



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Speech by Ms. Anda Filip, IPU Secretary General

2nd Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference

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Excellencies,
Honourable Speakers of Parliament,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to send you my best wishes from the *House of Parliaments*, the headquarters of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva, to greet all of you who are today in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, attending the 2nd Inter-Parliamentary Speakers' Conference.

As many of you may know, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the global organization of national parliaments, was founded in 1889 as the first political, multilateral organization in the world. 138 years later, our Membership is nearly universal, with 183 national parliaments that represent around 46,000 Members of Parliament from around the world.

Since the establishment of the IPU 138 years ago, the world has certainly changed a lot. Today, the world stands at a crossroads. We are witnessing growing geopolitical tensions, protracted conflicts and a dangerous erosion of respect for international law. Fundamental principles, such as respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and the protection of human rights, are increasingly being challenged, selectively applied or simply ignored.

It is for this reason that I welcome the theme of your General Debate, as it speaks directly to the core of the challenges that humanity is facing today, and, most importantly, to the responsibility we all share in upholding the principles of international law or building a more peaceful and prosperous future for all.

At the 152nd IPU Assembly, held in Istanbul last April, parliamentarians from around the world endorsed the Istanbul Declaration, reaffirming their commitment to the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, to international law and to multilateral cooperation as the essential foundations of global peace, stability, development and cooperation.

In that Declaration, Parliamentarians expressed their alarm at the continued deterioration of peace and security, the decline of dialogue and diplomacy as means of resolving disputes, the growing tendency to view peace as something that can be achieved through force, and the widespread impunity that weakens accountability and fuels further instability.

At a time when respect for the rule of law and international norms is under strain, the Istanbul Declaration reminds us that peace must be built upon dialogue, accountability, multilateral cooperation and a genuine commitment to international law, so that we can break cycles of violence and ensure that present and future generations can live in peace, dignity and prosperity.

This is where parliamentary diplomacy has an important role to play. Through their engagement with one another, parliamentarians can keep channels of communication open, build trust across borders and help translate the principles and ideas discussed at the international level into political commitments and concrete national action.

The responsibility before us is both collective and immediate. In your discussions today, I commend you to ensure that respect for international law is not treated as an aspiration, but upheld as a practical

foundation for peace, security and shared prosperity. We must also ensure that the voices of citizens, especially those in vulnerable situations, remain at the centre of our deliberations.

I hope that, when you return home after this conference, you will do so with a renewed sense of your political responsibility, and with the conviction that the decisions we take in our national parliaments can make a difference.

I thank you for your attention and wish you a successful conference – the outcomes of which, I have no doubt, will build on the value of parliamentary diplomacy.