

**Written contribution of
H.E. Mr. László KÖVÉR, Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly
at the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament
(Vienna, 7–8. September 2021.)**

The overall theme of the conference:

The leading role of parliaments in creating a more effective multilateral cooperation that ensures peace and sustainable development for people and the planet

Esteemed Mr President,
Esteemed Mr Secretary General,
Dear Speaker Colleagues,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a former co-chair of the UN Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), tasked with the developing proposals for the SDGs, Hungary is strongly committed to the effective and efficient implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs contained therein. The complexity of the SDGs requires a complex and comprehensive approach for implementation. In line with the United Nations Decade for Action, we believe that there can be no peace without sustainable development, and therefore we need to join our efforts and implement a range of different instruments and policies to promote a better world by securing basic global goods, protecting democracy and human rights and promoting peace.

The current struggle against the coronavirus epidemic not only affects the global economic order and poses serious challenges for national economies in the medium and long term, but also impacts societies and thus the processes of sustainable peace and development. It is clear that the approaches previously adopted to these processes are now obsolete. We believe that international peace and security can only be sustained if the international community plays a supportive role in building the rule of law, governance frameworks, restoring economies and creating the right business environment. But this requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach.

I believe that the international community should aim to ensure the conditions for a peaceful and secure livelihood for everyone in their own country. In this context, Hungary is paying particular attention to two areas: addressing the causes of migration locally and developing long-term economic partnerships. By creating fruitful economic partnerships, we can create local conditions conducive to stable growth and development, thus enabling everybody to prosper in their own countries. We also believe that effective local assistance is the only solution, especially in fragile regions. This is why over the past decade Hungary has consistently placed increasing emphasis on international economic development cooperation as an important means of promoting peace and sustainable development, building strategic partnerships and reducing migration.

Furthermore, it is important to note that the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goals and targets also contributes to more effective cooperation for peace and sustainable development through national parliaments. This is why the Committee on Sustainable Development of the Hungarian National Assembly pays special attention to achieving a balanced, healthy, dignified and peaceful society in line with the SDGs in the Sustainable Development Agenda. In line with this mandate of the Hungarian National Assembly, it is also necessary to highlight the activities of the National Council for Sustainable

Development as a key advisory and interest reconciliation body of the Parliament, which aims to promote the definition of the principles, objectives and comprehensive tasks of sustainable development in Hungary, to take into account international cooperation in this context, and to promote the change of attitude necessary for sustainability in all segments of society.

Dear Speaker Colleagues,

Let me seize this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Austrian legislature and the Inter-Parliamentary Union for their efforts to make sure that despite the global pandemic, the 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments can now take place in-person, creating an opportunity for us to meet in person for the first time in a long time to exchange views on the challenges facing our parliaments and the best practices we are applying.

We consider the overarching theme of the World Conference on multilateral cooperation and the important guidance that national parliaments can provide in this to be of particular importance, especially in the context of the very difficult times brought about by the global coronavirus epidemic. We are convinced that multilateralism must play a prominent role in the post-pandemic recovery and reconstruction process, but we also believe that the importance of national sovereignty and competences must be emphasised. Only a combination of these two approaches will ensure that multilateral action complements, and not encroaches on nation-state competences, and thus brings benefits to all the world's inhabitants.

Thank you for your kind attention.