

*As prepared for delivery*



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Dear excellencies,

Dear fellow parliamentarians,

Dear distinguished guests,

It is an honor to address you today on behalf of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe PA. I want to sincerely thank the IPU and the UN for organizing this conference.

Millennium Development Goals were meant to brighten our future. Much the same way as the OSCE's founding principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act 40 years ago. In essence we are talking about

committing ourselves to adhere to common rules and objectives. In short, to keep our word.

There are powers that operate in order to disrupt the international system by carrying out their cruel operations – geopolitics is taking over.

One could say that the means of governments and parliaments are local and at the same time international organisations are unable to reform themselves. In parallel, values and norms such as human rights and democracy are called into question by some.

Now, the people are asking us why are we adrift, where are we heading to? The role of the parliaments, of us, is twofold:

- First, to influence our governments and to exercise the highest decisionmaking in our respective countries.
- Second, to explore efficient ways of parliamentary dialogue and cooperation in order to influence global and regional crises.

It is my proposition that a project towards more efficient and comprehensive cooperation between international parliamentary organisations should be launched as soon as possible.

The people are expecting adequate answers from us. We need to see where we are going and navigate accordingly, no matter how hard it seems to be at times.

Are we moving towards more a secure world with SDG's taken seriously, or are we moving towards more confrontation or even war?

The answer to that question depends on us and on our ability to deepen our cooperation and to tolerate each other in order to secure peaceful and humane international development.

Thank you.

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