

President Pacheco:

I am very pleased to be able to present a report to this Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament on the Fifth Panel discussion entitled **Parliaments and Global Governance: the unfinished agenda.**

The session was moderated well by the Speaker of Sweden, Mr. Andreas Norlen. There were four panelists who provided their perspectives on the issue:

**Ms. Beatriz Argimon,**

President of the Senate of Uruguay

**Mr Nico Schrijver,**

Professor of International Law, Leiden University, and a former Senator of the Netherlands, member of the IPU Executive Committee

**Ambassador Kjersti Andersen,**

Permanent Representative of Norway to UN in Vienna

And myself, Sean O Fearghail President of xx of Ireland

In our session, there was a good discussion on how parliaments may better engage on international issues, to reflect the perspectives of their citizens.

We acknowledged, that the debates at the UN, on behalf of “we the peoples” are conducted by our Ambassadors who are in fact able representatives of the Executive Branch of government.

However, there was overwhelming agreement on the importance and need, to integrate members of parliament in processes of global governance.

Global problems require global solutions.

We heard much support for greater cooperation and coordination on international universal problems, such as this pandemic, the climate crisis and how to ensure we deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals.

We heard many times over from Speakers who expressed their overwhelming agreement for strengthening the work of the IPU in supporting its member parliaments to engage on these issues, and the desire to seek additional ways to integrate a parliamentary perspective at the United Nations.

In his presentation, Professor Schrijver noted that global governance is indeed a long journey, and it is all the stronger when it is supported by the people, who are represented by their Members of Parliament.

He proposed a more institutionalized engagement of parliamentarians in global governance, possibly through a UN parliamentary association, comprised of representatives from each parliament. His proposal, though interesting to many, was discussed and from it, the essential role of the IPU in elevating parliamentary perspectives in the processes of global governance emerged.

Political isolation serves no one well, least of all the people we are elected to represent.

Mr. President, it is fair to conclude from our discussions, that many of us here would like to continue to build on our efforts, hand-in-hand with the IPU, and further, work towards finding enhanced opportunities to engage, as our peoples' representatives, at home and in internationally, in building a more peaceful, equitable and inclusive world.