



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

Chemin du Pommier 5  
Case postale 330  
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex  
Geneva – Switzerland  
[www.ipu.org](http://www.ipu.org)

## Remarks by the IPU President, Mr. Duarte Pacheco

Audience with the Holy Father,  
Pope Francis

Vatican City, 9 October 2021

Your Holiness,

It is a distinct honour and privilege to be able to address you today on behalf of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the global organization of national parliaments. I do so in the context of the pre-COP Parliamentary Meeting in Rome, and I am accompanied here by IPU Secretary General Martin Chungong and distinguished parliamentarians from around the world.

At the IPU, for many decades we have been working to promote dialogue and mobilize parliamentary action to advance peace, sustainable development, democracy and human rights. As part of these efforts, we view climate change as an existential danger that demands urgent attention and robust action through the legislative, budgetary and oversight functions of parliaments. We aim to see the commitment to emissions reduction and a green recovery translated into practice and concrete action undertaken to assist the vulnerable and ensure climate justice.

Your Holiness,

As a champion of true dialogue and a strong advocate for peace, your words and actions touch deeply our hearts, and have a perfect coincidence with the core mandate of the IPU, and with our fundamental principles of mutual respect, solidarity, commitment to human dignity, and responsible governance which leaves no one behind. We are inspired by your moral and spiritual leadership, as expressed by your Fratelli Tutti on fraternity and social friendship, and we call on all political and religious leaders to embrace this vision.

Building on work over many years, the IPU, in cooperation with the United Nations, will be convening a World Conference in St. Petersburg in May of next year on Intercultural and Interfaith Dialogue: Working together for Peace and Humanity. The Conference will bring together Heads of State and Government, Speakers of Parliament, religious leaders and representatives of civil society and faith-based organizations, to engage in a spirit of openness and understanding, promote tolerance of one another and of other faiths and beliefs, take stock of challenges and opportunities, and outline a roadmap for practical measures and people-centred action. It is our honour to invite you to join us at the World Conference and to work together with the global parliamentary community to promote peace and humanity in these turbulent times.

To conclude, I must, once again, thank you for this opportunity to meet you, Your Holiness. It is a special moment that we will never forget.

Thank you.