

## VIDEO ADDRESS

**by the President of the Council of the Russian Federation, Ms V.I. Matviyenko**  
**to the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament on the theme “*Placing democracy at the service of peace and sustainable development. Building the world the people want*”**  
(New York, 31 August 2015)

Respected Mr. Chowdhury,

Respected Mr. Chungong,

Dear colleagues and friends

I very much regret that I am unable to be with you today in our unified parliamentary family on account of a decision by the United States authorities to deny me the opportunity of actually attending the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament.

I am grateful for the possibility afforded me of addressing you by video, on my behalf and that of the Federal Council of the Russian Federation, to welcome all participants in the conference.

International events of late emphasize how topical the theme of our conference is. Today it is impossible to ensure peace and sustainable development without observance of the principles of equality in international relations, strict compliance with international law, recognition of the leading role of the United Nations, and respect for the sovereignty of States and the right of peoples to forge their own destinies without any outside interference. It is just these principles that Russia has ever safeguarded and will continue to do so. The task of parliamentarians is to make effective use of the genuine instruments of democracy and freedom to attain equal and indivisible security for all, not just for selected States.

Symbolically, our gathering is taking place in the period of a significant event – the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations Organization.

We must always remember the dire lessons of the Second World War, what with the woes and sacrifices that may arise from aggressive nationalism and ideas of racial supremacy.

The modern world is experiencing complex times. The switch to a multipolar world order is accompanied by a succession of acute crises and bloody conflicts, variegated revolutions and state upheavals, and the severest of humanitarian disasters. The old model of a unipolar world order based on the dominance of one power or group of countries has bowed out. But frenzied attempts are being made to preserve and reproduce it, with undisguised pressure on other countries and their subjection to unilateral sanctions and armed force. As a result, terrorism and political extremism raise their heads, whole regions sink into chaos, sacred sites are destroyed, and women, old people and children perish.

The present refugee and migrant crisis in Europe and the appearance of the Islamic State also result from the irresponsible policy of a number of Western countries and their allies.

For all that, a new world model is confidently “forging ahead”. This is clearly demonstrated by the growing authority and strength of such associations as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, BRICS, the European Economic Union, and others. Such associations are becoming new political and economic centres of influence. The genuinely partner spirit of these bodies, free of the dictate of any one country but governed by equality and mutual respect, is a model of the civilized form of international cooperation for the twenty-first century.

Dear colleagues,

A special place in international parliamentary cooperation is occupied by our interaction with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the oldest and most authoritative international parliamentary organization. The essence of the Union’s political philosophy is close and intelligible to us.

In today’s world the role of parliamentarians, as the lawfully elected representatives of the citizens of their States, is objectively growing.

The mission of a parliament in the international arena is to build bridges of friendship and mutual understanding and to buttress the dialogue of States, peoples and citizens. The dialogue is direct, open, honest and constant. Even in “Cold War” times this dialogue was never broken off.

Unfortunately, the unilateral sanctions introduced by the United States – bypassing the United Nations – against Russian parliamentarians are hampering fully fledged inter-parliamentary contact. They are illegal and grossly violate the norms of international law and the principles of democracy and free speech

The sanctions against parliamentarians, elected by the citizens of their countries, on account of their political views – even now in the twenty-first century – are nothing short of political persecution and a distortion of the very essence of parliamentarianism, as the authentic institution of democracy.

We propose that measures be taken to avoid such situations in the future and, in particular, to rule out the holding of international IPU forums in countries using unauthorized methods of curtailing the participation in them of parliamentarians holding political views distasteful to Washington; and that participants in the Conference be notified of the illegality of introducing sanctions as such against parliamentarians.

In conclusion, dear colleagues, I wish to stress the readiness of the Russian Parliament to continue its constructive interaction with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and to wish all participants in the Conference successful and productive work.

I thank you for your attention.