



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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# 150th IPU Assembly

## Tashkent, Uzbekistan (5–9 April 2025)

### Panel discussion

#### ***Harnessing religious and ethical values to advance parliamentary dialogue and peaceful coexistence***

*Organized in cooperation with the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy and the King Hamad Global Center for Peaceful Coexistence*

*Tuesday, 8 April 2025, 11:30–13:00*

#### **Concept note**

##### **Background**

Dialogue and diplomacy are tried-and-tested peacebuilding tools, and fostering a culture of understanding and mutual respect stands at the heart of a strong democracy. Genuine and effective dialogue is needed now more than ever, in a climate where hate speech and intercommunal tensions are on the rise, trust in governance institutions is in decline, and identity politics is finding reactionary expression at the ballot box.

Dialogue goes to the heart of the parliamentary mandate. Parliamentarians have some of the most impactful voices in society, and they are engaged in continuous dialogue with their constituents, their peers and the executive. As public figures, their words and actions carry weight. Parliamentary diplomacy brings this dialogue to the international stage, where MPs can share experiences and good practices, develop joint initiatives, mediate conflicts and advocate for peace.

Effective communication goes far beyond the legal norms of what is permitted: it is anchored in reciprocity and respect, and influenced by culture and context. One entry point for dialogue is around shared values. Values constitute part of the glue that binds societies together. Infused with religion, belief and culture, they are rooted in the shared heritage and experiences of a society. A common or overlapping value system, grounded in a belief in common human dignity and a duty to care for one another, can serve as a powerful tool for countering intolerance, combating dehumanizing and polarizing rhetoric, and building bridges of trust. Likewise, such a value system can help unite communities around what they have in common rather than what divides them.

##### **Objectives**

This panel discussion will bring together parliamentarians, faith-based organizations and other experts to discuss the potential of religious and ethical values, such as compassion, solidarity and reciprocity, to bridge divides, build trust and uphold a social contract that reinforces the equal rights, dignity and humanity of all. It will also consider important tools for promoting peaceful coexistence, such as education and community engagement.

The session will explore the following questions:

- What kinds of religious or ethical values can be used to build bridges of trust and foster reconciliation, respect and solidarity between and within communities?
- How do parliaments and parliamentarians engage with religious or ethical values to promote peaceful coexistence in their societies?



**#IPU150**

## Useful resources

### Inter-Parliamentary Union

- Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), [Manama Declaration: Promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies: Fighting intolerance](#), endorsed by the 146th IPU Assembly, held in Manama, Bahrain, 11–15 March 2023.
- IPU, [Marrakesh Communiqué](#), outcome document of the Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue: *Working together for our common future*, held in Marrakesh, Morocco, 13–15 June 2023.
- IPU, [Parliamentary report on religion and belief: Working towards more peaceful and inclusive societies \(part 1\)](#) (Geneva: IPU, 2023).
- IPU, [Geneva Declaration: Parliamentary diplomacy: Building bridges for peace and understanding](#), endorsed by the 148th IPU Assembly, held in Geneva, Switzerland, 23–27 March 2024.
- IPU, [Human security and common security to build peace: A toolkit for parliamentarians](#) (Geneva: IPU, 2024).

### Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy

- Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO), [30 years of IAO: "Facing new challenges. Before new perspectives"](#), declaration adopted during the 30th anniversary IAO General Assembly in Chalkidiki, Greece, 29 June–3 July 2023.
- IAO, Conference of the European Churches (CEC), Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union (COMECE), Together for Europe, [European elections 2024: An address to European institutions](#), declaration adopted during the International Political Conference on *Politics as an Area for Expressing Christian Values in Everyday Life* in Thessaloniki, Greece, 15–17 May 2024.

### The King Hamad Global Center for Peaceful Coexistence

- United Nations General Assembly resolution [79/269](#), *International Day of Peaceful Coexistence*. Resolution proposed by the Kingdom of Bahrain, spearheaded by the King Hamad Global Center for Peaceful Coexistence, to designate 28 January as the International Day of Peaceful Coexistence. The resolution was adopted on 4 March 2025.