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**Speech by the President of the National Group of San Marino
to the Interparliamentary Union, Mirco Tomassoni**

***“Redressing inequalities:
Delivering on dignity and well-being for all”***

Madam President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are here to discuss major and severe political, economic and social inequalities, and it is an urgent imperative that we find pragmatic and sustainable solutions to this problem.

Redressing the many and major inequalities that still persist at the beginning of this Third Millennium between and within populations, is not only a goal that can no longer be postponed, but also the idea behind a fair and inclusive civilization, one that can be achieved, although it is certainly not an easy task.

Giving everyone wealth and rights, besides being a major topic of discussion, is the goal towards which each of us is called. And if we want to achieve it, well, it is time to act concretely.



The International Community as a whole will be called to engage in bigger efforts than the ones made so far: it will be helped by governments, by public and private economic sector and by the civil society. They will all be called to act and cooperate with renewed awareness of the concepts of sustainability and protection of Rights. **Parliaments** as the motors and guarantors of democracy, receiving their mandate, political mission and legislative power by voters, are to play a key role in this process.

It is certainly difficult to imagine what the world will look like in ten years, but it is our **duty**, the duty of anyone engaged in the civil and political field, to seriously consider what the possible world scenarios for the future could be, if we do not take the corrective measures to redress inequalities this Assembly is discussing.

It is therefore a moral obligation we have, as persons committed for the world's good, to fight against the abuse of the term "Human Rights". For their legislative function, parliaments are the best placed to give momentous and a political steer to the protection and respect of citizens' rights, developing and transforming best practices into regulations to enter into force, not only in the environmental, production and industrial sector, but also in the social and cultural one.

If Parliaments fail to do so, inequalities will only grow deeper and the ruling and political class itself will dramatically and unavoidably lose credibility.



We are facing human issues that twenty years ago were almost absent from the political agenda. I refer, in particular, to two phenomena that will have huge repercussions in the future: the first one is the risk of an environmental disaster if we fail to adopt an ecologically sustainable development model, the second one is the emergence of unprecedented conflicts between the privileged and the excluded: immigrants and refugees escaping from misery and wars, desperate citizens that live in an increasingly interdependent and unequal world; a conflict that is starting to look more and more like a clash of civilizations.

And this, without taking into account the other inequalities we are discussing here today.

So, what can we do?

First of all we can provide clear and consistent political guidance, and to this aim parliaments, cooperating with each other, are the only institutions that can and must tell citizens, who they represent, also for the sake of generations to come, how to proceed in order to successfully face major challenges for the sake of the future of us all. Secondly, there is no doubt that we all need increased economic investment and better international coordination, since these two aspects have proved to be the weak link behind the failure to meet the Millennium Development Goals.



Furthermore, it is necessary to redefine commercial and financial conditions that could spur growth in any country, thus solving a situation that prevents national governments to adopt policies to support environmental sustainability and the weaker members of the society.

We should assist national states in the development of such policies, in the promotion of a new culture of solidarity, in strengthening freedom and democracy so that every single man may become the protagonist of that development we all want.

The development model we need is a transparent one, one that fights against corruption, and aims at social cohesion and multicultural and inter-religious coexistence.

It is also necessary to boost investments in development cooperation and international diplomacy, as well as in the field of cultural diplomacy, also called “soft power”.

Finally, one last consideration we believe could be useful to us all. The activity of the IPU already boasts some consolidated routes for the political emancipation - but not limited to that - of women and young people. Women and youth are among the victims of the inequalities that we are dealing with.



As far as redistribution of wealth and increased participation to public life (democracy) are concerned, I believe we should consider with great interest the research on “interconnections” between the various types of inequalities: women, immigrants, the youth and the elderly, the poor, the marginalized and the sick, to name but a few. These interconnections are sometimes linked to one another and they can maybe offer a solution to the problem.

These are segments of the population to be helped, of course, but helping is not enough, we need to understand, by working together with them, if there is something they know that we do not know (or that we have neglected, or forgotten...) that could help us solve their problems.

Today everyone agrees that women and young people are a driving force for every country, expressing an unarranged vision of life that has its roots in ancient wisdom (women) and in an openness towards the future (the youth) and that needs to be recognized and enhanced. Hence, extending this remark to other “categories” of inequalities, traditionally seen with some sense of superiority, could help us discover new values and new paths to engage in.

While women and young people fight to express their desire not to fall into line with the system and value their “diversity”, the poor, the outsiders, persons with a disability, very often have convinced themselves that they are of “no value” to society and keep silent. And



even when they raise their voice, they do it as a reaction; it becomes a claim, a request, a sterile protest instead of an assertion of an inviolable right.

It is therefore advisable that national parliaments, when addressing the topic of inequalities in the light of our new political awareness, rediscover the value of human dignity. Their countries and civilization as a whole will benefit from it, both in terms of social well-being and economically.

Madam President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Being part of a great International Organization such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union, gives a small country like San Marino strength and legitimacy to have its voice heard, and to contribute to the discussion on the major topics that mark the era we live in and we commit, both individually as San Marino and together with other Countries, to affirm the principles of solidarity and protection of rights that are the corner stone of our history and our identity.

Thank you.