



Global Parliamentary Congress *The Future of the World*

JOINT STATEMENT

12–13 May 2023, Vilnius

We, the members of 18 parliaments and international parliamentary organisations from across the world,

*supporting* the initiative of the World Summit of the Committees of the Future, convened in Helsinki, Finland on 12–13 October 2022, that will resume at the Second World Summit of the Committees of the Future on 25-27 September 2023 in Montevideo, Uruguay, to strengthen parliamentary anticipatory governance,

*noting* that our discussions have been dominated by the immediate threat presented by the war in Ukraine, which represents the need for improved foresight and strategic thinking by many of our governments,

*recognising* that the geopolitical, economic, technological, demographic, social and natural processes unfolding in the world require resolute, urgent and global decisions that must be discussed, approved and, where necessary, initiated in parliaments,

*taking into account* the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly adopted on 14 December 2022, where the role of parliaments is recognised as essential in ensuring accountability and effective implementation of national commitments; where engagement of parliamentarians as members of national delegations to the United Nations meetings and events is welcomed; and

*agreeing* that it is essential for parliaments to play a greater role in shaping the positions of their countries and regions for the United Nations Summit of the Future to be held in New York in September 2024,

1. call on the world's parliaments and regional and global inter-parliamentary organisations to strengthen the dimension of parliamentary action geared towards addressing the long-term challenges of the future of the world, including, among others, through the establishment and development of parliamentary Committees for the Future or their equivalents, such as Sustainable Development, Grand or Liaison Committees or Commissions, and to promote their international cooperation;
2. express our conviction that a universally acceptable future of the world is only possible if international law is respected, with complete abandonment of armed confrontation as a means

of resolving inter-state conflicts and elimination of the consequences of armed aggression, and call on the world's parliaments to take all possible steps to ensure that this principle remains unchallenged worldwide;

3. express our concern over the decline of parliamentary democracy in the world over the past decades, as shown by international studies, and call for a concerted effort by the legislature, the executive and researchers to revitalise and reinforce the foundations of parliamentary democracies worldwide;
4. support the initiatives put forward by António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General, in his *Our Common Agenda* report (2021) to renew and reinforce the global commitments to address the major challenges facing the future of the world through much needed complementary statements and agreements, involving all relevant stakeholders in the spirit of networked multilateralism;
5. call for parliamentary debates and hearings on the issues to be addressed at the 2024 United Nations Summit of the Future, with a particular focus on the content of the Declaration on Future Generations and the Pact for the Future, their underlying values, and the fair distribution of the burden of their implementation among states and regions; call on the Secretary-General of the United Nations and member states of the General Assembly of the United Nations to actively involve parliaments in the preparation of the Summit of the Future as well as its follow-up; and

*recognising* the value and benefits of multi-format parliamentary events dedicated to discussing the long-term challenges facing the world,

support the proposal by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania to continue the inter-parliamentary discussions on the most important aspects of the future of the world which were initiated at this Congress.