

FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT

United Nations Headquarters, New York

31 August – 2 September 2015

Subject of the General Debate:  
Placing Democracy at the Service of Peace and Sustainable Development:  
Building the World the People Want

Presentation of the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia  
Maja Gojkovic

Honourable Chairman,

President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Mr. Chowdhury,

Secretary General, Mr. Chungong,

Dear colleagues, Speakers of Parliaments,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to have the opportunity to see here a large number of friends, speakers of parliaments, I had an opportunity to cooperate with in the previous period. I look forward to the possibility of a new exchange of opinions and future cooperation. This is the way to jointly respond to the difficulties that we are facing individually, and that require a response of all of us.

Many of the challenges in the world remind us daily that we should constantly work on building democratic institutions and strengthening of parliamentarism. This is the only guarantee of stability and protection of the freedom and civil rights. Terrorism, extremism, and every kind of radicalism are relentless to the values of our civilization. Our obligation is to preserve and improve the democratic order, capable of fighting against these dangerous phenomena of the modern age. That is why we have to protect parliamentarism and free elections, the civil rights and freedoms, and democratic institutions. If just one of us here even thinks that we have finished our work, and that we have achieved a high enough degree of democratic standards, it is a signal that we have to work even more! Parliament is a central institution of the democratic system. A place where the directly expressed will of the people can be seen, a symbol of legitimacy and legality, freedom and justice. Parliament has to be

strong and efficient, but also open and transparent. In its work only like that it inspires confidence among the citizens.

Dear Colleagues,

Serbia is working on strengthening its democratic institutions, strengthening peace and stability and development of parliamentarism.

The Assembly of Serbia provides full contribution to establishing a dialogue and trust in the region of the Southeast Europe. The priority of the current legislature of the Parliament of Serbia has been to have a dialogue with parliaments of all states in the region and thus improve our bilateral relations. I am convinced that we have met this set goal to the greatest extent.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Regarding the Global Development Agenda, the Republic of Serbia is a member of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations; the Open Working Group for defining Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the Inter-governmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. Serbia has actively participated in the process of adopting the “*Post-2015*” Development Agenda. I would like to emphasize that we have provided a full contribution to defining the Sustainable Development Goals and the way of their financing, and therefore their efficient implementation as well.

Internally, the Government of Serbia has provided a substantial contribution through holding a number of inter-ministerial meetings on sustainable development in the course of this and the last year. In these meetings suggestions on development goals of sustainable development and their implementation have been formulated.

The role of the National Assembly is of crucial significance, because we oversee and monitor the implementation of these development goals. The role of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Assembly of Serbia is of particular importance, through learning about the activities of the Government and conducting public hearings.

Dear Colleagues,

We soon expect establishment of a Working Group for implementation of the “*Post-2015*” Development Agenda and adoption of the National Strategy on the Sustainable Development. Serbia is actively working also on establishing an institutional and financial framework for the implementation of the Global Development Goals.

I would like to commend an active approach and contribution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union regarding defining Sustainable Development Goals, whereby the National Assembly provides its support in the regional framework.

Dear Speakers of Parliaments,

Placing democracy in the service of peace and sustainable development implies the promotion of dialogue, integration processes, strengthening trust and cooperation; and in achieving these goals parliaments, as representatives of the people, have the most important role.

With such work at internal, regional and global levels, parliaments, in the best way, build the world which the citizens, who elect us, wish.

Thank you for your attention.