but a form of public service. When institutions serve citizens, not governments.

When political opponents are not treated as enemies.

When public money truly belongs to the public.

And when the rule of law is not a political slogan, but the natural framework of everyday life.

This is the democratic value system to which we are committed.

And we believe that it is fully consistent with the principles of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: peace, justice and create strong, accountable institutions.

The true measure of our work will therefore not be what we manage to change during a single parliamentary term.

It will be whether we can build democratic institutions and a political culture that outlast governments and parliamentary cycles, and that serves all Hungarian citizens in the long term.

This is our responsibility.

And it is also our historic opportunity.

Thank you.