

Giorgio SORIAL (ITALY)

PLENARY SESSION: MONDAY APRIL THE 3RD

Economic inequalities are the main cause of the growing sense of a lack of people's representation in public institutions and growing social unrest. Regardless of the stated willingness of several governments to overcome economic difficulties, such difficulties have already gained the upper hand, also in the type of economic tools being used, which limit productive investments and policies aimed at collective well-being.

All the focus is nowadays being placed on compliance with numbers and budgets. And this is the main reason for inequalities.

Because of these crises, the income gap is increasing considerably in many countries of the world, also in terms of the loss of jobs.

In the case of Italy, for instance, the lack of a basic income and of income-support measures makes these inequalities even worse, forcing unemployed people to commit acts of desperation, because they do not have the means to support themselves and their families.

These are the real problems of our fellow citizens, the people who cannot make ends meet, the people who cannot even buy medicines or repay their mortgage loans because they have lost their job. These people may easily fall pray to criminal organisations, they are no more free, they have been left behind by the State.

Economic measures like basic income can help citizens who are struggling. This is a veritable economic policy measure, which increases the consumption of primary commodities and has a direct influence on small and medium-sized enterprises, which could see an increase in their profits.

We should add that a growing number of scientific studies on technological developments in important industries show that in the next few years there will be a progressive loss of human jobs that will be replaced by automata. An employment transition is underway in many sectors. Even in fast food restaurants, and the delivery of goods and services, the human interface has been completely obliterated, thus eliminating the revenue of a growing share of middle and low-income citizens.

For this reason also the current crisis of human employment produced by automata should lead to the implementation of more instruments to support the revenue, through the commitment of the State and the redistribution of part of the profits deriving from innovation.

Otherwise, innovation may become an end in itself, because it would be enjoyed by an ever-growing share of the world population, unable to purchase goods and services.

Only through expansive measures, shall our parliaments be able to overcome economic inequalities, and maybe we shall soon be able to put in practice a new Utopia, where human life is not based on the numbers of economic growth but on the growth of collective wealth. On the theme of innovation, it has been observed that people some day will have time to do other, more complex and more interesting things.

I am happy to deliver this message to all the young parliamentarians of the world. No one like us today can be the engine for the solution of many conflicts. Such conflicts are the effect of long-standing divisions and mentalities that have been going on for too many years. In our countries, this creates a vicious circle of confrontation and divisions, that we are not able to leave behind.

For this reasons I would like to say again to all the young parliamentarians that are here today, to you parliamentarians of the IPU, that we need to overcome this mentality, these divisions soon, in the way of ensuring prosperity and security to our peoples, and convey this message to the rest of the world.

Thank you.