

Dear Mr. President of the IPU,

dear Mr. Secretary General,

dear Mr. President of the General Assembly,

I am honored to be today with you and all parliamentary colleagues in order to discuss the current status of the world and the possible ways to tackle the issues that we are all concerned about.

Let me begin by saying I in principle support the draft final Declaration. I believe this text is a good reflection of reality. I find it important that it puts an emphasis on further enhancing the parliamentary dimension of international life. The Declaration points-out main challenges of today's world. Instability in many regions which is often brought about by terrorism and violence of all kinds. Armed force that seems to have become the main instrument of solving disputes. Environment. Migration and refugees – a problem Europe is trying to deal with these days, weeks and months. Equal opportunities. Putting information and communication technologies at the service of mankind instead of misusing them. There are too many of these challenges, so I will touch upon two of them only.

Some 3 weeks ago I attended the Peace Memorial Event in Hiroshima. I was deeply touched by the tragedy of so many civilians due to the use of an atomic bomb. 70 years after the horrific devastation of that Japanese city I listened with emotion to urgent appeals of Mr. Matsui, the Mayor of Hiroshima, to make the world free from nuclear weapons. Of course I have heard appeals like this several times before. But believe me, to hear the appeal in Hiroshima, at the place where so many people suffered, that really makes you feel different. That is the reason I highly appreciate the Declaration explicitly mentions setting up a nuclear weapons free world as a goal.

My second point refers to international terrorism. This scourge has developed on

an unprecedented scale. I am convinced we can effectively face it only by not repeating mistakes of the past. Therefore let's make it absolutely clear not only in words, but especially in deeds, that what we fight against is terror, not islam. That islamophobia is as abhorrent and dangerous as racism and antisemitism and is to be suppressed by all legal means. That we all perceive islam as a shining diamond in the crown of mankind, along with other religions, cultures and civilizations.

Thank you for your attention.