

Dear Mr President,

Dear Mr Secretary-General,

Dear Friends,

At this time of my installation as IPU President, please allow me to say a few first words in Portuguese:

I would like to thank President Ferro Rodrigues for his support for this candidacy. His commitment, his words of encouragement, his actions with other political leaders, and his mobilisation of resources from the Portuguese Parliament were essential to the success of this candidacy. This is your victory, too.

I am also thankful for the support of all the political forces in the Assembly of the Republic and in the Portuguese Parliament's delegation to the IPU, highlighting the national unity that allows Portugal to overcome many challenges.

I would also like to thank each of the members of my Parliament's team, who flew the flag for this candidacy for months, knowing after all that victory will provide you with more work in the near future.

I would also like to thank, of course, the support of the Portuguese Government and the effort of our diplomacy, whose action was important to achieve this goal.

I would like to thank my fellow Portuguese-speaking parliamentarians and those from many other countries who encouraged me to move forward in this candidacy and committed to it as if it were their own.

Finally, I would like to thank my family for their understanding in moments of a bad mood and for accepting that I devote even less time to them given the duties I am now taking over.

Thank you all very much.

Dear friends,

This election took place at a special moment for humanity.

We are experiencing a worldwide pandemic that has highlighted, to those who had any doubts, our interdependence and the need for everyone to work together to overcome the problems we face.

In view of the moment the world is experiencing (and particularly Europe), with almost daily terrorist attacks, we express our solidarity with the victims and the countries that have been affected.

The IPU is the highest expression of parliamentary diplomacy. With more than 130 years of history defending democracy, freedom and the rule of law, it is the forum where parliamentarians from the five continents meet, debate and look for strategies of action to overcome specific problems affecting humanity.

Of course, it must modernise and adapt at every moment.

This year, 2020, is a good example of how it was possible to keep working in a new and unexpected context.

But we have to believe that there will be life after COVID-19, and we should start working straight away for that purpose.

The IPU must not lose its focus on protecting its fundamental values, seeking the best actions to achieve them, in particular by unequivocally strengthening the participation of women in political life and with the ability to attract more young people to parliamentary life.

But I will repeat what I have said to many of you – we must be able to focus on the essentials and take concrete actions that promote a real change in behaviour and enable us to achieve results and not be happy because we approve well-intentioned resolutions.

Only in this way will it be possible, with a more inclusive democracy, to look at the problems that plague us all, such as poverty, intolerance, terrorism, migration and climate change.

Only in this way will it be possible to achieve the visibility we all strive for in the international sphere.

Only in this way will it be possible for all countries to feel that they “matter”, and thus to achieve even greater participation by all in the life of this organisation.

Dear friends,

I have said this to many of you, and I will say it again today. As IPU President, I am the same person who is passionate about our organisation, who remains available to each of you (I hope I will have time today to respond to your messages) and, above all, who is very proud to represent you.

I am counting on all of you for this task.

On the former Presidents, whose experience is always enriching.

On the Secretary-General and the Organisation’s services, whose commitment is essential.

On those who were candidates for the Presidency of the Organisation yesterday and whose energy we should use.

On every single one of you who believe in the principles of the IPU and who are willing to put our differences aside for the common good.

Dear friends,

Together, we are going to start a new stage, which, in close cooperation with the United Nations, can only have one result – a better world.

That is my motivation. I believe that is our motivation.

Let us all take action to have an IPU with the energy it needs.

Let us all work and strengthen the IPU to better represent those who elected us.

Let us all get involved in this project, because in reality

Together we are stronger.