



**GLOBAL PARLIAMENTARY CONGRESS
THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD
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OPENING SESSION

Speech by Mr Duarte PACHECO

President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Your Excellency President of the Republic of Lithuania,

Ms. Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,

Mr. President of the UNGA,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Members of Parliament,

I want to thank the Parliament of Lithuania for convening this meeting in the beautiful city of Vilnius and for the warm welcome we have been given.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are at a crossroads. World peace and international governance systems have been shaken to the core by the war in Ukraine. Climate change represents an imminent existential threat to our planet. The recent epidemic of instability and coups in many countries have also left our democratic values in jeopardy.

It is only fair to say that much needs to be done to make sure our international institutions are fit for purpose. To solve today's problems and ensure a viable future for the next generations, it cannot continue to be business as usual.

Parliamentarians must be more robustly involved in shaping and democratizing global governance. We need strong participation of MPs in major international processes. We need to take action to translate international commitments into national policies. We must hold our governments to the highest standard of accountability in implementing global agreements and upholding international law.

At the IPU, we are dedicated to bringing the voices of parliamentarians to the world stage, with the firm conviction that parliamentary diplomacy is vital to building a people-centered, sustainable, and inclusive future. As such, we are integrating a parliamentary dimension to the work of the United Nations, the G20, the WTO and other multilateral fora. We are also working hard to make gender equality a reality and to promote greater youth participation in the political process.

Colleagues,

Parliamentary diplomacy can also help us find a way towards the peaceful resolution of conflict. Indeed, political dialogue is at the core of everything the IPU does.

Over the past year, the IPU has deplored the death and destruction brought about by the war in Ukraine. Through two emergency item decisions, the IPU has condemned the military aggression against Ukraine and Russia's illegal annexation of Ukrainian territory. It has called for the return to international law and strict observance of the fundamental principle enshrined in the UN Charter.

It has also established a Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine. Currently, the Task Force is engaging with the parliaments of both Ukraine and Russia on specific issues of mutual interest such as nuclear safety, the treatment of and access to prisoners of war, and food security.

Finally, any serious dialogue on the future of the world needs to consider the existential danger of climate change. Because without a planet, the word "future" becomes meaningless.

Last year, the IPU the Nusa Dua Declaration on *Getting to Zero*, mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change. Indeed, the time has come to turn words into actions. We have launched a campaign- "*Parliaments for the Planet*," and we are calling on all MPs and parliaments to lead by example, reduce their carbon footprint and tackle this crisis through legislation, budgets, and scrutiny of government measures to implement the Paris Agreement and other climate-relevant accords.

I invite you all to join us in these efforts.

Thank you.

A video of the speech:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wDdRJZdNrgg&list=PLafTseM15bmGXfMyNS2B41zIF24U8cX6h&index=3>